



**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

PREPARATORY

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

March 2017

“Pupils demonstrate exemplary attitudes to learning.”

A forward thinking independent preparatory school for day pupils aged between 0-12, and boarders from age 7, set in 56 acres and surrounded by beautiful Somerset countryside. Pupils progress on to the senior school on the same site.

CHALLENGE

NURTURE

INSPIRE



Taunton Preparatory School

Taunton Prep School seeks to challenge, inspire and nurture young people to succeed in a global community. It endeavours to ensure that pupil well-being is at the heart of everything the school does.

The whole school, which educates 1,000 pupils, underwent the rigorous three day ISI inspection in March 2017, by a team of 18 Inspectors. The Prep School has 495 pupils from Nursery to Year 8. The process involves lengthy preparation examining regulatory information provided by the School, a formal inspection in School, surveys with parents and students, as well as interviews with staff, Directors and students.

The School achieved excellent (the highest possible grade) across all areas of inspection.

ISI are an independent, government-approved body which provides objective inspections to safeguard the quality and effectiveness of the education, care and welfare of children in schools. They are equivalent to Ofsted and inspections are carried out every 3 to 6 years. The reports are a useful independent and objective comparison tool for parents selecting schools based on the quality of education delivered.

The inspection focused on educational quality and compliance and judged the School to be fully compliant with all statutory regulations and requirements.

Here is an overview of the full report which is available on both our website and the ISI website.



“

Pupils' attainment is above and often well above national age-related expectations.

”



“The quality of pupils’ academic and other achievements is Excellent”



Inspectors commended the school commenting “All groups of pupils including boarders, international pupils and the younger children, demonstrate exemplary attitudes to learning”.

They commented that “Pupils are highly motivated to learn and succeed. They exhibit a great delight in finding out more and in doing so advance their skills, knowledge and understanding”.

They praised the school stating “The School fully meets its aim to challenge, inspire and nurture pupils to achieve in a global community and rapidly changing world”.

Inspectors noted that “Pupils’ exemplary attitudes towards learning are nourished by the teachers’ substantial expectations of them, and due to leaders and governors successfully embedding the school’s ethos”.

They commended the school commenting “The school is entirely successful at meeting its aim to prepare pupils for life beyond school”.

They remarked that “Pupils demonstrate substantial success in achieving places at their senior school of choice, with the vast majority of pupils choosing to move into the senior school situated on the same central campus with whom the school works in close partnership”.

They observed that “The EYFS outcomes in 2016 were above national age-related expectations, with a very large majority of children attaining a good level of

development”.

Inspectors praised the school for the fact that “Pupils including boarders and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children progress rapidly from their starting points”.

They applauded that “Pupils’ academic and non-academic achievements are excellent”.

They observed that “Pupils develop strong knowledge, skills and understanding across all areas of learning”.

They noted that “Older pupils develop a substantial awareness of how to develop their own study skills such as hypothesising, reflecting, analysing and selecting, as a result of staff’s excellent use of the Prep School Baccalaureate which targets such skills with precision”.

They commended the school on “Pupils demonstrate excellent achievement in sporting and music events at local and national level”.

Inspectors were pleased that “Pupils are extremely confident and articulate speakers. They develop excellent communication skills”.

They observed that “Pupils’ outstanding communication skills also benefit from the considerable opportunities the school provides them to express themselves, and from skilful teaching”.

They remarked that “Pupils exhibit outstanding mathematical skills and an excellent ability to use ICT to further their learning”.





“The quality of pupils’ personal development is Excellent”

The inspectors were pleased to observe that “Pupils demonstrate outstanding self-confidence”.

Inspectors noted that “The school fully meets its aim to put pupils’ well-being at the heart of all it does, as children and pupils demonstrate enormous self-awareness and self-confidence”.

They commended the school commenting “This is as a result of the excellent relationships between pupils and staff, and the exemplary support and opportunities staff provide to children and pupils of all ages”.



They remarked that “Pupils across the school develop their own individual talents extremely well through engaging in activities such as musical and dramatic performances, and reading at chapel services”.

Inspectors observed that “Children in the EYFS exhibit outstanding levels of self-confidence due to their extremely strong emotional attachments with staff”.

Inspectors observed in interviews that “Pupils including boarders said that their confidence and resilience had developed well as a result of staff encouragement to experiment and try new things without worrying too much if they go wrong”.

They noted that “The school wholly meets its aim to provide pupils with strong leadership skills and prepares them for life beyond school”.

They commented that in the questionnaire “An overwhelming majority of parents agreed that the school promotes an environment which successfully

supports their children’s personal development”.

They found that “Pupils exhibit notably strong moral understanding”.

They commended the school that “Across all age groups, pupils understand the difference between right and wrong”.

They praised that “Pupils are extremely respectful towards others” and they “value one another extremely highly”.

Inspectors also observed that “Pupils maintain outstanding social relationships”.

They commended teachers saying “This is as a result of the extremely welcoming, warm and positive daily routines including in the EYFS and all boarding communities”.

Inspectors remarked that “Pupils demonstrate an outstanding appreciation and understanding of others from different cultural backgrounds”.

They applauded the school for the fact that “Pupils feels extremely safe, well-known and nurtured”.



Read the full report:
www.tauntonschool.co.uk/inspection
www.isi.net/reports



Mr Duncan Sinclair,
Prep School Headmaster

Duncan Sinclair, Prep School Headmaster said: "I am absolutely thrilled with the findings in these reports, and I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our staff and pupils for the part that they have played in ensuring our school is one that is regarded so highly by an independent team of experts. ISI reports are the go-to guide to reflect closely on the true quality of a school's broad educational provision, and while we are very pleased with this report, which gives us the highest rating possible, we are not complacent, and we continue to challenge ourselves to grow and improve in all we do, and prepare our young children for life."

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

Taunton Prep School was also reviewed by
The Good Schools Guide in January 2017.

Read the review here

www.tauntonschool.co.uk/gsgprep





**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

PREPARATORY

Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6AE

tps enquiries@tauntonschool.co.uk

01823 703307

www.tauntonschool.co.uk



@TauntonSchool



/TauntonSchool