

## Big Wood School

Big Wood School is making reasonable progress towards the removal of special measures, according to a recent Ofsted inspection.

Teaching has improved, attendance is up, and fewer pupils are being excluded at the secondary school in Bestwood Park.

Senior leaders are also taking a more active and visible role in the way the school is being run, say inspectors following a monitoring inspection on 24 and 25 September.

The latest inspection in September found:

- The overall quality of teaching has improved, boosted by nearly a full complement of permanent staff (14 new teachers started at the school this academic year and all but two are permanent)
- The gap between the performance of disadvantaged students and others closed significantly in 2014
- The school has adopted a new marking policy with significant improvement in the frequency and quality of marking
- A new behaviour policy and a higher presence of senior leaders around the school have helped to bring a much greater consistency to the way that teachers and other staff deal with low-level disruption to learning
- The proportion of students who are excluded from the school is continuing to decline. This is a further indicator of improved standards of behaviour.
- The senior leadership team, strengthened by a reallocation of responsibilities, is beginning to establish effective strategies to check carefully on the work of the school.
- The attendance of students is now good, a further improvement on previous inspections and a reflection of some very concerted action on the part of leaders.

Overall attendance at the school for the first month of the Autumn term is up to 96.5% from 94% for the same time last year.

**Big Wood Head Teacher Andrea Healey said:** “We are delighted with the progress the school is making and that Ofsted recognise the changes we have been implementing are having a positive impact on the pupils of Big Wood School. The strong partnership the school has established with the Redhill Academy Trust, ahead of moving to academy status early in 2015 is helping to shape the future of Big Wood School and we are confident at our next full inspection the school will be judged at least “good.”