

Highlights from
The Mount School York Inspection Report
November 2018



**THE MOUNT SCHOOL YORK
JUDGED EXCELLENT IN ISI INSPECTION**

“The ethos of tolerance and care for others is found throughout the school. Inspectors observed excellent levels of behaviour and respect for all demonstrated by pupils, embedded throughout school activities. Pupils identify an atmosphere of inclusivity and of excellent behaviour based on mutual respect which exists in the school.”

INSPECTION REPORT, NOVEMBER 2018

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) judge The Mount School York *Excellent*



Adrienne Richmond
Principal

I am delighted to share with you this summary of the November 2018 Independent Schools Inspectorate Report on The Mount School York.

The Educational Quality report focuses on two main areas: the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements and the quality of pupils' personal development. The Mount was rated 'excellent' in both categories, the highest grade awarded by the Inspectorate. The School was also found to be compliant with every regulation and standard that a school has to meet.

To be graded 'excellent' for both areas of Educational Quality is extremely pleasing. The inspection focused on the impact of teaching, learning and pastoral care and the outcomes for our pupils. It is a very proud moment for everyone involved to receive such an excellent report and endorsement of the School. Inspectors commented in particular

on our strong ethos and culture, based on our Quaker values, and how that permeates everything we do. That in turn was seen to create an environment in which pupils can flourish and grow to be themselves and where individuality and diversity are celebrated.

The inspectors also remarked on the confidence and high self-esteem of the pupils. Our all-girl focus provides a culture where girls are encouraged to believe in themselves and that nothing is beyond their reach. This in turn leads to happy, confident young women by the time they leave Year 13 and enables us as a school to get the best possible outcomes for all of our pupils in terms of achievement and personal development.

The happiness and development of our pupils is at the heart of all we do at the School. The Inspectors noted the excellent care and mutually respectful relationships between

staff and pupils, and the value placed by staff on pupils' interests and happiness.

Inspectors observed every aspect of school life including lessons, extra-curricular activities and the boarding house. They reviewed extensive documentation and scrutinised responses from the parent and pupil questionnaires. They also conducted interviews with pupils, staff and governors.

The report is testament to the hard work that staff and pupils at The Mount give every day in school. I hope you will enjoy reading the following highlights from our excellent report.

The full ISI report can be viewed at www.mountschoolyork.co.uk

A photograph of four girls in school uniforms walking along a path outdoors. They are smiling and appear to be in conversation. The background shows greenery and a wooden fence.

“Pupils’ self-esteem is high. Pupils show excellent self-understanding. Pupils display excellent social skills and awareness of others. They support and encourage each other, creating particularly open and friendly relationships. Pupils’ spiritual understanding is a key strength.”

The quality of pupils' academic and other achievements is *excellent*

- Supportive, knowledgeable teaching and use of open questions encourages pupils' critical thinking and reasoning.
- At all ages, pupils' mathematical skills and understanding are at a high level.
- Pupils use information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance and reinforce their learning very effectively.
- Pupils exhibit increasingly strong study skills as they progress through the school. Younger pupils begin to embed independent learning, supported by teaching that helps them do so. Older pupils show particularly strong research skills.
- Pupils lead conversations, respond well to the frequent use of open questions in teaching and are encouraged to celebrate mistakes as part of their learning journey.
- Pupils exhibit a sense of empowerment and are very keen to learn, supported by encouragement to achieve their best at all times.
- Pupils achieve highly in a wide range of cultural, technical, sporting, creative and community centred pursuits.
- Pupils achieve highly in GCSE examinations, significantly exceeding the results predicted for them. Those with EAL attain above worldwide average in IGCSE examinations.
- Results at A Level are above the national average. Leavers are successful at entry to a wide range of universities.



- **Pupils of all ages, needs and abilities demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning.**



- **Communication skills are a particular strength of pupils and evident across many subjects and ages.**



“Pupils show strong knowledge and understanding across subjects. High expectations in teaching mean that pupils strive for and achieve high standards in their learning.”



The quality of pupils' personal development is *excellent*

- Pupils show excellent self-understanding. They are able to evaluate their own success very effectively and set their own goals.
- Pupils in lessons were exuberantly confident. This is supported by the very warm relationships evident between pupils and staff as well as the value placed by staff on pupils' interests and happiness.
- Pupils show high ability in their decision making. They are able to consider options evaluatively and are unafraid to take risks in their learning.
- Pupils have a very high level of moral understanding. They understand the effect of their own and others' actions.
- The ethos of tolerance and care for others is found throughout the school.
- The school's restorative and equitable approach to behaviour management, implemented by an extremely caring staff, are key to promoting pupils' high standards of moral understanding.
- Pupils display excellent social skills and awareness of others. They support and encourage each other frequently and unselfconsciously.
- Pupils relish the diversity between each other and learn from it because the school has successfully created an atmosphere where differences are invisible and prejudices are absent.

“Pupils’ spiritual understanding is a key strength. They exhibit extremely high levels of spiritual awareness, reflectivity, and empathy strongly valuing the Quaker approach and ethos of quality and valuing others in their daily lives.”

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION

“The school meets the standards in the schedule to the Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2014, the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools 2015, and relevant requirements of the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, and associated requirements.”

“Principles and values are actively promoted which facilitate the personal development of pupils as responsible, tolerant, law-abiding citizens.”

