



Friday 13th January 2023

Ofsted Inspection Report

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your family are enjoying a great start to the new year. I can now share with you the Ofsted report from the inspection conducted last November.

In our first Ofsted inspection under the current, more challenging and exacting inspection framework, Toot Hill has been judged to be Good overall with Outstanding judgements for both Personal Development and Sixth-form provision.

Under the new framework, schools are judged in a different way to the inspection last conducted at Toot Hill in December 2011. Consequently, parents, carers and our wider local community can continue to be confident that the provision for our students remains very strong at Toot Hill School.

Whilst I am pleased Ofsted recognised much outstanding work at our school, we remain relentlessly focused on improving the consistency of the standard required across every area of school life to gain an outstanding judgement next time. The inspectors noted many strengths of the school and I am incredibly proud of the Toot Hill School community.

Quality of Education

The report highlights that school leaders have high aspirations for our students, as we believe every student can achieve great things at Toot Hill. The report states that our curriculum is well-organised and is highly ambitious to meet the requirements of all, including those with special educational needs. Although recognising areas for improvement in Science, Ofsted provided constructive feedback on our plans to further improve the Science curriculum.

Although the inspection does not consider exam results as evidence, in the summer 2022 examination series, the first since the COVID-19 pandemic started, 67% of Year 11 pupils at Toot Hill School achieved grade 5+ in both English and Mathematics against a national figure of 50%. Nearly a quarter of all pupils secured a grade 7 and above in both English and Maths.

Behaviour and Attitudes

The report recognises that our students behave well: 'The school's atmosphere is calm and purposeful. Pupils know how they should behave'. We continue to share the 'why' behind our rules and systems as our ultimate goal is that the rules become invisible because all of our students understand the value of exceptional behaviour.

Personal Development

At Toot Hill, our aim is to provide a broad and balanced educational experience that combines rigorous academic study with a diverse range of character-building enrichment experiences. The report recognises that our Personal Development programme is comprehensive. The outstanding judgement for Personal Development evidences our commitment to develop the student as a whole and provide a wealth of enrichment experiences both inside and outside of the classroom.

Leadership and Management

I was delighted that the inspection team acknowledged that 'senior and trust leaders are ambitious for the school's pupils. The local governing body and trustees provide these leaders with rigorous challenge and support'. I recognise, however, that post-pandemic we must continue to increase the opportunities for you to engage closely and positively with our school, as your support and voice is crucial to school improvement.

Sixth-form Provision

The inspectors found that the quality of the sixth form provision is outstanding, commenting that: 'students are committed and aspirational'. Our students secure the highest of outcomes and many attend the very best universities and apprenticeships in the country. Only last summer, 90% of our sixth form students achieved grades A*-C grades and 43% achieved A*/A, significantly above the national averages.

I am confident that together we are well placed to ensure that our school continues to be on an upward trajectory. By positively engaging with our students, parents, carers and staff as key stakeholders in the life of our school, we will achieve great things. Rest assured that we intend to excel in all areas, so that every student enjoys a truly transformational learning experience at Toot Hill.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher