



17 July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Ofsted Inspection 13 – 14 June 2018

As you will be aware, Ofsted inspected our school and Boarding provision recently and we are writing to share the outcome with you. Our report will be published on the Ofsted website tomorrow and a copy is available for parents to view on our website. In addition, paper copies of the report can be requested from Reception.

The Ofsted inspection team were very positive about a number of areas of the school, making the following comments in their report: "Where teaching is at its best, teachers provide clear explanations of ideas...This helps pupils make rapid progress." "Most pupils are polite and well mannered. Inspectors saw many examples of courtesy between pupils around both sites during the inspection." "The large majority of teachers are very experienced and have good subject knowledge." "Pupils believe incidents of bullying are not common but when they do happen, they say teachers take them seriously and act quickly to intervene." "Pupils enjoy a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, particularly in the performing arts." "Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is supported well by a programme of assemblies and tutorials."

The report also highlighted the success of our Sixth Form: "Leadership of the sixth form is strong." "Students make strong progress on academic programmes. In 2017, students' progress in A-level subjects was well above the national average."

Regarding Boarding Ofsted noted that: "Boarders make progress in their social well-being and in a number of ways boarding has a positive impact on their life. Those who have been here for many years make good progress in their education." "All parents who contributed to the inspection responded that the boarding experience helps their child's progress and development."

However, Ofsted described the school overall as Requiring Improvement. This means that overall we provide an acceptable standard of education but we are not judged good in all areas using the Ofsted inspection criteria. Our Sixth Form was judged to be 'Good.' The team of very experienced inspectors engaged constructively with us and confirmed our self-assessment of the areas where improvement is needed. The report also recognises that we have already taken action in several key areas to improve outcomes for our young people and we are determined to see these through and deliver the improvements required.

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There are two areas in the report where we particularly need the support of parents and carers; one is student attendance and the other is helping us to improve the quality of communication between the school and parents. We would welcome your feedback on how we can improve in both of these areas and we will be arranging parent forums in the new year to address this.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in the inspection for their contribution: the students who were a credit to the school; the staff for their hard work and professionalism; and all the parents and carers who made their views clear to Ofsted, who noted that; "The large majority of parents who responded...said their child enjoys school, is kept safe and is well looked after."

Should you wish to discuss the report and our plans to improve then the Principal and Vice Principal are available to meet with you at the Parent Surgery tonight. Please contact Lisa Champ on 01363 773401 or email: l.champ@qe.devon.sch.uk. to make an appointment, either tonight or for another time.

Yours faithfully

Keith Baker
Chair of Governors

Rupert Poole
Principal

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