



28 February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'Ofsted report and external validated data' (February 2025)

Many of you will know that the school was inspected by Ofsted in January. Our school is regularly scrutinised by trained Ofsted inspectors and colleagues with specialist knowledge in areas such as SEND. Indeed, the Monday after our inspection, a lead Ofsted inspector conducted an external review of our Teaching and Learning practices, and we have another two reviews booked in this term to look at different elements of our practice.

The Ofsted report can be found on our website here under 'Policies / Ofsted information':

<https://www.finhampark.co.uk/key-information>

The inspection was conducted under a different framework than in our previous inspection 10 years ago. The current framework is obviously very different from that which was used then.

The students and staff behaved as in normal operation during the inspection and gave a good account of all their experiences as part of the Finham Park School community. They could see our work on inclusivity and values as well as strong relationships between students and staff. They were impressed with the breadth of our curriculum offer and of the support that those with SEND receive. They remarked on the support for mental health and wellbeing students receive and that they feel happy and safe in school. For the first time, our Sixth Form received an 'outstanding' grading.

The day after the inspection, the national validated results for GCSE were published. For the first time, we were confirmed in Ofsted's Inspection Data Summary Report as being 'significantly above national' for progress and attainment since Progress 8 and Attainment 8 were included in the accountability measures for schools. Indeed, we are in the top 18% of schools nationally for attainment across the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications (English, Maths, Science, MFL, Humanities) and in the top 6% of schools for science progress and top 9% for attainment.

There are two Areas for Improvement in the report. One is around the use of assessment information and the second is the need to embed our behaviour routines for some lower school pupils who disrupted their lesson during the inspection at a low-level. As you would expect, we have already started the journey at looking into what we can do differently in these areas and will be surveying parents to gather your thoughts on potential developments.

Thank you for your ongoing support in partnership with us as we continue to strive to provide a world class education for all pupils. We would also like to say thank you to the parents who completed the survey during the inspection process.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop (Headteacher)

Mr M Bailie (CEO of FPMAT)