

Monday 28th February 2022

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to announce the publication of the school's recent ISI Inspection Report. In what was an extremely rigorous and detailed process, with a team of four Inspectors spending nearly a whole week looking closely at all elements of the school, we are incredibly proud of the report that has been produced.

In summary, Dumpton was found to be 'Excellent' in all areas - the highest rating a school can achieve. I have explained and summarised the key elements for you below. The full report can be accessed via a link at the end of this letter.

Educational Quality Inspection

The Education Quality Inspection involves Inspectors looking at all aspects of the Dumpton education - including observing lessons, speaking with pupils, looking at books, analysing our academic data - to make a judgement on the quality of the education provided by the school. The headline judgments apply one of the ISI descriptors 'excellent', 'good', 'sound' or 'unsatisfactory'. The Educational Quality Inspection focuses on two key outcomes: the achievement of the pupils, including their academic development, and the personal development of the pupils.

Pupils Academic and Other Achievements

The Inspectors judged the quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements to be **excellent**. Their key findings were as follows:

- *Pupils have excellent communication skills, are highly articulate and are effective and considerate listeners and speakers.*
- *Pupils demonstrate an excellent level of knowledge, skills and understanding across a wide range of subjects.*
- *Pupils are highly successful in their achievements beyond the classroom, particularly in their creative and physical pursuits.*

Here are some excerpts from their report:

"As they move up through the school, pupils become adept public speakers. Older pupils demonstrated the ability to listen attentively and respond maturely to constructive praise and criticism from their peers Pupils' strong articulacy and presentational skills are supported by the many opportunities to perform, in music, assembly, on stage and through debating... Pupil progress during the recent Covid-19 restrictions has been excellent due to the high-quality provision for remote learning.....School leaders and governors contribute to the success of the pupils by creating an ethos and focus which constantly encourage pupils to always aim high, a key element of the school's aims... Nursery and pre-school children show curiosity, imagination and independence, due to the quality of support they receive from adults and the resources made available to them... The monitoring of teaching by senior leaders and managers ensures lessons are well planned and build effectively on past experiences... Pupils of all ages have positive attitudes to learning. They are focused and show a strong desire to succeed and apply themselves with determination and enthusiasm... Pupils are keen to learn with a thirst for knowledge and make the most of the opportunities available to them to work both independently and collaboratively... Pupils are highly successful in their achievements beyond the classroom as they benefit from an excellent range of creative and physical pursuits... Pupils demonstrate excellent creative skills in a range of artistic, musical and drama activities... The school's inclusive ethos ensures that all pupils are able to develop excellent levels of physical skills for their ages. Pupils flourish in a wide range of sports and a number of the teams are successful in competitions."

Pupils' Personal Development

The Inspectors also judged the quality of the pupils' personal development to be **excellent**. Their key findings were as follows:

- *Pupils demonstrate excellent levels of decision-making capability.*
- *Pupils have high levels of self-awareness and demonstrate an excellent moral understanding and respect for systems and rules of law.*
- *Pupils have an excellent understanding and appreciation of the importance of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle.*

Here are some excerpts from their report:

"Pupils' confidence and ability to make good decisions is underpinned by the school's ethos of encouragement and challenge within a supportive environment, and by the good quality of relationships between pupils and adults... Pupils have a clear understanding of right and wrong and are strongly committed to the school's rules and values of be kind and treat others as you wish to be treated. These permeate the school because the senior leadership and management successfully and regularly instil these aims and values through assemblies and other activities.... As they progress up the school, pupils develop a positive sense of self-esteem and self-confidence through the supportive community that also encourages self-reflection.... Pupils develop excellent relationships with adults and with each other because staff model such relationships and the school's pastoral care system supports them.... Praise and encouragement are used to great effect and have a clear impact on pupil self-esteem and self-confidence and reflect the school aims.... Pupils are well developed socially. Pupils of all ages interact well with staff and peers and work effectively in collaboration with others when the opportunity arise.... Throughout the school pupils have a good understanding of issues relating to tolerance, respect and acceptance of others. In interviews, pupils commented upon how inclusive the school is and how quickly new pupils become a part of the community.... Pupils have a good understanding of mental health issues and spoke positively about the Art Hub, a space to be able to go to if you would like space or some support. The school's focus on supporting pupils' development of emotional awareness, by encouraging pupils to acknowledge their feelings and use of class charters, is evident throughout the school.

Focused Compliance Inspection

An additional aspect of the Inspection involves inspectors checking that the school is fulfilling all of the regulatory standards such as safeguarding, health and safety, and the handling of complaints. These standards are either 'met' or 'not met'. Dumpton met the vast majority of the standards, but not all: this related solely to the fact that the inspectors felt the leadership and management team had not yet sufficiently implemented the new statutory 'Relationships and Sex Education' Guidance (RSE), specifically with regards to the provision of Sex Education to Y7 and Y8 pupils. Thankfully, addressing this is very straightforward, and we are already confident that we are fulfilling the actions recommended by the Inspection team. It is worth saying that this in no way affects the overall outcome of the Inspection - Dumpton is an 'Excellent' School in all areas, as confirmed by findings of the Educational Quality Inspection.

Thank You

I would like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank every member of the school community at Dumpton - pupils, staff, governors and parents. You should all take a huge amount of pride in the impressive outcomes of the report, which of course comes towards the end of a very challenging period for us all. Of course, each of you have played your part! I would particularly like to thank the pupils, who impressed the Inspectors so much, and the staff, for their ongoing professionalism and commitment to the school.

The full ISI Report can be accessed **here**. I hope you enjoy it.

Yours faithfully,

Christian Saenger



DUMPTON SCHOOL
WIMBORNE

'Home to Growth and Learning'

Headmaster