



Priestlands School

North Street Pennington Lymington Hampshire SO41 8FZ

Headteacher: Mr C A Willsher BA, MEd
Website: www.priestlands.hants.sch.uk
Email: info@priestlands.hants.sch.uk

School Reception: 01590 677033
Absence Hotline: 01590 613440
Fax Number: 01590 670398



20 June 2012

Dear Parent

Ofsted Report

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of the Board of Governors to inform you of the outcome of our Ofsted Inspection, 30-31 May 2012.

We are one of the first outstanding schools in the country to be inspected under the new Ofsted framework, introduced earlier this year. The way in which schools are being judged has changed and, as Ofsted puts it, "This means that inspectors now make judgements that were not made previously." It is therefore impossible to compare one report with another over time.

The inspection team said that Priestlands is better in every respect now than it was in 2008, however the outcome of the inspection is that Priestlands has been judged "Good" in terms of overall effectiveness.

We expect the official report to be published on the Ofsted website, www.ofsted.gov.uk and on our own site from 20th June 2012. Parents who would like a printed copy can request one through the school office. Nonetheless, I take this opportunity to highlight some of the key points I think you will find most interesting.

Achievement

"Results at the end of Key Stage 4 are generally much higher than average. Standards and achievement in the core subjects of English and Mathematics are above those seen nationally. Most groups of students, including disabled students and those with special educational needs, are making better progress than similar groups nationally."

Quality of Teaching

"Teaching is good. An increasing proportion is outstanding."

Behaviour and Safety

"Behaviour and safety are outstanding... Students are exceptionally polite and thoughtful. In lessons and around the extensive site, their conduct is exemplary."

Leadership and Management

"The headteacher, leaders and managers, including the governing body, are very ambitious for the school... Staff know the students very well and highly positive relationships are apparent throughout the school... As one student told inspectors, 'The teachers would put us first.' Another said, 'It's like having a second family.'"

What does the school need to do to improve further?

The report suggested only one area for improvement: "Increase the rates of all students' progress, particularly in Key Stage 3, to be significantly faster than that seen nationally..." We agree. Work has already started and we expect to see speedy improvements.

Whilst it is disappointing that we are no longer outstanding in Ofsted's eyes, we are not disheartened. Inspectors were extremely impressed with the educational experience that is a hallmark of our school and everyone at the school will continue to work tirelessly to deliver the very highest quality service for all of our students. Under the new school inspection arrangements introduced in January 2012 the Board of Governors consider this report a remarkable achievement and a wonderful result for everyone – students, staff and parents.

Yours sincerely

David Thomas

David Thomas
Chair of Governors

