



HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Learning together Achieving together

9 March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

We were inspected by Ofsted in October 2021. The final report has just been published on their website.

As a school rated 'Good' by Ofsted, we received a Section 8 inspection. Section 8 inspections cannot change the grading of a school, but can spark an immediate follow-up inspection if serious concerns are identified. In our case, an immediate follow up was not necessary, and the report confirms that the school remains 'Good'.

We are proud of the many positives highlighted by the report:

'This is an inclusive school where leaders expect all pupils to 'think big, work hard and be kind'.

'Pupils enjoy being at school and are clearly cared for by staff. They are happy and safe'.

'Bullying is taken by seriously by staff and followed up'.

'Pupils study a broad curriculum that includes the full range of subjects'.

'There are lots of different extra-curricular activities that pupils can take part in outside of lessons'.

'If pupils cannot yet read well, there are effective programmes of support in place to help them become confident readers'.

'Pupils value their PSHCE lessons and can talk confidently about issues such as consent, careers and mental health'.

'Staff are proud to be members of the school, and feel well supported'.

The report also made recommendations for improvement, centering on the completion rate of courses in the Sixth Form and the behaviour of some students in some lessons. Inspectors will return within one to two years to check progress towards these recommendations.

We appreciate that this will cause some concern, and felt it important to let you know about our response.

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Course completion rates in Sixth Form

As the report suggests, this recommendation is based on historical information (pre-dating 2019-20). It centres on our Sixth Form student retention rate; too high a percentage were struggling with courses in Year 12 and leaving before they progressed to Year 13. The school identified the issue at the time and have put in place a number of measures to address it. These measures include:

- Widening our vocational offer, creating more opportunities for appropriate course choice
- Requiring higher GCSE grades to study certain A-Level subjects
- Improving the tracking of students, and intervening more quickly to address concerns
- Formalising independent study time, and improving private study facilities
- Sharpening systems around attendance and punctuality, ensuring no learning time is lost

The retention rate improved significantly in 2019-20 and 2020-21, despite the impact of the pandemic, and in-year data indicates that we will see further improvement this year. All students currently in our Sixth Form, and all those who have applied to begin in September 2022, will benefit from these initiatives.

Behaviour for Learning

Inspectors also indicated that ‘some pupils do not behave consistently well...(and) sometimes lessons are disrupted’. They highlighted the need for greater consistency in the implementation of behaviour systems and better tracking of low-level disruption.

Again, work had started on this prior to the inspection, and has continued apace in the time since. Actions include (although are not limited to):

- Clear messaging on expectations of classroom and corridor behaviour
- Introducing a sophisticated behaviour tracking system
- More immediate praise for the huge majority of students
- More immediate interventions with those not meeting expectations

It is also important to note that this issue goes beyond Hampstead School; the [Ofsted annual report](#) states that ‘the pandemic has unquestionably had an enormous impact on school children’, resulting in ‘challenges with behaviour...social, emotional and physical health’. Furthermore, urban, socially diverse communities like ours have been affected more than most. With this in mind, we have:

- Continued our whole-school focus on trauma-informed practice
- Increased the capacity of our student counselling and mentoring team
- Introduced a new safeguarding tracking and monitoring platform

Parent/Carer Open Mornings

The work we have done has already made a difference and, after two years of limited access, we would very much like to welcome you back into school during a normal school day. We will be holding open mornings at the beginning of the summer term; these will include an opportunity to tour the school as lessons take place, listen to senior leaders talk about our response to the Ofsted report, meet with other parents and ask any questions you may have. The open mornings will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 26 April 0915-1045
- Tuesday 3 May 0915-1045

Virtual Q and A

If it is difficult for you to get into school, we will be holding a virtual question and answer session just prior to the Easter break. This will take place at 1700 on Tuesday 29 March.

To book a place on any of the above events, please contact enquiries@hampsteadschool.org.uk. More detail will be sent to you directly.

If you cannot make any of the dates above, or you have more urgent questions or pertinent feedback, please contact me directly via m.sadler@hampsteadschool.org.uk. I would be more than happy to correspond via email or arrange a telephone call or meeting in school.

The full report can be accessed here:

[Hampstead School – Ofsted website](#)

To finish, I would like to thank you again for the support you have shown the school over the last two years. It has been a challenging period; we have all experienced some degree of isolation, instability and loss. In this difficult context, it is more important than ever that we continue to provide the very best quality of education. In giving welcome challenge and external verification of school priorities, this Ofsted report will help ensure we achieve this. With your ongoing support, and with the energy, curiosity and kindness of your fantastic children, we will deliver the inclusive, creative and ambitious education they deserve.

All best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sadler', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Matthew Sadler
Head