

Tuesday 20th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you our latest OFSTED inspection report. You will be aware that OFSTED inspected Swakeleys School for Girls in May 2022. Ordinarily the report would have been published in June however the school had some queries about the inspection and OFSTED only answered these questions last week. The inspection report will be published on the OFSTED website today and a copy is attached to this letter.

May 2022 was the first time that the school had been inspected since 2013 and the first time that the school had been inspected on the 2019 inspection framework which is much more rigorous.

In our most recent inspection OFSTED judged the school as being “Good” for overall effectiveness, quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and sixth form provision. Since the new framework has been used by Ofsted 50% of previously “outstanding” schools have retained this judgement. Ofsted chief inspector Amanda Spielman said last year: “My message to parents is, if a school that had an outstanding judgement 15 years ago now has a good judgement, that is a good school - you should believe that.”

The OFSTED report states that “Leaders have developed a curriculum that results in strong academic outcomes for pupils.” This is certainly what we saw this summer and we anticipate that our results will put us in the top 1% of schools nationally for the progress that students make.

We are very proud of the many other strengths that OFSTED identified about our school and these include:

- Pupils work hard and achieve well, they gain qualifications in a wide range of subjects and this helps them to be well prepared for their next stage in education and/or employment
- Pupils benefit from having teachers who have very strong subject knowledge and who design learning activities carefully
- Pupils behave well in lessons and pupils feel safe in this school – they know who to talk to if they have a concern and they are taught how to make healthy and safe choices
- Pupils take advantage of a wide range of activities that enrich and extend the curriculum
- There are numerous clubs and after school activities
- Pupils are given the opportunity to take on leadership roles in the school such as being a prefect or member of the school council
- Diversity is celebrated..and leaders are taking steps to further develop the curriculum so that it reflects the whole school community
- Teachers know their pupils well and all staff are trained to support the needs of pupils with SEND
- Reading is prioritised for all year groups and leaders identify pupils who need support and make sure these pupils are helped to catch up

- An extensive careers programme offered across the school helps pupils, including those in the sixth form, to make informed decisions about their futures
- School leaders are supported by a committed governing body who know the school very well
- Staff say they are proud to work in the school

The few areas for development have been identified in our school development plan for this academic year and these are already a real focus for us as a school. We want to engage with all of our students and families in a meaningful way so that you feel listened to and any concerns are resolved early. One way to get involved with the school is to attend our parental engagement evenings which are scheduled as follows. We look forward to seeing you there:

Year 7 safe, settled and successful evening:	Wednesday 28th September 6pm start
Year 8 parental engagement evening:	Wednesday 5th October 6pm start
Year 9 parental engagement evening:	Thursday 20th October 6pm start
Year 10 parental engagement evening:	Wednesday 12th October 6pm start
Year 11 parental engagement evening:	Thursday 22nd September 6pm start

On behalf of the Governing body, the leadership team and myself I would like to thank all those staff and students who were involved in showing the best of Swakeleys during the inspection. Swakeleys is an exceptional school, we have made great strides to recover from the challenges of COVID and we look forward to continuing to develop further in the next academic year. If you have any queries relating to the report please contact the office at Swakeleys on office@swakeleys.org.uk

Yours faithfully,



Kelda Stevenson

Headteacher

Tel: 01895 251 962