OUR headteacher has been hailed by Ofsted after we were rated Good at an inspection.

The school was judged to be Good in all areas – including leadership and quality of teaching, behaviour of pupils and academic outcomes – following an inspection in January.

In their report inspectors said the school was “improving quickly” under the stewardship of “determined and hardworking” headteacher Saeed Hussain.

They also found pupils were pushed to achieve academically and that student expectation had been raised.

They praised the behaviour of pupils, commitment of teachers and described the governing body as “highly motivated”.

Ofsted inspectors said: “The school is improving quickly and securely. The headteacher, senior leadership team and members of the governing body are ambitious for the school.

“They have devoted their energy to successful improvement of teaching and pupil outcomes.”

The school was rated as “requires improvement” in 2013, just three months prior to Mr Hussein’s appointment. It comes on the back of a successful 12 months for George Mitchell, which scored its best ever GCSE results and was rated in the top 1 per cent for improvement in maths nationally.

Headteacher Saeed Hussain said: “I am delighted that we have now officially been judged a Good school.

Story continues on page 2
Pride in our school

It [the Ofsted result] has made me proud to be a student at George Mitchell school.

Pupil Stephano Ampofo

The Ofsted report makes us proud of our school. It gives us confidence that we will achieve our goals.

Pupil Sadaf Arif

It is fantastic that the school has got the recognition it deserves. The school is really well-thought of in the local community.

Parent Julie Mace

A TRANSFORMATION

Leadership

OFSTED inspectors praised our headteacher for his “determination and hard work” in transforming the school. They said since taking over 16 months ago, Mr Hussain has raised expectation in pupils and aspiration in teachers.

They also praised the leadership team for promoting British values and supporting pupils’ “spiritual, moral and cultural development”

The inspectors said: “Together with senior leaders and the governing body, the headteacher has made sure the whole school community has higher expectations for pupils’ outcomes. He has raised the aspiration of teachers.”

Teaching

OFSTED hailed teaching at the school describing lessons as “engaging and effective”.

The report found staff captured the interest of pupils and encouraged them to work together and share ideas.

They said teachers planned work that challenged pupils, helping to deepen their understanding.

Inspectors said: “Relationships between teaching staff and pupils is positive and encouraging. Across the school, pupils are eager and attentive because teaching is engaging and captures pupils’ interest.”

Behaviour

INSPECTORS have described our pupils as “polite and well-mannered”.

They are also respectful of the school and its resources and respond quickly to reminders from teachers of what is expected, the report found.

They noted the good attendance rate at the school, which is well above the national average, and that the school is kept very tidy by pupils.

The report said: “The behaviour of pupils in lessons and throughout the school is good. Pupils are polite and well mannered.”

Outcomes

OFSTED said the improvement in teaching standards has driven up progress at the school.

They said pupils from all achievement levels had made huge strides by the time they reached Year 11.

They also singled out the reception class for a huge turnaround since the last inspection in pupil progress in key subjects such as maths and English.

Inspectors said: “By improving the quality of teaching, leaders have successful rates of pupil progress throughout the school.”

“Having been recognised as Good we now look to the future and building on these excellent foundations. These are very exciting times for George Mitchell School.”

Waltham Forest cabinet member for children and young people Councillor Mark Rusling said: “I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised the great strides taking place at George Mitchell School.

“Last year’s GCSE results were an enormous improvement on the year before and the whole school is now being rebuilt.

“These are exciting times at the school. Many congratulations to all the teachers, staff, parents and pupils who have made this happen.”

Inspectors were full of praise for the direction the school has taken and spoke highly of both staff and students.

“This is a very good report. The few areas for further improvement are easily tackled and we will now be focusing our energies on working towards achieving an Outstanding judgement in the next inspection. We have much to celebrate.”

Chair of Governors Sue Milligan said: The Governors are delighted Ofsted has recognised the leadership of Saeed Hussain and the hard work and dedication of staff and pupils, as well as the support of parents and carers.

The Ofsted report makes us proud of our school. It gives us confidence that we will achieve our goals.

Pupil Sadaf Arif

It is fantastic that the school has got the recognition it deserves. The school is really well-thought of in the local community.”

Parent Julie Mace

Praise for school: Mark Rusling

The Ofsted report makes us proud of our school. It gives us confidence that we will achieve our goals.

Pupil Sadaf Arif

It is fantastic that the school has got the recognition it deserves. The school is really well-thought of in the local community.”

Parent Julie Mace
OUR PRIMARY school says a “back to basics” approach to education is the reason results have improved by 350 per cent in the last two years.

Results released recently by Waltham Forest Council show reception pupils, aged four and five, at George Mitchell scored 69 per cent in good learning development tests, which is above the national and borough average.

TURNAROUND

The remarkable turnaround is the result of a huge overhaul in the school’s nursery, which is now headed up by qualified teacher Kate James.

