

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Ofsted Inspection Outcome**

#### **The Buckingham School is a Good School**

**Tuesday 8 March 2016**

Following an Ofsted Inspection on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, **The Buckingham School is delighted to report Ofsted has judged the school to be a Good school.**

Miss Angela Wells, Headteacher comments, "The Good outcome is a tremendous achievement the whole school community truly deserves. I would like to congratulate all of our students for the way in which they conducted themselves during the Inspection. The inspectors experienced first-hand pupils' 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. I would like to also thank parents, for their continued support and contribution to the school and throughout the Inspection process."

All areas have been judged as Good, and the inspectors recognise 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. It acknowledges pupils 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 pupils follow courses that match their aptitudes and interests – we are a truly inclusive school.

Achievement is good, 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 also delighted the Inspection team also recognised 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", states Miss Wells. '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 students and contribute

much to school life.’ The proportion of learners applying to university has increased by two-thirds in 2015 and one in five are taking up apprenticeships.

The inspectors 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 students with disabilities and special educational needs. The school’s support for looked after children and other needs is noted as very strong too.

Miss Wells adds, “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 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 pupil experience reflects the school’s objective and motto of Success for All through Achievement, Challenge and Enjoyment.”

Dr Gamble (Chair of Governors) congratulated Miss Wells, her senior team and all staff and students at the school. This recognition from Ofsted is well deserved. Miss Wells has shown great leadership qualities in securing this positive outcome and all staff, students, parents and governors can be rightly proud of the Buckingham School.”

The school will be planning a celebration event in the near future as a way of thanks to parents, staff, governors and members of the school community for their continued support and contribution to The Buckingham School.

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