

Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS MRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

21 April 2015

Dear Parents

Re: Independent Schools Inspection - Outstanding/Excellent Report

Following the Independent Schools Inspectorate's full inspection of our school in March, we are delighted to be able to share the team's findings with you officially now that the final report has been published. You will find a copy attached to this email and it is also downloadable from our website.

With only five days' notice, this type of inspection provides us with a useful evaluation of our provision as it reports on current practice without the ability to put in any special preparation. This means that we were inspected through a snapshot of the school as it normally is, as seen by a team of independent and highly experienced professionals.

It is very pleasing to read the numerous comments in the report that support and acknowledge the many positive achievements Normanhurst has made in recent years as we were judged to be 'Excellent' and/or 'Outstanding' in nine out of eleven categories. With such rigorous criteria for inspections nowadays this is a far higher standard than the national trend. Some quotes that are particularly worth noting are as follows:

- The school is extremely successful in fulfilling its aim to build a happy, family environment that cultivates courtesy, respect and responsibility.
- The school provides an excellent curriculum which is adapted extremely well to the needs and aptitudes of the pupils.
- There are excellent standards of behaviour at all levels within the school.
- Excellent relationships between staff and pupils contribute significantly to the quality of the teaching.
- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent.
- Staff provide excellent pastoral care. Teachers know their pupils extremely well and provide excellent support and advice.
- Pupils particularly value the small class sizes, which ensure that they receive individual attention.
- The school has a highly favourable ratio of staff to pupils, with access to a good range of educational resources.
- The quality of leadership and management is excellent.
- From the EYFS onwards, there is an extremely high level of satisfaction with the education that the school provides.
- The EYFS is outstanding at meeting the needs of the range of children who attend.
- EYFS children behave exceptionally well, learn to share, and show evident happiness and enjoyment in school.
- The overall quality and standards of the early years provision are outstanding.

Our thanks go in particular to our hard working and excellent staff, who clearly impressed these experienced inspectors. Thank you also to all the parents who responded so positively to the pre-inspection questionnaires, and to the pupils themselves who demonstrated just how proud they are of their school.

At Normanhurst we continue to strive for the best education possible for our pupils, and we are confident that we will be able to build on this outstanding report and take the school to an even higher phase in its continuing development.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Matthew Hagger Principal

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Claire Osborn Headmistress

