



Circa 1492

Ermysted's Grammar School

Headmaster: Mr M J Evans

15 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted Inspection

The report from our recent inspection has now been published and I attach a copy. The School was graded as 'Outstanding' in four of the five categories (*Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth Form*) and 'Good' in the fifth (*Quality of Education*), which limited the overall judgement to 'Good'.

It has been 14 years since the last inspection of the School and the Ofsted framework has undergone many changes in the meantime. In particular, Ofsted wishes to recalibrate the proportion of schools graded in each category. The latest iteration introduces new approaches to evaluating schools and establishes higher, more challenging thresholds, making comparisons to previous judgements impossible.

Under the current framework, there are up to 90 grade descriptors across five categories that must be met to secure a judgement of 'Outstanding'. Inspectors were satisfied on 89 of these points but from their sample of lessons felt that 'at times, in the lower school, teachers move learning on too quickly.' This was the only action point identified but unfortunately it restricted their judgement for *Quality of Education*, which in turn limited the overall judgement. We are obviously disappointed by this outcome but will take on board the inspectors' comments when planning the next stage of the school's development.

It is pleasing to note, however, that so many other aspects of our provision were acknowledged and celebrated. Inspectors described Ermysted's as 'a busy, happy school'. In addition to our 'strong examination results', it is pleasing that the report recognises that our pupils experience 'exceptional personal development', which 'pervades all aspects of the life of the school.' The breadth and ambition of our curriculum was viewed very favourably and the school's work in preparing pupils for life beyond their time at the school was singled out for significant praise.

The manifold qualities of our pupils were also highlighted in the report, with inspectors describing the pupils' behaviour as 'exceptional' and noting their 'unfailing courteous and purposeful' conduct around the school. The report states that pupils are 'polite, friendly and enjoy their learning' and that 'members of the sixth form are superb ambassadors for the school.' I'm pleased that the inspectors saw what we see every day: we can be extremely proud of all our pupils.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the report. Otherwise, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Evans

Headteacher