



Stamford
Endowed
Schools

independent schools for independent minds

Stamford High School

ISI Inspection Report 2017

Excellence at Stamford High School



Introduction from the Head

In September 2017, Stamford High School was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), the body approved by the Government for the inspection of independent schools. The inspection assessed the 'Quality of Pupils' Academic and Other Achievements', the 'Quality of Pupils' Personal Development' and Regulatory Compliance. We were delighted with the findings. The School was rated as 'Good' (the second highest level of achievement) for the 'Quality of Pupils' Academic and Other Achievements', and 'Excellent' (the highest level of achievement) for the 'Quality of Pupils' Personal Development'. In addition, the School was fully compliant with ISI regulations, which included a thorough assessment of its pastoral, health and safety, staff recruitment, medical and boarding policies and procedures, as well as, its overall estate.

During discussions with the Inspectors it became very clear that, despite only being with us for a short time, they had understood the real "essence" of life at SHS. They commended the friendliness, loyalty and confidence of the girls and the wealth of opportunities, in the widest sense, we are providing for them. Not only that, they commented on the very tangible pace of change in the approaches to teaching and learning, the improvements the School had made in marking and reporting and the physical changes to the working environment. The information from the parent and pupil questionnaires, made available to the School, showed an overwhelming (90%+) satisfaction with the curriculum, advice, support, guidance, opportunities and discipline; a great affirmation of our work. Coupled with this year's GCSE results, the best for some years with 83% of papers being grade B or better, the School is truly moving forward.

These considerable achievements are the result of the Stamford community working together. Staff, parents and Governors have shown total dedication in ensuring that the School continues to provide a high standard of teaching, while inspiring and supporting its pupils. Our thanks go to all those who have helped us to achieve this endorsement.

The main findings can be read in this brochure. All comments below have been extracted **directly from the inspection report** which can be found, in full, on our website at www.ses.lincs.sch.uk/stamfordhighschool/inspectionreport

I hope you enjoy reading the comments and will join us in celebrating what we have achieved whilst looking to the future with confidence.



Vicky Buckman
Head
Stamford High School



Will Phelan
Principal
Stamford Endowed Schools



Michael Dronfield
Chair of Governors
Stamford Endowed Schools

"The Quality of Pupils' Academic and Other Achievements is good."

"Pupils perform well in a wide range of academic activities, achieving good results in mathematics challenges, science Olympiads, Arkwright scholarships and language competitions and exchanges."

- Pupils' attitude to learning are exceptionally positive.
- Pupils benefit from teaching which encourages them to have high expectations.
- Pupils achieve places at university, almost all in the UK, including those with the most demanding entry requirements.
- Older pupils write at length with polish and sophistication.
- Pupils have good numeracy skills and are expert problem-solvers, especially in mathematics.
- The high quality of relationships in the school makes a significant contribution to pupils' success.
- Pupils are enthusiastic and successful across a range of sports.
- Pupils excel when they have the chance to act or speak in public.
- Pupils have strong knowledge, skills and understanding in creative activities, especially art and music.



"Results in IGCSE biology, chemistry, maths, physics, science double award, first language English, food and nutrition, geography and English literature have been higher than worldwide norms."



“The Quality of Pupils’ Personal Development is excellent.”

“Pupils show an excellent appreciation of the quality of their environment, from the fresh, welcoming appearance of the classrooms to the Georgian splendour of the town in which they are studying.”



- Pupils aspire to do their best and develop their intellectual curiosity.
- Pupils’ attitudes to their work are exceptionally positive. They are eager to please and do their best.
- Pupils are supportive as respectful of one another, and also pleased when others are successful.
- Pupils have very high levels of self-esteem and self-confidence, and their self-reliance and resilience are extremely strong.
- Pupils are socially and academically poised and self-possessed. They see making mistakes as a natural and valuable part of the learning process.
- Pupils have an excellent awareness of how to ensure their own physical and mental health and safety.

“Pupils form a community which cares about well-being and safety for all. The school’s excellent pastoral care system sets the tone and encourages and enables pupils to speak up if they or their counterparts need support or guidance.”



Boarding at Stamford High School

“Boarders have a structured routine which encourages good habits and creates a desire to make the most of what the school offers.”



“Those who live overseas are fully integrated and boarders hold popular theme nights celebrating diversity including, for example, Chinese New Year.”