The school has also introduced a series of educational programmes and brought in new facilities for pupils in a bid to raise standards.

OVER THE MOON

Ms James said: “We are over the moon with these results. It sounds simplistic but a back-to-basics approach has really made a huge difference.

“The pupils learn English and maths and there is a focus on developing language skills.

“As a school we are very aspirational so we have set very high targets for our pupils because we feel that is the best way to ensure progress.

“She added: “As a qualified teacher, I am perhaps better placed to understand the educational needs of pupils and to support parents.”

CONFIDENT

The school recently scored its best ever GCSE results, a 17 per cent improvement on results in the previous year.

Headteacher Saeed Hussain said:

“This is just the beginning for our reception class.

“With Kate overseeing development we are confident results are going to be even better next year.

“Following on from a huge improvement in our GCSE results in the summer this is yet more proof that the school is going in the right direction.”

William passes on good advice

A FORMER pupil who graduated from one of the top universities in the country has returned to offer advice to current students.

William Fu, who studied politics and economics at King’s College London, spoke to George Mitchell pupils in November.

After graduating, William, who left the school in 2000, worked for City firm Goldman Sachs before moving to Barclays.

Right: Former student William Fu, third from left, with George Mitchell pupils
STUDENTS and staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books to celebrate World Book Day.

Pupils took part in an X Factor style competition performing songs, scenes, and poetry from their favourite books.

Mr Marshall’s costume Orphan child won “best dressed”.

WINNERS:
- Year 10’s Eddie Cantwell, Sara Fathi, Suhaib Hashi, Nadia Hassan and Yusuf Patel came first for their dramatic performance of Macbeth.
- Secondary school runner-up was Lilly Sabanda, year 7, for her vocal performance of The Hanging Tree from The Mockingjay.
- The primary school winner was Year 5’s Masiti Ahmed for her poetry recital of Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf from Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhymes.

In character

Bookish: Staff get into the spirit of World Book Day

GOOD FOUNDATIONS – BUT LOOKING TO FUTURE

Our Headteacher has described the new school rebuild as the “first step” towards becoming an Outstanding school.

The secondary and primary schools are set for the multi-million pound makeover after planning permission was agreed by Waltham Forest Council in February.

Buildings on the existing sites will be demolished and replaced with state-of-the-art learning facilities.

It comes after Ofsted described the school as “rapidly improving” when rating it Good at an inspection.

Headteacher Saeed Hussain said: “Having just been rated Good by Ofsted, we are now setting our sights on becoming Outstanding.

“The new building with its state-of-the-art facilities and new classrooms is the first step towards achieving that goal. We have worked very hard to have the school rebuilt so that we could offer pupils in Waltham Forest facilities to match those anywhere else in the country. That is what they deserve and that is what we can now offer. This is the perfect time to be joining George Mitchell.”

Work on the secondary site is due to start next month and is expected to be completed by September 2017.

Mr Hussain added: “Pupils joining us next year will arrive to a brand new building. There will be no disruption to their learning. They will be going on a journey with us that will see this school become one of the best in the country. That is our goal and we will not rest until it is achieved.”

Plans for the primary school, in Burchell Road, include new classrooms, main hall, nursery, drama and art studios, and a library.

The new secondary school, in Farmer Road, will boast a four-storey red brick building with facilities such as a sports hall, new classrooms and studios, science laboratories and offices.

The Leyton school is being redeveloped as part of the priority school building programme. Work is funded by the Education Funding Agency.
A RECORD-BREAKING 91 per cent of our bright Year 11 pupils have scored top marks in their English IGCSEs.

An overwhelming majority of students achieved an A-C grade in the exam taken in January.

The international GCSE consists of coursework, a speaking and listening exam and a written paper exam.

It counts as an additional subject and is studied in more than 120 countries.

The school ran extra Saturday classes to help pupils prepare.

Jakub Kralik said: “I am very thankful to my teachers for helping me get an A grade. They gave up their time on Saturdays to give us all the best opportunity of passing.”

Year 11’s Madihah Manik, who scored an A grade, said: “Getting an A in my first GCSE paper has got rid of my doubts for future exams.

“I am now feeling much more positive about my forthcoming exams and hope to do just as well in all my other subjects.

“I would like to thank Ms Chapple and our curriculum leader for English Ms Aswat for all the help they provided. We couldn’t have done so well without them.”

Year 11’s Madihah Manik, who scored an A grade, said: “Getting an A in my first GCSE paper has got rid of my doubts for future exams.

“Now that I know how it feels to get an A, I feel a lot more motivated to do just as good, or even better, in the rest of my subjects at GCSE.”

The remarkable results come as it was announced the school scored 0.61 on a secondary school pupil performance tracker, known as Progress 8.

The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) gave the school the 0.61 score, which is significantly above the national average.

Ms Chapple said: “It is a fine example of what can be achieved with excellent teaching and motivated and hard-working students.

