



# Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

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## **“Pupils thrive in the culture of high aspiration that exists at this school”.**

Ofsted November 2023

Dear parents/carers and students

We are very proud to announce that following our recent Ofsted Inspection, Spalding High School has once again been designated “Outstanding”.

The new Education Inspection Framework is far more rigorous than the previous system, and as we know from the national picture, fewer and fewer schools are securing an outstanding judgement and so we are thrilled that inspectors judged the School as such. Inspectors visited lessons, scrutinised the work in pupils’ books, held discussions with pupils, staff and governors and considered the parental responses on Ofsted Parent View and concluded “the School’s curriculum has been deliberately planned to help pupils achieve their potential” and that “pupils develop detailed and sophisticated knowledge.”

A number of Spalding High School pupils were spoken to during the inspection and observed in lessons and described feeling “comfortable and confident”. Inspectors commented that “pupils challenge themselves to be the best they can be” and that “staff and pupils have developed excellent relationships”. Furthermore, “pupils celebrate one another’s achievements. They work together for the benefit of all”. We are delighted these characteristics of our School shone through and were recognised by the inspectors in the final report.

Visitors to Spalding High School often comment upon the special ‘feel’ of the School and how exceptional our pupils are. The inspectors also recognised this when they said, “pupils’ behaviour is exemplary. They treat one another, staff and visitors with respect. Pupils are resilient. They are eager to learn. They help one another to overcome challenges”. Our Sixth Form are the flagship of the School and the inspectors noted this too. “Students in the sixth form enjoy their learning. They value the respectful and focused atmosphere in which they study” and “students in the sixth form, including those new to the school, talk about the welcoming atmosphere that helps them feel part of the school community”.

Spalding High School has an extensive extracurricular programme and strong focus on personal development, all of which were highly commended. Inspectors said, “The School provides multiple experiences to help pupils broaden their horizons” and “pupils take up opportunities to be active citizens...such opportunities help to prepare pupils exceptionally well as active citizens”.

The report also praised the active role they play in the life of the school with “the School Council gives pupils a voice. Pupils support their peers as well-being champions and anti-bullying ambassadors. Pupils produce a very high quality school magazine called the High Quarterly. The pupil authors of the magazine celebrate pupils’ achievements and capture the essence of pupil experiences”. We look forward to sending the Autumn 2023 Edition of the HQ later today and so please do spend some time reading through the magazine over the next few days.

Our staff contribute enormously to the success of our pupils and this was also formally recognised during the inspection. The final report commented that, “staff are overwhelmingly positive about working at the School”. In lessons, inspectors commended teachers using their “excellent subject knowledge to provide pupils with work that motivates and challenges them” and that “pupils with SEND have their needs promptly identified” and “staff are knowledgeable about those pupils in their classrooms”. Our Careers Education Programme was also praised in ensuring that “pupils understand all the options open to them before they make choices about their futures”.

I am so very proud of the School. Our pupils and students are exemplary, our staff and governors are excellent and we have fantastic support from our parent body. This report is a testament to the commitment and hard work of everyone involved with Spalding High School and I want to thank you all for your dedication to this very special school; something we will be celebrating in the final assembly of the term tomorrow.

Our “pupils’ contributions to the life of the School make it the exceptional place it is to learn”. This recognition sums up Spalding High School perfectly. The final report will be published on the Ofsted website towards the beginning of January but a copy is attached to this message. What a wonderful way to start the New Year!

I would like to take this final opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M K Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

M K Anderson  
Headmistress