



December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

West Kirby Grammar School Ofsted Report

Many of you will be aware that our school was inspected by Ofsted on 2nd and 3rd November 2022. They had not visited the school for a full “grading” inspection since 2009. Full publication of Ofsted’s latest report will be made shortly and is now available to be viewed on the school’s website [here](#).

We are pleased with the many areas of excellence identified in the report, but we were surprised and disappointed by the judgements and the overall grade of Good. We are a self-reflective community who always aspires to do better, as every organisation should. We continue to believe that, assessed against Ofsted’s criteria or indeed by any other measure, including academic progress and outcomes, this is a truly outstanding school.

We feel that the grade does not reflect the overall commentary. We encourage you to read the report and, in particular, the opening section ‘What it is like to attend this school’. The opening paragraph of this section states:

“At West Kirby Grammar School, pupils, and students in the sixth form, thrive. They are confident and articulate with a fervour for learning. Pupils and students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), strive to live up to leaders’ high expectations of them. Pupils and students enjoy strong academic success.”

We recognise that description of our school. Alongside reading the report, everyone interested in understanding our school is encouraged to consider our academic outcomes (see below), and above all, if you have not done so recently, please visit the school to meet our fantastic students and staff.

The context behind our school’s new grade, is Ofsted’s stated intention to reduce dramatically the number of schools graded Outstanding¹. That intention has translated into Ofsted downgrading 82% of previously Outstanding schools that it has inspected since January 2021. While we do not believe our school should have been among the schools to be downgraded, some of Ofsted’s comments about areas in which we can improve are fair, reflecting our own assessment and existing plans for development. In their informal and formal feedback, Ofsted’s inspectors acknowledged that we had already identified and put plans in place to address areas for improvement and that the judicious steps already taken by leaders will ensure the continued success of the school. We will continue to offer the highest quality of education to our students; an education that has been consistently recognised as one of the best in the country in publications such as the Parent Power Rankings and the Real School’s Guide.

This summer’s examination results confirm the outstanding quality of our school’s academic outcomes. Our GCSE and A Level results continue to be ranked by The Times newspaper as some of the best in the country, with 60% of all GCSE entries achieving a Grade 9-7 and 81% of all grades being 9-6. Our A Level results were also excellent, with 40% of all entries being awarded an A* or A and 68% being awarded A*-B.

¹ See - <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/spielman-1-in-10-outstanding-schools-more-realistic/>



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These results were in line with previous cohorts at both GCSE and A Level, showing our continued commitment to excellence. However, academic results are only half of the story at WKGS. As well as developing students' skills as resilient and enterprising learners, the focus is just as much on helping students to explore and uncover their skills and talents, to dream big and set challenging goals, to celebrate their individuality and to grow as a global citizen.

We are immensely proud of our wonderful students who, during the inspection, showed how well they can articulate their views and opinions on exceptional education. We look forward to working with them, and you, as we continue to identify ways to further develop as a community. We are also very proud of our Head, our Senior Leadership Team, our teachers and all other staff, who continue to make our school such a great environment for our students to learn and grow.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Clarke (office@wkgs.net) or myself (awaller@wkgs.net). In the meantime, we would like to thank parents and carers for your continued support of the school, especially during the past two years, which have been challenging for everyone. We look ahead with optimism and confidence to the continued success of the school and all students.

Yours faithfully,

Dr A Waller
Chair of Governors