“It really showed the ethos of our school – to excel and achieve through collaborative hard work.”

In 2015, the published RAISE report put the school in the top five per cent of schools nationally for progress across all subjects.

THE PROGRESS 8 INDEX EXPLAINED:

- School performance based on a pupil’s GCSE results in English and mathematics, their best grades in three other EBacc qualifications, and three more GCSEs or other approved qualifications.

- It measures progress from the start of secondary school to the end of GCSEs and compares it against schools of similar character.

- Scores will be demonstrated by a number between 2 and minus 2, with 0 being the average of similar schools.

- It is set to replace the percentage of pupils gaining five good GCSEs, including English and maths, as the headline measure of school accountability.
Remarkable effort sees pupil gain PiXL praise

A HARD-WORKING teenager has been honoured in a nationwide award ceremony after scoring top marks in his GCSEs – despite only moving to the UK a year earlier.

Mobin Rahat, 16, pictured, could not speak a word of English when he swapped his home in Bangladesh for east London in 2014.

But thanks to support and extra tuition from teachers at George Mitchell School, he now speaks fluent English and even managed to get top grades in his GCSEs including two A*.

His remarkable efforts were rewarded when he was shortlisted for the outstanding progress award at the Partners in Excellence (PiXL) awards at a ceremony held in London recently.

Mobin, from Leyton, said: “At George Mitchell the support is very personalised. So I had my own mentor who would work with me every break time with my English.

“She even gave me her email address so if I was stuck at home and needed help I could write her an email.

“They really believe in you here and that gives you amazing confidence to go on and do more.

“My only real aim when I first got here was to learn English. I never dreamed I would do so well in my exams.”

George Mitchell headteacher Saeed Hussain said: “Mobin is a very good example of the school’s motto, More in Me.

“He thought that the best he could do in such a short space of time at school is learn English. That would have been a remarkable achievement in just a year but we saw more in him.

“We knew he was capable of more and that is why we supported and mentored him to achieve his full potential.”

Dreaming of scholarship

TWO of our brightest pupils have set their sights on winning a scholarship to a top sixth-form.

Nadia Hassan, pictured right, and Martin Barry are being given extra classes and tutorials in preparation for interviews.

Headteacher Saeed Hussain set up the scholarship programme after helping a pupil at his previous school in Newham win a place at David Cameron’s old school Eton College.

He plans to extend the programme next year to include more pupils.

He said: “We had huge success at my previous school with a scholarship programme.

“We now have the time and resources to do it at George Mitchell. There are lots of very bright pupils at the school who will be given fantastic opportunities with this new programme.”

Martin said: “This is a very interesting idea. The school has always recognised that some pupils need an extra challenge.

“I am very excited to take this journey. Academically Mr Hussain thinks we are ready but there are other things these schools are looking for that we will be prepared for.”

Nadia said: “I am hoping to go to an Oxbridge university. A scholarship to a top school will help with that.

“I am very glad that I go to a school like George Mitchell because they really want us to do well and fulfil our potential.”
OUR dedicated team of parents, teachers and friends have spoken of their excitement at joining our newly-formed PTA.

The George Mitchell Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (GMPTFA) supports the school through voluntary work developing relationships with the wider community and through fundraising events.

Funds raised go towards supporting children at the school, paying for books and equipment, the cost of workshops and funding events.

Supporters of the group include mums, dads, grandparents, teachers, voluntary groups and businesses.

Events already held include the summer and winter fayres, movie nights, cake sales and a regular coffee morning – held every Thursday, 9am-10.30am, at the primary site.

They have also organised themed events at Halloween, Valentine’s Day and Easter.

Fatima Roche said: “It’s a great way to interact with other parents and gain a better understanding of the different perspectives and cultures that make this school a true community.”

Julie Mace, left, said: “Being involved in the themed events and movie nights is great fun. I loved seeing the looks on the children’s faces when they met Father Christmas at the winter fayre – it was magic.”

For more information about GMPTFA email kathleen.smith@george.mitchell.waltham.sch.uk. Mark it for the attention of GMPTFA.

THE school hosted a new Government initiative aimed at getting girls into sport.

Our pupils trained with former boxer Barry McGuigan at a sporting camp held in December last year. The former featherweight world champion praised the girls for their boxing abilities at the camp.

Sports Minister Tracey Crouch also attended the event, which was broadcast on Sky Sports News.

OUR Year 10 charity week saw pupils working hard to raise money for good causes.

Fundraising events included a bake and smoothie sale, a hot chili eating contest, Movember and guess the sweets.

Cash raised will go to Oxfam, Macmillan Cancer Support, Active Change Foundation and the British Heart Foundation.

Our motto: More is in me
YEAR 10 pupils were treated to a day visiting London landmarks. The BTEC travel and tourism class visited Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square, Downing Street, Westminster Abbey and Big Ben.