



# "AN EXCELLENT SCHOOL"



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL INSPECTORATE, 2022

In September 2022 we welcomed a team from the Independent School Inspectorate (ISI) for a whole school inspection.

The team visited every part of the school from Pre-School to Sixth Form.

- They observed lessons, spoke to pupils, and examined examples of pupils' work.
- Observed extra-curricular activities.
- Attended House and form meetings and assemblies.
- Spoke to members of staff and Governors.
- Considered the responses of parents, staff and pupils to the questionnaire sent out before their visit.



## THE INSPECTION LOOKED AT AND FED BACK ON TWO AREAS:

### Educational Quality

The inspection looked at:

- The achievement of the pupils, including their academic development
- The personal development of the pupils

In both of these, PGS was found to be **EXCELLENT**

### Focused Compliance

This looks at the School's compliance with regulatory standards and requirements.

**PGS met all the standards required.**



## KEY INSPECTION FINDINGS

### The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is EXCELLENT.

- Pupils are highly articulate and effective communicators, both orally and in their written work.
- Pupils are, for the most part, fully engaged in their work and display very positive attitudes to their learning.
- Pupils in the Senior School participate fully in the extensive extra-curricular programme and achieve a wide range of success.
- The overwhelming majority of pupils in the Senior School show high levels of knowledge across their subjects and make strong use of this in their work
- Pupils make at least good progress throughout the school and, in the Senior School especially, there is excellent progress.

### The quality of the pupils' personal development is EXCELLENT.

- Pupils are highly confident and resilient individuals, who take responsibility for their learning and development as young people.
- Pupils display strong skills of decision-making and understand clearly the importance of working towards their own progress.
- Pupils have an excellent understanding of right and wrong and take responsibility for their own behaviour.
- Pupils involve themselves wholeheartedly with life in the Senior School and contribute positively to the wider community.
- Pupils are very conscious of the diversity of their school and fully understand the value of being respectful towards everyone around them



From the very youngest years in PGS, we start to build the foundations for our pupils to be able to thrive, enjoy learning and to be fully prepared for the world beyond school. In the Junior School this is framed around the **Learning Tree**, where empathy, thinking skills, kindness, creativity, imagination, curiosity, teamwork, cooperation, perseverance, decision making and bravery are developed and celebrated within a connected curriculum. As the pupils move into the Senior School and Sixth Form these traits are translated into the **PGS Core** – Curiosity, Creativity, Commitment, Courage, Compassion and Collaboration. These traits and behaviours were all strongly recognised in the report from the inspectors.



### CURIOSITY

"In the Junior School, a large majority of pupils show an **excellent** level of knowledge and understanding across the different areas of the curriculum, often linking these aspects across subjects."

"Pupils have an **excellent** level of awareness for their personal development, and they are able to be critically constructive about themselves. They are resilient and self-motivated."

### CREATIVITY

"Pupils are actively engaged in the wide range of co-curricular opportunities at school, and the participation is **excellent** across all different categories of club."

"Pupils clearly have strong opinions on the wider issues of life and are able to talk through some challenging concepts, learning both from the classroom and from their involvement in areas such as the environment."



### COMMITMENT

"Pupils' attitude to their work is **excellent** and a very strong feature of the Senior School in particular. They clearly want to make progress and display a mature commitment to their learning."

"From an eagerness to contribute to lessons in the younger years, this becomes, in time, a mature commitment among older pupils to take all the opportunities presented to them. They work as independently as they can within the parameters they are given and persevere in order to reach their goals."





## COURAGE

"The younger pupils show **excellent** oracy skills, helped by feeling confident and supported when speaking to peers, adults or in front of the class."

"Across the Junior School, pupils are involved in making decisions about their learning, from the EYFS with their everyday tasks to older pupils deciding on the best focus which will direct the nature of their connected curriculum"

"Pupils in the Senior School show **excellent** communication skills, seen both in lessons where they frequently answer with clarity and confidence and in discussion where they listen to each other's views and often respond with clarity and confidence."

## COMPASSION

"Pupils are highly sensitive and tolerant towards each other and, for many, it is just the only way to behave. They do not see differences between individuals as anything other than a cause of celebration of their community's diversity."

"Younger pupils value the strong support from Peer Mentors in older years and this is of benefit to all, as it develops the broader personal skills of working with people."



## COLLABORATION

"Pupils work effectively to solve common goals and are strong team players. Pupils are **excellent** at working collaboratively, and these skills become increasingly strong as they progress through the school."

"Pupils in the Junior School work well with each other, they form positive relationships between themselves and their teachers and show appropriately developed social skills. They take care of each other and understand the importance of working as a team in lessons with great success."