

Wednesday 20th June 2018



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Dear Parent/Carer

Ofsted Report – 5th and 6th June 2018

Headteacher:
A M Rushworth BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

We are delighted to announce that in a very challenging educational climate, with significantly increased levels of accountability and expectations on UK schools, The Bicester School has been graded as 'Good' in its latest Ofsted inspection of 5th and 6th June 2018.

We were pleased that the Ofsted team which comprised two HMI's and two serving Head teachers, chose to conduct an exhaustive and thoroughly rigorous Section 5 Ofsted inspection over a two-day period. This meant that the Ofsted team were able to produce a very substantial evidence base to confirm their gradings in each of the 4 main categories.

The school was graded as 'good' in each of the 4 main categories of Leadership, Teaching/learning, Personal development/behaviour and Academic outcomes, with a '3' for 6th form study programmes. The report reads very positively in all aspects including the work of the 6th form which has previously suffered from rapid student growth and a dearth of vocational courses in recent years. We have since moved to raise the 6th form entry requirements and narrow the curriculum to an almost exclusive A' level subject offer.

Highlights from the report include:

- The headteacher has insisted on high standards since his appointment. He has inspired the trust and confidence of leaders, governors and parents with his strongly held view of an excellent education for all.
- Leaders have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses. Their commitment and focus have led to rapid improvements in teaching, behaviour and progress and a better curriculum.
- Strong teaching, pupils' positive attitudes and high expectations have ensured that current pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, progress well.
- Pupils' behaviour is good. Conduct around the school is calm and orderly. Pupils are well mannered and polite. Relationships between staff and pupils are very positive. Pupils are well cared for.
- Pupils, increasingly, have opportunities to study a range of challenging courses in key stage 4 and in 16–19 study programmes.

A copy of the full report can be found on our website: <http://thebicester-school.org.uk/ofsted-report/>

Yours sincerely,
Tony Rushworth
Headteacher



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