

**OFSTED Report**  
**October 2012**  
**Highlights**

**Definition of Outstanding according to OFSTED**

An outstanding school is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs. This ensures that pupils are very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment.

**“This is an Outstanding School”**

- The school's motto: “achieving excellence for all” has become a reality at this outstanding school. Endeavour, trust and kindness prevail.
- Leadership at all levels ensures an unyielding pursuit of excellence.
- Students' behaviour is exemplary. They are courteous, polite and respectful to each other and staff at all times.
- Achievement is outstanding in all key stages. All groups of students, including disabled students and those who have special educational needs, make excellent progress.
- Academic standards are high and have been so over a number of years.

**The achievement of pupils is outstanding**

- **Students in the sixth form make outstanding progress. The school's accurate analysis of this rapid progress is confirmed through sixth form lesson observations.**
- **Achievement in the sixth form is high. In 2011, 58.5% attained A or B grades.**
- **Students are very well prepared for the next stage in their education, training or employment with support provided individually to each student.**

**The overall quality of teaching is outstanding**

- Teachers' expert subject knowledge inspires students to be highly motivated, enthusiastic learners.
- Lessons are planned and prepared in detail.
- The aspirational leadership of teaching and learning has resulted in increasing numbers of outstanding lessons across the school.
- The variety of subjects on offer ensures that students' ambitions, needs and interests are well met.
- **The sixth form is outstanding.** Achievement is rising due to skilful teaching and highly personalised support for students.

### **The quality of teaching is outstanding**

- Teachers have high expectations of their students, which encourages them to achieve and progress well. **Outstanding teaching is supported by teachers' strong subject knowledge, especially in the sixth form.**
- Teachers provide much constructive feedback to students verbally and in written marking.
- Lessons are interesting and capture the students' enthusiasm well.
- Students know what they are aiming for. Progress towards their targets is closely monitored by the teachers, senior leaders and the students themselves.
- Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are promoted well. **In a Y13 Business Studies lesson, students discussed the moral principles of acceptable and unacceptable business behaviour** and, in assembly, a charitable project was launched aimed at sharing gifts at Christmas.

### **The behaviour and safety of pupils are outstanding**

- Students' attitudes to learning are exemplary. **Sixth Form students act as mentors to younger students.** However, everyone takes a role in caring for each other, and the wider community.
- Students are confident that they are safe in school. Parents and carers agree that their children are safe in school.
- Students confirm that expectations for high standards of behaviour are relentlessly applied.
- Students give willingly of their time. **In the summer of 2012, 20 students from Years 10 and 12 spent a month in Kenya supporting community projects.**

### **The leadership and management are outstanding.**

- All school leaders are passionate about their roles and responsibilities and are unequivocally ambitious for each and every student. **There is an uncompromising quest for excellence.**
- Heads of department, who closely monitor the quality of teaching and learning in their subjects and check students' progress through reliable tracking systems.