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INDEPENDENT DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL

BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 2-18

12/06/2024

Dear Parents,

The school was inspected by the Independent School Inspectorate in March, and the report from that visit is now available.

It was pleasing that the inspectors noted various positive aspects of the school, such as:

- The aims of the school to use Study Technology being evident in lessons
- Our stimulating curriculum coverage and how Study Technology complements this
- How barriers to learning are identified and handled
- Our detailed improvement plan for the Primary School, and recent developments that have been made in this area
- Our rigorous approach to risk management
- Approachability of school leadership
- Our use of the rural aspects of the school
- Our excellent art and photography department, which got a special mention!
- How 'The Way To Happiness' is used throughout the school and underpins the school's values
- The coverage of a full range of topics relevant to pupils everyday life, such as mutual respect, online safety and drug awareness
- Our reward system being effective
- Pupils having freedom of choice and being treated with respect
- How lessons are used to promote the school's values
- The Preschool and Reception class (Early Years) having a good curriculum and staff working positively with children
- That statutory guidance for safeguarding policies and staff training have been followed
- That checks on staff were completed correctly
- The clear trust that pupils have of staff, and that they feel that their views are listened to
- That we teach the pupils how to keep themselves safe

There were three areas where the inspectors have asked us to take some action to align with their regulatory requirements, and each of these has already been addressed.

The first related to a single incident connected to safeguarding where they felt we could have recorded it in a more extensive fashion. The inspection team noted in their report that we successfully safeguard all students in the school, and it is one of our highest priorities. In order to fully address this area of the report we have recently purchased and put into use a secure web based recording system for safeguarding, behaviour (both good and bad), and to note important information that parents share with us.

Secondly, the inspectors felt that that we need to have a better idea of pupil's progress towards GCSE and A level across the school in order to help them according to their ability. While they did not entirely understand the role that study technology plays in allowing students to progress at their own pace, to address their point, next year we will be putting in a system of nationally standardised tests in the senior school similar to the ones we have already started in the primary school.

Their last main area for action was to increase the range of activities for boarders at the weekends. Again, they did not fully appreciate the extent of what we had provided. Nevertheless, to address this we are introducing even more activities, across a greater range.

The staff put a lot of hard work into the inspection. I am very grateful for their efforts, both on the days of the inspection, and the huge amount of work that went into ensuring everything was ready in advance. I am also very grateful for the positive attitude and work ethic of our students, which is also appropriately reflected in the report.

From the questionnaires that ISI undertook, we also know that as a parent body you are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. This is greatly appreciated, and I am very glad to be working with your support to make Greenfields an even better school.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Hodgson

Headteacher

Link to the full report:

https://www.isi.net/institutions/school/greenfields-school-6492