



*together we aspire,  
we discover,  
we excel*

# Lordswood Girls' School

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Headteacher: Mrs. K Cooney, BSC (Hons), MA

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Families,

As you are well aware, here at Lordswood Girls' School we underwent our first full Ofsted inspection in fifteen years earlier this year. We have now received the report, which we are sharing with you, and we would like to pick out some key points.

There are many strengths identified by the inspection team, not least in terms of our pupils. They say that our pupils are "conscientious and work hard", are "polite and respectful" and have a "positive attitude to their learning". The inspection team also highlight how pupils achieve well in their GCSE exams, something which has been the case for some time in our school. In addition, the inspection team identifies strengths in our support for pupils with Special Educational Needs, our PSHE programme and our approach to safeguarding.

Overall, however, the inspection team has chosen to grade our school as one which requires improvement. You will see from the report that their main areas for suggested improvement are curriculum and assessment planning, careers, sixth form enrichment and monitoring.

Obviously it is disappointing for our school community to receive this grading. We are proud of our school, our pupils and our academic results. Nonetheless, we are fully aware that the new Ofsted framework focuses on areas which it previously did not and which many schools have found it hard to address during the last two years of COVID disruption. Indeed, since the resumption of full inspections last September, around 50% of outstanding schools have lost their previous ratings.

Amid this disappointment, there are three broad reasons, amongst others, why we are confident that our school will soon improve in the eyes of regulators.

Firstly, we know that the sense of community and resilience of our pupils, families and staff, along with the obvious strengths of our school as identified above, give us a firm foundation.

Secondly, the report recognises that our new Headteacher, Kerry Cooney, has an accurate understanding of the school and has already begun to take steps to improve the areas identified as needing improvement. She has the experience of working with schools to improve Ofsted gradings and the knowledge of how to adapt that to our context.

Thirdly, our transfer to join the King Edward VI Foundation and Academy Trust in September brings us into a network of high performing schools with all of the resources, expertise and collaboration needed to support us in our next steps.

We believe that our school is very special. We know that it has many strengths. We are confident that we can address the areas that have led to this result, which is one indicator of our success, and with your support will continue to give our pupils an excellent education.

There will be an opportunity to pose questions relating to the Ofsted report in the forthcoming Parent Forum meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Friday 17th June. The link to reserve a space at this meeting will be available via the parent bulletin on Friday 27th May.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Lennon  
Chair of Trust