

We are proud to inform you that Ofsted visited the school mid November and found that **Hillcrest is rapidly improving** and that special measures are no longer required. It has only taken one year to transform Hillcrest from inadequate to a school which has many good qualities.

The Ofsted Inspectors found that:

- Strong leadership from the Headteacher and the executive leader has dramatically raised the school's expectations of itself.
- Working as part of the Federation has been of considerable benefit to the school.
- The staff are ambitious for further improvement and work with energy in pursuit of excellence in teaching.
- Progress and attainment in most subjects has improved sharply.
- Care, guidance and support have notably improved, ensuring students feel safer at school.
- The school has made outstanding progress in linking with external partners to support student's achievement and well being

The inspectors visited lessons, held meetings with staff and groups of students, observed the school's work and inspected documents. **Most aspects of the school were judged to be good.** These included:

- Students' achievement and the extent to which they enjoy their learning
- The quality of students' learning and their progress, including students with special educational needs
- The extent to which students feel safe and adopt healthy lifestyles
- The quality of teaching
- The extent to which the curriculum meets student's needs
- The effectiveness of care, guidance and support
- The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement
- The effectiveness with which the school promotes equality of opportunity, tackles discrimination and safeguards pupils.

This fantastic improvement is due to the combined efforts of the whole staff, governors, pupils, their parents and carers and our partner schools. Now we have to focus on achieving even better outcomes in 2010!

The Ofsted report can be found [here](#) and on our new website or you can phone the school and request a copy.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Theresa Phillips

Headteacher