



# REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

22 January 2016

Dear Parents

## **Independent Schools Inspectorate Integrated Inspection Report Overall judgement: RGS is an exceptional school**

You will remember that in December we were visited by inspectors and the ISI is due to publish the report on their website within a matter of days. Having shared verbal feedback with you in December, I am now delighted to be able to share some of the comments from the full written report.

Overall, Reigate Grammar School has been judged to be exceptional and **we believe that RGS is the first and only co-educational day school ever to be awarded this accolade**. ISI uses this rare judgement of 'exceptional' to identify schools where to describe them as merely 'excellent' is not sufficient. This judgement of 'exceptional' is only available for the single overarching 'Achievement and Learning' aspect. For all other aspects the highest possible judgement is 'excellent'.

### **Overall achievement and learning is exceptional**

*The quality of the pupils' achievements and learning is exceptional... Pupils are extremely well educated... Pupils possess exceptional knowledge, understanding and skills in their curricular work... in art, outstandingly sophisticated analysis and interpretation reveal a high level of creative literacy... Pupils are outstandingly successful in gaining entrance to highly competitive universities and in particular gaining a high number of places at medical school... Extra-curricular achievement is exceptional... Many pupils are selected to represent their counties and many exhibit national prowess... The attitudes to learning of pupils of all needs and abilities are exemplary... they show immense enthusiasm for their studies and great pride in their work... Pupils and teachers successfully work together to fulfil high aspirations...*

### **The curriculum and extra-curricular provision is excellent**

*Throughout, the structure of the curriculum focuses upon the needs of individual pupils... The more able students take full advantage of enrichment opportunities, extending their learning and interests both within and outside the classroom... The curriculum strongly encourages independent research... The pupils respond to this encouragement most effectively... The PSHE programme provides extensive opportunities... The range of extra-curricular provision is excellent with an extensive variety of clubs and societies... Organised trips to such locations as South Africa, Belize and the USA give the pupils the chance to experience different cultures as well as to strengthen their leadership skills... Links with the local community are extensive and varied, directly contributing to the curriculum and extra-curricular provision and benefit the pupils and their personal development considerably...*

### **Teaching is excellent**

*The teaching is successful in supporting the school's aims to nurture pupils' talents and abilities and to provide academic opportunities that create pathways to success... Teachers know their individual pupils well, cater very effectively for their needs and have high expectations of them... The assessment and tracking programme is a particular strength with individual pupil and subject-specific monitoring... Excellent relationships between pupils and teachers allow learning to be a cooperative and enjoyable experience...*

Headmaster • **S A Fenton MA (Oxon), M Ed (Oxon)**

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### **The quality of pupils' personal development is excellent**

*The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils is excellent... By the time they leave the school, pupils of all needs and abilities have an excellent standard of personal development and are ready to meet the challenges of adulthood... Pupils in all year groups exhibit a well-founded sense of right and wrong reflecting the moral purpose of the school... Pupils display excellent social development... they are confident, thoughtful and considerate... they show a high level of maturity in their approach to their learning and are intellectually assured, articulate and prepared to question received ideas... Pupils are encouraged to develop their own leadership qualities and teamwork skills... they have a well-developed social conscience particularly seen in a culture of charitable giving with a well-supported programme co-ordinated through the student-led charity committee... Pupils relate easily to each other and to adults in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths, beliefs, cultures and backgrounds...*

### **The contribution of arrangements for pastoral care is excellent**

*Excellent counselling services offer guidance and targeted support for individual pupils... Based on mutual respect, the excellent and positive relationships observed by inspectors between staff and pupils and amongst the pupils themselves firmly underpin the strong sense of community within the school... The school actively seeks pupils' opinions and listens to them, for example through the school council and regular contact with pastoral staff... The school's anti-bullying policy is clear, detailed and effectively implemented...*

### **The contribution of arrangements for welfare, health and safety is excellent**

*Meticulous attention is given to the safeguarding of pupils...*

### **The quality of leadership and management and of Governance is excellent**

*The leadership ensures that the needs of pupils are at the centre of all decisions... There is a strong commitment to the need for continuous improvement... The governing body is highly successful in guiding the school to achieve its educational aims... Governors have an exemplary vision for the future of the school...*

Every report has to include action points and the inspectors essentially require us to provide a new library (with private study and e-learning facilities) and to implement our school development plan. This simply confirms to me the need to keep going with the plans we already have in place. Having said that, you will not be surprised to hear that the Governors, staff and I have the ambition to improve yet further in **all** areas and we continue to welcome feedback from parents and other stakeholders on anything we could do things better for your child.

Once again I thank all of you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Fenton  
Headmaster

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