

29th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to be able to share with you the outcome from our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place during the first full week of this academic year on the 13th and 14th of September. As you know, this is the first inspection that we have had so this is a significant milestone for us as a new school.

The report praised the school's ambitious vision, which is shared by students, parents, and staff. It also highlighted the school's "**vibrant culture**", "**consistently effective teaching**", "**behaviour [that is] excellent in lessons and at social times**", and "**personal development [opportunities that are] a strong and distinctive feature of the school**". Perhaps most importantly, the report confirmed that this is a place where children are "**known as individuals**", students feel "**safe, happy, and valued**" and are "**very proud of their school**".

Overall Outcome - The overall outcome of the inspection is as follows:

Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Sixth-form provision	Outstanding
Quality of education	Good

We are delighted that so many aspects of our school have been judged as outstanding. The overall effectiveness of the school (which is based solely on the Quality of Education judgement) has been judged as Good. I have included some of the key messages from the report at the end of this letter; you can read the full report [here](#) and on the Ofsted website.

Although Ofsted outcomes do not drive our agenda here at school, it is extremely pleasing that the report has highlighted so many fantastic aspects of the school that we can be proud of and have worked so hard on over the past five years. We will continue to strive to make our great school the very best learning environment for our whole community. We believe that the Quality of Education at our school is also outstanding, however with no GCSE results yet, the inspectors made their decision based on a two day inspection at the very beginning of term on our second day of curriculum lessons. There was just one small area for improvement identified.

Thank you

As ever, our students – your children – showed enormous levels of ambition, dedication, kindness, and integrity. They embodied the absolute best of our school. I would also like to thank you as parents for your comments in the Parent View survey - it was incredible to be reminded of the strength of our partnership and how supportive you are of our school.

Although there are huge positives to be taken, both from the report and the inspection process itself, we are still deeply ambitious to continue to improve. We know that we can make our school even better, whilst recognising that maintaining excellence is as much of a challenge as implementing positive change. With your continued support and encouragement, we know that working together there is nothing we cannot achieve.

I hope you are proud of your children and of the school and community that they, and you, are part of. We are delighted to have been recognised in this way, but this only makes us more determined to make our school the very best place for your children to thrive. We will continue to do all we can to make this happen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Wood', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ms. Kay Wood (Headteacher)

Key extracts from The Swan School Ofsted report: September 2023

The school's vibrant culture

"The school has a vibrant culture. This is seen every day, for example at 'family dining' or during the 'electives', which provide an impressive range of enrichment sessions. These experiences are positive opportunities for pupils and staff to spend quality time together and build relationships"

Exceptional behaviour and attitudes

"[The school has] very high expectations of pupils' conduct. Pupils' behaviour is excellent in lessons and at social times. Pupils are proud of the school's inclusive culture. Pupils feel happy, safe and valued at school."

"Lessons are purposeful and calm, which pupils appreciate"

Ambitious and inclusive curriculum

"The school has established an extremely ambitious and inclusive curriculum. In all year groups, pupils produced work of a high standard, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)"

"The school's curriculum is carefully designed for each subject. Teams have thoughtfully considered what pupils must learn and be able to do at each point, from Year 7 to Year 13"

Highly effective teaching and learning

"Teaching across the school is consistently effective. Lessons are purposeful and calm, which pupils appreciate. They understand it helps them learn. Teachers select resources and activities which enable all pupils to embed learning over time. They introduce new content clearly, and regularly check pupils' understanding before moving on. Pupils also receive regular feedback, which they find helpful. They use it to improve their work. In the sixth form, the quality of questioning and discussion is particularly strong."

Excellent provision for students with SEND

"The school provides teachers with detailed information about how to support pupils with SEND or others with additional needs. This information is used effectively to make necessary adjustments in class. Consequently, pupils can remember and apply what they have learned, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND."

Opportunities to develop the 'whole child'

"The personal development programme is a strong and distinctive feature of the school. It contributes to high standards of behaviour and a strong safeguarding culture."

"The 'electives' provide pupils with opportunities to discover and develop interest and talents. Many also participate in a wide range of clubs and leadership activities. As a result of this programme, pupils demonstrate resilience and respect for difference."

"The school's very well-designed careers programme makes effective use of links with local employers and training providers. Consequently, pupils are very well prepared for future study and the world of work."

"Staff know their children as individuals"