

CFS Ofsted Report Published

‘Outstanding Personal Development’ strongly praised at our ‘ambitious, vibrant and highly inclusive’ school, where pupils are ‘thriving.’

5th June 2024

Dear all,

I am delighted to inform you that the Ofsted report, from our recent inspection in May, has now been published and has been attached to this email. From early next week, you will also be able to find it on the Ofsted website via this link: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/28/139668>

We are, as a whole community, celebrating high praise from the Inspectors, who thoroughly explored all areas of the All Through school and were impressed at how the school’s values of ‘nurture, challenge and inspire’ are embedded throughout. Inspectors were highly complementary throughout the inspection, reflecting on the strong progress made in all aspects of the school since our last Inspection in 2019. The report comments on ‘the broad and ambitious curriculum’ that ‘provides countless opportunities to develop talents and interests,’ ‘expert’ teaching and our ‘respectful and friendly’ pupils.

We received a full graded inspection, and achieved at least a strong ‘Good’ in all areas, with an overall grading of ‘Good.’ Of particular note, is the school’s Personal Development curriculum, which achieved the highest Ofsted grade of **Outstanding**. This reflects a whole range of aspects, including pastoral care, character development, social/moral/cultural education, enrichment opportunities, careers support and mental health and wellbeing. Inspectors commented on our ‘exceptional pastoral support’, ‘exemplary’ careers provision and ‘impressive’ club opportunities and engagement.

Whilst receiving an overall judgement of ‘Good,’ several aspects of Leadership and Management were also considered to be ‘Outstanding’, including significant strengths in safeguarding, and ‘strong leadership throughout’ the All Through school. As a leader working in a difficult educational landscape, I am also extremely humbled that it was recognised how well staff are valued at CFS, and how they are proud to work at the school.

I am so proud of the whole school community – pupils, staff and parents. The Inspectors really saw what it means to be a part of CFS and how we successfully support pupils in all aspects of their education – academic, social and moral. They really saw our values and ethos, the culture we have all worked hard to create here; the Inspectors really ‘got’ us. I am particularly pleased that they noted that pupils are safe and thriving at CFS, and that our work ensures they are ‘extremely well prepared for adult life.’

Perhaps most importantly, Inspectors were impressed by the ‘respectful’ and ‘friendly’ nature of our pupils, and saw some of the positive impact of our Culture of Kindness initiative. The pupils really did themselves, their teachers and their parents proud – in random interactions with the Inspectors or, indeed, during thorough pupil voice sessions. Inspectors were very impressed by the behaviour of our learners, commenting on their ‘self-respect and self-regulation.’

The report only gives a snapshot of their findings, and myself, Mr Garner and Mr Phillips were privileged to hear and have the opportunity to record even more detailed feedback on the final day of the Inspection. For example, they also recognised:

- Many areas of creative, innovative and engaging teaching
- Our strong moral imperative
- Effective and creative transition work, including through our Year 7 Middle School model
- Pupils' pride in their school
- A notable culture of praise and celebration
- Sophisticated use of data and systems to support individual pupils and whole school improvement

Of course, we will never stop our relentless desire for further improvements – with a clear ambition to be 'Outstanding' in all areas. I can assure you that complacency is not the order of the day at CFS; we still have much to do, and are well on the way to doing it!

Inspectors agreed with our own identified key area for further development – to continue our work to improve consistency in the implementation of the curriculum in a few subject areas. Whilst many areas of 'expert' teaching were noted, we want to ensure that all learners, in all years, in all subjects receive a consistently exceptional teaching and learning experience every day.

Comment from Jonathan Morris, CEO of Sussex Learning Trust:

'In just nine months, it was great to hear Inspectors comment on the synergy between the Trust and the school. We are also reassured that Inspectors agreed with the main focus of the school improvement work that is already happening – to ensure that the 'expert' teaching seen in many areas is consistent in every lesson. We look forward to continuing to work with Mrs New, Mr Garner, Mr Phillips and all staff at CFS in our relentless and ambitious work in this area, as the school will continue to go from strength to strength.'

Comment from Ian Moore, Chair of CFS Governors:

'I am incredibly proud of our whole school community—pupils, staff, and parents. The Inspectors saw our commitment to supporting young people in all aspects of their education. We remain dedicated to continuous improvement and achieving excellence in all areas. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue this journey together.'

Thank you all so much for your support during the Inspection itself, but of course in the years leading up to it. This report is about more than a snapshot in time; it is about the culture and ambition of the school over many years. I look forward to continuing to lead CFS in the next important chapter of its journey – onwards and upwards!

Kind regards,



Mrs Louise New
Executive Principal