

The Cottesloe School

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Headteacher: Mr N Fox BSc, MA



18th October 2012

Dear Parents and Carers

OFSTED INSPECTION 10th – 11th OCTOBER 2012

First of all let me thank those parents (105) who responded to the Ofsted questionnaire for their overwhelming support of the School. Positive results of ninety percent plus in response to almost all questions was a wonderful boost to staff but I was most delighted by the facts that 99% of respondents' children were happy at the School and that 97% would recommend The Cottesloe to another parent.

You will be pleased to know that Inspectors were hugely impressed by the behaviour of your sons and daughters and awarded the School a Good in this category. They were also full of praise for the School's care, nurture and safeguarding of students and had this been a separate category rather than subsumed within the judgement on behaviour we would in all likelihood have been classified Outstanding in this area. Likewise, in respect of the spiritual, moral, social and culture sphere the School scored very highly but again this is not a separate judgement but subsumed within various other gradings.

Despite improving exam results over the last few years at GCSE and 'A' Level it is clear that the former need to continue to improve at an even faster rate. We cannot be complacent at being judged Satisfactory (requiring improvement) in this area and parents should know that, as a staff, we are totally committed to seeing any achievement gap closed. Essentially, we need to continue to enhance the quality of teaching and learning and further raise our expectation of students' progress and attainment; I am convinced these can be achieved in a fairly short timeframe.

I know some parents and indeed some staff have been puzzled by Ofsted's apparent failure to recognise the very real progress the School has made over the past few years but that is to misunderstand the brief of Ofsted. In plain terms, their role is not to tell us how far we have come but how far we still have to go and as Headteacher I accept that a school inspection system must work in this way. As a school community we need to continue to work together to achieve the Good/Outstanding grading that all parts of that community – students, parents/carers, staff and Governors – so strongly wish to see.

Once the Ofsted report is published (this is likely to be next week) it will be placed on our website.

Yours sincerely

N L FOX
Headteacher