

By Elizabeth Fry

Elizabeth.Fry@burtonmail.co.uk
@Lizzy.Fry
01283 245027

A DEDICATED head teacher at a school in Woodville has been personally praised by the chief inspector of schools in England for her 'strong leadership'.

Jo Kingswood, 51, head teacher at Granville Sports College, in Burton Road, received a hand-signed letter from head of Ofsted Sir Michael Wilshaw following the school's most recent inspection.

The head teacher was hailed for her determination and high expectations for the staff and pupils.

Ms Kingswood, who joined the school in January last year, said that the letter had come as a complete surprise and felt very honoured Sir Michael had taken the time to write to her.

She said: "When I got the letter through the post with the Ofsted logo, and as a head teacher, your heart just sinks.

"But instead it was a letter

from Sir Michael recognising us for the improvements we have made.

"It is lovely that he has taken the time to write an encouraging and personalised letter."

The letter was sent following the school's Ofsted inspection where the inspector awarded the leadership and the behaviour of pupils a 'good' rating. The school was given a 'requires improvement' rating overall.

Before this inspection in July last year, the school had been rated 'requires improvement' in 2013 and had received several monitoring inspections from the education watchdog to ensure the school was making progress.

Ms Kingswood added: "I thought it would only be 'good' and 'outstanding' schools where leadership would be recognised, so I am chuffed to bits.

"Even though we have been rated 'requires improvement', we are on an improvement journey, and to have that rubber-stamped is fantastic.

"It means that we are going in the right direction, and it is

nice that that has been noticed by the head of Ofsted himself."

Sir Michael said that he had read the report and decided to pen the letter.

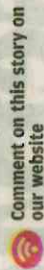
He said: "The inspection report praises your determination to drive up standards and raise expectations for staff and students.

"As a result, the quality of teaching is improving and student achievement is rising.

"It is also good to note that you have ensured training for teachers focuses closely on what they need to do to improve their practice, and set sharper targets for their development.

"I offer you my support and encouragement as you do all you can to ensure that the young people in your college get the good education they deserve."

Details about the school's latest Ofsted inspection are available by visiting www.burtonmail.co.uk



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