



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Monday 7th March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Ofsted Inspection Outcome – The Buckingham School is a Good School

We have now received the final report on the Ofsted Inspection which took place on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th February 2016.

We are delighted that Ofsted judged us to be a Good school.

Before focusing on the report itself, we want to congratulate all of our students for the way in which they conducted themselves during the Inspection. The inspectors experienced first-hand students' good behaviour, the fact they are polite and welcoming and the pride they take in their school. This is something we are very proud of.

We would like to thank parents, for their continued support of our school and throughout the Inspection process. We have such a strong team of teachers and support staff who work very hard and have made such a contribution to our success. The improving direction of the school has been guided by the hardworking team of governors who bring expertise and varied experience to the school. The Good outcome is a tremendous achievement that the whole school community truly deserves.

All inspection aspects have been judged as Good, and the inspectors recognised The Buckingham School has improved greatly over the past few years. Students are now learning well and making good progress.

It has been highlighted that the school now benefits from strong senior and middle leaders who have strengthened the effectiveness of leadership and teaching. Students work extremely hard and are totally absorbed by high quality and challenging teaching.

The curriculum is Good and it acknowledges students' varied interests and skills – offering subjects leading to the full English Baccalaureate qualification or an alternative mixture of work related and academic subjects. The school has been praised by the changes to the option choices in Years 9 – 11 meaning more students follow courses that match their aptitudes and interests – we are a truly inclusive school.



Achievement is good, as demonstrated by the 2015 GCSE English and Maths results showing that students, especially the majority who entered the school with average standards, have made more progress than that seen nationally. This contributed to the rise in the percentage of pupils achieving five good GCSEs including these two subjects.

We are delighted the inspection team also recognised that the Sixth Form offers a good, flexible range of academic and work related courses and learners can mix the courses to match their aspirations and abilities. The report notes that 'Sixth Form learners' achievement has improved because the teaching is better in practically all subjects. Sixth Form students have been commended for being very good role models for younger pupils and contribute much to school life.' The proportion of learners applying to university has increased by two-thirds in 2015 and one in five taking up apprenticeships.

The inspection team were also extremely impressed with the quality of relationships between students and staff, and how well supported students felt. All students feel safe and practically all enjoy school. The report particularly highlights the supportive nature of the pastoral care in Year 7, and for children with disabilities and special educational needs. The school's support for looked after children and other needs is noted as very strong too.

We know our students enjoy their learning and this has been witnessed by the inspectors with their comments that 'students concentrate in lessons and are willing to learn'. Our ethos of care and challenge pervading all aspects of school life has been demonstrated too by the strong 'student council which is effective and respectful'. This coupled with the good extra-curricular offering providing an enriched student experience reflects the school's objective and motto of Success for All through Achievement, Challenge and Enjoyment.

We greatly appreciate the contribution you have given to The Buckingham School and with your ongoing support we look forward to the next step in our journey from Good to Outstanding – because that's where we intend to be when Ofsted next visit.

We will be planning a celebration event in the near future so that we can extend our thanks to you personally. Details regarding this will be communicated very soon.

Yours sincerely



Miss A P Wells
Headteacher



Dr D Gamble
Chair of Governors

