

# William Brookes School

7 January 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

## William Brookes School Ofsted Inspection

I am writing to inform you that we have now received the report from our recent Ofsted inspection and a copy has been placed on our website ([www.williambrookesschool.co.uk](http://www.williambrookesschool.co.uk)) so that you have the opportunity to read it.

Staff, governors and students are delighted by the conclusions of the report, which will also be published on the Ofsted website on Tuesday 12 January. It states that: "William Brookes is a good school, where students from a range of backgrounds achieve well. Since the last inspection, students' attainment has risen and is now consistently high .... the impressive GCSE results over the past three years were sustained in 2009. This represents a considerable achievement given that, for most of the year, the school has had to cope with a new school being built directly adjoining its current buildings. These factors, together with the school's excellent ethos and philosophy, good processes for self-evaluation and action planning, demonstrate its good capacity to improve."

As in the 2007 Ofsted inspection report for William Brookes, there are many positive statements about the students themselves. Many of them met the inspectors, who concluded that: "Students enjoy attending this school and they are proud to do so. Their good behaviour and positive attitudes towards each other and their work create a positive climate for learning ... Students' achievement is the result of good teaching and excellent care, guidance and support."

As well as being judged "outstanding" in terms of student attainment, the school gained "outstanding" grades for a number of other aspects, including the extent to which students feel safe, adopt healthy lifestyles and contribute to the school and wider community. The effectiveness of care, guidance and support, safeguarding, equality of opportunity and partnerships for promoting learning and well-being also gained top grades. The Governing Body was praised for its excellent role in supporting and challenging the school's leaders.

Our dual specialist status as a Performing Arts and Mathematics & Computing college is judged to have contributed extremely well to our success through enabling us to offer an excellent range of cultural opportunities for students to participate in school and also to enable them to make an outstanding contribution to the wider community.

The Sixth Form came in for particular praise, as well, with its "lively and purposeful environment", in which "students develop good social and personal skills and become confident and articulate young people" who are "extremely positive about the education they receive". The report refers to effective teaching and excellent leadership and management which enable sixth formers to make good progress, with above average attainment.

The report endorses our current focus on learning and teaching and on strengthening the way in which assessment and tracking information is used to support students' understanding of what they need to do to improve their work still further. It describes the plans for improving learning in the new school as "impressive".

I am very proud to be leading a school where not only the overall effectiveness is judged to be good, but also where all of the constituent parts are either good or outstanding. As you know, our staff work very hard to achieve this and I am delighted by this public endorsement. We will continue to target further improvement as we are aiming to become an outstanding school over all. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Kieran Osborne and Georgina Hanafin, are amongst those who have already read the report in detail and their comment is: "We already knew our school was a good school and Ofsted have proved our views to be right - other students feel the same and they're not surprised either!"

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned the parent questionnaire, which formed an important part of the Ofsted judgement. We shall be keeping you informed of progress that we make in addressing the priorities within the report.

Yours sincerely



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Head

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