

OFSTED Give Strong Vote Of Confidence in Malton School

Malton School was inspected by the Government Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) team in November 1996, and has just received the full written report summarising the 16-person inspection team's findings. The report gives a very positive vote of confidence in the school.

The full report runs to 135 paragraphs in 42 pages, and is available on request at cost (£3) from the school. A summary report (5 pages) has been provided by OFSTED, and is attached to this newsletter.

The school is delighted with the report, which confirms its high reputation as a caring school offering a sound education to its students. There are so many positive statements in the report it is difficult to select a few "headlines", but here are just some direct quotes which will give a sense of the contents:

Main findings of the inspection:

- "Malton is a good school with many strengths and few weaknesses"
- "Pupils receive a good standard of education"
- "The school at least sustains, and in the majority of cases enhances, pupils' standards of attainment"

On examinations:

- "In GCSE examinations in 1995 and 1996 pupils' overall attainments were *well above* the national average. Over the period 1992-1996 there has been an upward trend in the school's results"
- "Results in examinations at Advanced (A) level in 1995 were about average, but were above average in 1996. The pass rate has shown a clear upward trend over the 1992-1996 period"

On the Quality of Education provided:

- "The overall quality of teaching is good and is a substantial strength of the school"
- "Teachers work hard on behalf of pupils"
- "The school prepares pupils well for their future lives"

On Pupils' Development:

- "Pupils' attitude to learning and behaviour are very positive"
- "The school is a very orderly community with high standards of behaviour"
- "Relationships throughout the school are good and caring"

... and On Efficiency:

- "The school runs efficiently and provides very good value for money"

Some information about OFSTED inspections

- OFSTED is the *Office for Standards in Education*.
- All maintained schools in the country are inspected by OFSTED.
- Currently the requirement is to inspect once every four years.

Inspections are not a one-week-only process:

Before the inspection week

- The inspection of Malton School has been proceeding since early 1996.
- All the school documents - policies, lesson plans, schemes of work, accounts, - were sent to OFSTED on 1 July 1996
- Exam results for the past five years were analysed by OFSTED
- The Registered Inspector held a number of meetings before the inspection with the Head and Deputy Head, staff, governors, and parents.
- A parents' questionnaire was issued and analysed by the Registered Inspector. The returns were anonymous, and the inspector received 171.

During the inspection week

16 inspectors observed 174 lessons, as well as registrations, all assemblies and a large range of extra curricular activities.

Eighty one interviews were held with the Head, staff (both teaching and non-teaching), governors, and a primary Headteacher.

Formal interviews were held with a representative sample of 19 students chosen from across the full age and ability range.

All the work of this sample of students in *all* subjects for the *whole* of last year was reviewed in depth by the team.

After the inspection week

- A 42-page report has been published by the OFSTED Registered Inspector.
- A 5-page summary has also been published by the team
- The full report is received by the school, its Governors, and the LEA. It must be available to any member of the public who wishes to see it. It must be provided to anyone who wishes to have a copy, on payment of a fee equivalent to the cost of reproduction.
- The school must send the summary to all parents, and to any member of the public who requests a copy, free of charge.
- The school has to produce an action plan within 40 days in response to the report. This must be sent to all interested parties as above.

What happens next

Please read the summary report attached.

Would parents and guardians please return the reply slip to indicate they have received the report. We would very much welcome any comments *any* readers may have on the report - please write in the space provided on the return form.

You will receive our Action Plan with the February Newsletter (after half term).

Should you wish to read the full report without purchasing a copy, please call in at the school office (West Wing), where copies are available. Copies will also be available in the local public libraries.

