



Norfolk House School

29th January 2016

Dear Parents,

Last November the school and nursery at 3 Norfolk Road were inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. I enclose a copy of their report for your consideration.

Although the report deals with the inspection of both institutions compendiously, it is right to observe that each was subject to a different form of inspection. In the case of the school, regulatory compliance only was assessed. In the case of the nursery (p.10 of the report onwards), all aspects of its performance were both assessed and graded.

I am very pleased and proud to say that the school was deemed to have met the requirements of the Regulations in each and every area under inspection. That in itself is a genuine testament to the superb leadership of Sarah Morris, our Headmistress, and to the dedication and hard work of all our staff; and to everything which you, as parents, contribute to the school, which is highly valued. However, the commentary provided by the inspectors gives an additional perspective which, I hope you will find, is most heartening and reassuring.

The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 provided the benchmark against which the school was judged. Necessarily and properly, these are detailed regulations which require a school to formulate and implement rigorous systems for the provision of education and pupil development; for safeguarding the health and wellbeing of pupils; for checking the suitability of staff; for providing suitable premises; for providing information to parents and dealing with complaints; and for ensuring good leadership and management. As is pointed out in the section of the report entitled "About the Inspection", the purpose of the inspectors was not to grade the school in those areas, and use of such words as "good" in the report are not qualitative judgments to be read in the context of the well-known grading system used in full inspections ("excellent", "good", "sound" and "unsatisfactory"). Rather, the inspectors' purpose was to decide whether the requirements of the Regulations had been "met" or "not met". We anticipate that a full inspection of the school, during which it will be graded on all aspects of its performance, will occur approximately three years from now.

The nursery which, in contrast to the school, underwent a full inspection, was graded "outstanding" in every area. The school sends its heartiest congratulations to Hayley Fox and her team on this superb achievement.

Notwithstanding the very good news contained in this report, you may be assured that we shall continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Challinor
Chair of Directors