

# The Cottesloe School

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Headteacher: Mr A McBurnie BEd (Hons), MBA



4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

## OFSTED INSPECTION

You will be aware that the school was inspected by Ofsted on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2014. I have not been able to write to you with information about this inspection until now as the final report has only just been published. The delay was due to an extended accuracy check by Ofsted; the last set of validated exam results were from August 2013, and they wanted to ensure a true picture of the improvements made could be seen in the report.

Before commenting on the report itself, I want to congratulate all of our students for the way in which they conducted themselves during the inspection. Not only did the inspectors tell us that they had seen no examples of poor behaviour in or out of lessons, but they were also full of praise for the pride shown in their school by the courteous, enthusiastic and intelligent young people that they met.

I would also like to thank parents who responded to the online survey. 92% of you said you would recommend the school to others and high degrees of satisfaction were evident from the answers to the other questions. As Ofsted told us, the results of the parent survey were 'very positive'.

Since becoming Headteacher in January 2013, I have continued the good work started by Mr Fox in order to ensure all students receive high quality teaching and learning experiences. We have put measures in place in all areas to raise standards of achievement and we are delighted that they have been deemed to be effective by Ofsted. They found the school to be making strong improvements in all areas. Improvements in teaching, behaviour and attendance were all recognised by the inspectors who saw the incredible hard work that is being undertaken by students and staff at The Cottesloe School.

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Inspectors praised the leadership of the school by senior staff and governors. The report says: "Action plans describe clearly what needs to be done and by when, to embed and sustain the hard-won improvement over the last two years" and "Recent improvements to the quality of teaching, achievement and behaviour show that the senior team have the capacity to continue to have an impact on improving the school".

The quality of teaching is also improving, with Ofsted reporting "There is a growing core of much more effective practice which is resulting in students making better progress in a wide range of subjects".

Improving attendance and behaviour, students' pride in their school and positive relationships between staff and students were also commended.

The overall grading from Ofsted is that the school still 'Requires Improvement'. All schools can make improvements and we are no exception. The inspectors noted that there are still inconsistencies in performance between some subject areas and that some specific groups of students underachieve. Our own surveys of students and parents have been helpful in identifying areas for development and we have a comprehensive development plan in place to address them. Areas that were deemed to need improvement were all recognised as having measures in place to do so, including the increased level of challenge for the most-able and the quality and frequency of homework.

We firmly believe that we are well on the road to achieving a grading of Good at our next Ofsted inspection in approximately two years' time. The Cottesloe is a school which is improving rapidly - GCSE results at 5 A\*- C with English and Maths increased by 9% last year and we envisage another significant rise again this summer. I can assure all parents that the staff will continue to build on our strengths and develop those areas not reaching the required standard.

As the Ofsted report states 'There is no room for complacency' at the Cottesloe School. Please take the time to read the report in full, which is available to view on the School and Ofsted websites, and should you have any questions or suggestions please write to me at school or email me at [office@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@cottesloe.bucks.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



**A C McBURNIE**  
Headteacher