



4 April 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

... where
everyone's unique

Inspection Report March 2014 : The Elizabethan Academy is 'Good' in all areas

I am very pleased to be able to share with you, before the Easter break, the report from our recent inspection. I know you will have been waiting eagerly for information but schools are not allowed to publish reports until 10 days after the end of the inspection.

I am delighted that the report reflects our academy so accurately and recognises the characteristics that make The Elizabethan such a special place to learn. The criteria for a 'good' school is far more rigorous than it was three years ago, when we were last inspected, and the inspectors look for solid evidence that achievement, teaching, behaviour and leadership is 'good' over time. Therefore, the report is based on the lessons seen over two days but also on the quality of the work in the students' books and the views of students and parents about the daily experiences of the young people in the academy.

With that in mind, I recognise the hard work and dedication of the teachers and support staff at the academy and I value the fantastic support that parents and carers have offered us: we could not provide such a good education for your child without that support.

Most of all, I am very proud of the brilliant young people we have learning here at The Elizabethan. Their efforts too are recognised in the inspection report and I was particularly impressed, during this week's visit from Lord Robert Winston, at just how mature, talented and articulate they are : they have really grown in confidence, as a result of our leadership programme.

Some extracts from the report:

Several examples are given of 'outstanding' teaching which reflects the quality of education experienced daily by our students :

- *'The quality of teaching is typically good and there is some outstanding teaching in a number of subjects, including English, science and drama.'*
- *'In the large majority of lessons, relationships between students and teachers are good because teachers plan lessons carefully. Teachers use good questioning techniques to probe the most able students for more detailed answers.'*
- *'Inspectors observed students' good progress in lessons across a range of subjects.'*

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There are many comments about students' good behaviour and the way in which they contribute to the positive learning climate in the academy :

- *'The behaviour of students is good. Students have positive attitudes to learning as a result of the school's encouraging ethos.'*
- *'Around school, students are polite, well-mannered and friendly.'*
- *'Students say they feel safe at school and their parents agree.'*

The sixth form is also praised in the report and it is clear to me how much the young people thrive at our Post-16 Centre:

- *'In the sixth form, students are well prepared for the next stage in their learning because achievement, at A' Level, is good. Many go on to study at a range of universities on courses which include medicine, veterinary science and engineering.'*
- *'Sixth formers say they enjoy their learning, feel well supported and are happy at school.'*

These are just a few of the comments contained in the report, a full copy of which is on the website and Parents' Portal. If you would like to receive a paper copy, please leave your name and address with the office.

To become 'outstanding' ...

We agree with the priorities outlined in the report as our work in these areas is well underway and we are already making a difference.

We have robust strategies in place to raise the achievement of boys, especially more able boys who are not yet performing as well as our girls are: your support as parents is critical in helping us to encourage our boys to aim high!

We have made huge strides in improving the quality of marking and feedback to students: by the end of this academic year, it will be consistently good or better in every subject.

Over the Easter break, please join us in congratulating your children on being brilliant...our motto celebrates their talent and individuality: their 'uniqueness'.

Once again, thank you for your continuing support: by working together, we can inspire the next generation.

Yours sincerely



Lynn Kenworthy
Principal