



**TAUNTON
SCHOOL**

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report

March 2017

“Pupils demonstrate high levels of self-understanding for their age and make more intelligent and thoughtful choices.”

A forward thinking independent senior school for boarders and day pupils aged between 13-19, set in 56 acres and surrounded by beautiful Somerset countryside, offering GCSE, iGCSE, A levels, International Baccalaureate and BTEC.

CHALLENGE

NURTURE

INSPIRE



Taunton School

Taunton 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 Senior School has 540 pupils in Years 9 to 13. 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.

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.



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Pupils have excellent attitudes to their learning.

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



Inspectors observed that “pupils have excellent attitudes to their learning”.

They were impressed that pupils “frequently take ownership of their own learning” and that “lower ability pupils were fully engaged and therefore improving their understanding”.

They observed that “highly positive attitudes are also evident within the co-curricular programme” where pupils from the senior school are “willing participants in a large variety of activities which aim to develop excellence and broaden pupils’ experiences”.

Inspectors praised that “pupils’ knowledge, skills and understanding are well-developed”. They witnessed sixth form pupils speaking with “enthusiasm in interviews about the benefits of programmes for aspiring medical students and potential high-ranking university candidates”. They commended the “creative and energetic teaching in many subjects”.

Inspectors remarked that “pupils have highly developed communication skills” and noted that “debating is a strength of the school”.

They observed that “pupils have well-developed numeracy skills” and noted that “academically more able pupils finish the GCSE early and move on to A level work”.

They also commented that “study skills are well developed” and that “throughout the curricular programme, literacy skills are afforded a high priority”.

Inspectors praised that “outcomes for pupils in the co-curricular programme are outstanding”.

They noted amongst many others that “high-quality music and drama productions are a regular feature of school life” and the “thriving Combined Cadet Force”.

The inspectors were impressed that “pupils make good progress in relation to their starting points up to GCSE and appropriate progress at sixth form”.

They noted that “results at GCSE and IGCSE are above the national average and worldwide norms. In 2016, results were significantly stronger than in previous years.” They commented that “results at A level have been in line with the national average and at IB have been higher than worldwide norms” and that “BTEC Extended Diploma (Level 3) in Sport and Exercise Sciences in 2016 achieved excellent results”.

They commended the school that “strong leadership and management are improving pupil’s overall achievements”.

They attributed recent improvements as having “been brought about by initiatives from the senior leadership team”.

In pre-inspection questionnaire responses almost all pupils agreed that “the school provides them with the opportunity to learn and make progress” a very large majority of parents confirmed “the school meets the educational needs of their children”.





“The quality of pupils’ personal development is Excellent”

Inspectors praised the school noting that “pupils demonstrate high levels of self-understanding for their age and make intelligent and thoughtful choices”.

They remarked that “relationships between tutors and pupils in the senior school are very positive”.

They observed that “the wide choice of activities within the co-curricular programme is a very positive factor in developing pupils’ sense of self-worth”.

They also commented that “a strong commitment to developing resilience is shared by both teachers and pupils, who embrace this ‘have a go’ approach with enthusiasm”. Inspectors also noted that “pupils learn leadership through the ‘Momentum’ programme”.



They applauded that “teachers have a strong awareness of the specific educational needs of each pupil”, and that this “improves pupil confidence”.

They praised pupils for their “excellent appreciation of the diverse cultures within the school”.

Inspectors found in their questionnaire responses that almost all parents indicated that the school “actively promotes values of democracy, respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs”.

They praised the multi-cultural community commenting: “Pupils’ personal development is greatly enhanced by the school’s international environment, in line with the school’s aim to be a global community”.

They remarked that pupils “value their friendships

with peers from other parts of the world”.

Inspectors commended the school for developing pupils that “behave well, accept responsibility and support each other”.

They observed that peer mentoring and strong relationships between year groups in houses “creates a culture of mutual care for each other and responsibility for one’s own behaviour”.

They also commented that “Pupils have a strong awareness of the need to stay safe, health and fit”.

They noted that pupils’ “mental well-being is actively promoted by the school” and that pupils have “well-developed social awareness”.

Inspectors observed that “Boarders’ personal development is greatly enhanced by their experiences in their boarding communities”. The found that “the boarding experience is highly positive in the senior school”. Pupils said that “boarding allows them to be the person they want to be”.

They commended the school saying “relationships between staff and pupils are excellent” and “senior pupils take on leadership roles to support younger pupils”.



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



Mr Lee Glaser, Headmaster

Lee Glaser, Headmaster, said: "This is an extremely good report across the board and shows that we have a lot to be proud of and excited about at Taunton School. I would encourage every parent to read Inspection reports when choosing a school as they are the only real independent and objective comparison tool available. We are very excited about this. We will not be complacent and already have many plans underway to further improve the life changing education that we offer at Taunton School."

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

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

Read the review here

www.tauntonschool.co.uk/gsgsenior





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