



Founded 1636 by Grace, Lady Manners

Lady Manners School

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that we were visited by Ofsted for two days on 10 and 11 March. This was a full section 5 inspection, led by HMI Jayne Ashman and a team of four additional inspectors.

As you know, the publication of the final report was delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am delighted to announce that the report is now available for parents and carers and can be found on our school website. The report is due to be published on the official Ofsted website on Friday 22 May. This new-style Ofsted report is in the format of a summary for parents and supplements the more detailed feedback provided to senior leaders and governors immediately following the inspection.

The inspection proved to be overwhelmingly positive. During feedback at the end of their visit, the Ofsted team reported that Lady Manners School is “strongly good” across all areas and, to our immense pride, Personal Development was graded as outstanding. Outstanding judgements, particularly under the new Ofsted framework, are extremely rare and we are all very proud of this achievement. This grade reflects our sustained focus on promoting the creative and wider talents of our students, alongside their academic achievements.

The quality of education received by students across all age groups was judged to be of a high standard and we are delighted that the report confirmed the strength and ambition of our curriculum. In providing feedback, inspectors praised our curriculum intent, including planned changes to our school day. Their view was that as planned changes become embedded, we will move closer towards our ambition of becoming an outstanding school across all areas of judgement.

Inspectors were extremely impressed by our students who, as anticipated, represented their school with distinction. The opening line of the report: “Pupils are proud that they attend Lady Manners School” made us all smile. As always, students were not reticent in sharing an opinion or two, and I know their views formed an important part of the inspection outcome. I would like to personally thank all of them for their obvious commitment to our school and their shared desire to make this the best place it can possibly be.

The behaviour of our students was praised, both in lessons and at social times. The positive relationships across the school were highlighted, and it was recognised that students enjoy school, achieve highly and feel safe within a ‘culture of vigilance’.

It was pleasing to receive recognition for leadership and management. Inspectors stated that there are a number of ‘exceptional leaders’ at the school who are clearly aware of



Headteacher: G Peat BA (Hons) NPQH NLE

Shutts Lane, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1JA

Tel: 01629 812671 Fax: 01629 813883 Email: info@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk Web: www.ladymanners.net



strengths and weaknesses, and who are focussed on development priorities that will make a real difference to the education of our students.

We will ensure all recommended actions are addressed swiftly and decisively. Whilst maintaining a high level of challenge in all lessons, we will adapt our curriculum to ensure students can access all teaching. We will continue to focus on improving the attendance of target groups and will ensure that our sixth form systems and protocols are reviewed.

We have made significant progress since the last inspection and our determination and drive to improve will not diminish. We are confident that the vast majority of students have an enjoyable, enriching and successful experience at our school. We will ensure that they continue to thrive within our inclusive and aspirational learning environment. They will be supported by a caring and talented staff team who always act with the students' best interests at heart.

On a final note, on behalf of all staff and governors, I would like to thank you for your support during the Ofsted process, and also during the current coronavirus pandemic. It has been a challenging period for us all and we have appreciated our strong partnership with parents, carers and the wider community. We will continue to work collaboratively to serve the best interests of our excellent students both now and in the future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Peat', written in a cursive style.

Gary Peat
Headteacher