

# News release



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## **Walworth Academy – a good school with outstanding capacity to improve that is transforming the lives of students, says Ofsted**

Ofsted has rated Walworth Academy as being “a good school with outstanding capacity to improve” in its first full inspection of the school since it opened as an academy in September 2007.

Following a detailed two day inspection the inspectors said: “*Walworth Academy is in the business of transformation. It has transformed itself and is now a good and rapidly improving school whose students make good progress academically and great leaps in their personal development. Most importantly it is transforming the lives of the students who attend the academy.*”

The inspectors said that students told them: ‘*It is hard to believe the improvements that have been made in our progress and our behaviour.*’ Another said that the most important thing she had learned at the academy was that, ‘*Nothing is impossible – it doesn’t matter about your background.*’ Ofsted said that: “*Students across the academy stress their commitment to the academy’s motto: ‘Be the best that you can be.’*”

The inspectors singled out: “*the significant successes that have been achieved in rapidly increasing the rate of progress made by students; significantly improving the attendance rates; widening horizons; raising aspirations and preparing students for the next phase of their education. Central to the academy’s success is a rigorous use of data to ensure that the progress of each different group of students is scrutinised and strategies are put in place to get the best outcome for each student. .... The quality of care, guidance and support offered to students is outstanding.*”

They added that: “***the academy improvement plan is sharp, tightly focused and entirely appropriate.*** Progress against this is carefully monitored and evaluated. The overall trajectory is one of fast improvement and leaders have thus demonstrated that the academy’s capacity to improve is outstanding.”

Walworth Academy Principal, Devon Hanson, said: “We’re pleased that Ofsted recognised the commitment and effort Walworth Academy makes to ensure that its pupils achieve the utmost they can during their time with us. Helping our pupils to “Be the best that you can be” really does govern everything we do as a school. It informs our determination to raise attainment, to improve attendance and behaviour and to continue to raise our standards of teaching and learning support.

“I am immensely grateful to the families of our pupils for their support, to our governors for their commitment to the school and to our pupils and staff who have utterly transformed the academy and its ambitions in a very short time. I am determined, for the sake of all our pupils, that we will make Walworth Academy an outstanding school and I’d like to thank everyone in the academy for supporting that aim.”

ARK Schools Director of Education, Sir Michael Wilshaw, said: “Devon Hanson and his team deserve the credit Ofsted has given them for turning Walworth Academy around. It is a school that is truly transformed. Pupils are enthusiastic and genuinely proud of their school and work hard to get the best they can out of it. I know the whole team are determined to continue to raise attainment so that every pupil can achieve their potential and ARK Schools will work closely with them to support that aim.”

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