

## **George Abbot School rated 'Good' by Ofsted**

### **Sixth Form rated 'Outstanding'**

**++ Ofsted commends Surrey secondary school's ongoing academic success, producing A-level results firmly in the top 10% in the country ++**

**++ Particular praise from the inspectorate for the momentum school leaders are building around children from disadvantaged backgrounds ++**

George Abbot School in Guildford has today been confirmed as a 'Good' school by Ofsted. Inspectors have praised leaders for their high expectations of pupils and the quality and breadth of support they receive. George Abbot is part of the Guildford Education Partnership (GEP Academies), a Multi-Academy Trust comprising a cross-phase family of schools across Surrey.

This is the first time the school has been inspected since Ofsted introduced its new, tougher framework. The academy was previously rated 'Outstanding', and in keeping with almost all outstanding schools that have been assessed under the new criteria, it is now graded as 'Good'.

Of all the non-selective secondaries to have a graded inspection under the new Ofsted regime, not one has retained their outstanding grade. Further, a quarter of those previously 'Outstanding' are now graded as 'Requires Improvement'.

Over the past three years George Abbot's results have continued to be very strong and are improving. The academy continues to have an 'Outstanding' rating for its sixth form. George Abbot is in the top 5% of the country for A-level results in terms of progress, and top 10% in terms of results. At GCSE level, a third of all grades are 9-7, compared to a national average of 21.9%.

Inspectors said pupils happily attend the school. They respect teachers, behave well in lessons, take their studying seriously and try to get the most out of their experiences at school.

Further highlights from Ofsted:

- Pupils complete demanding work and achieve well. The maths curriculum for example is very well planned, and teachers provide pupils with highly demanding work.
- Teachers are well informed about the needs of SEND pupils, adjusting their plans and providing extra help for these pupils if they need it.
- Pupils are well cared for, with staff conscientiously supporting pupils when they need help with academic or personal problems.
- There is a high quality personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum with pupils receiving careers advice which prepares them for moving on when they finish key stage 4.
- Most pupils go into the school's sixth form where they have a wide choice of courses to choose from. Students achieve extremely well in the sixth form, and they play a big part in the life of the school. Students are positive role models for younger pupils.
- Those who leave the sixth form go on to ambitious destinations, attributable to the high-quality curriculum and strong relationships between students and teachers.

- Leaders' plans to improve the achievement of disadvantaged pupils have recently gathered momentum in school. Extra spending for disadvantaged pupils is spent increasingly well.
- Leaders monitor standards within the school. They talk to pupils about their work and check on how well they understand what they are studying.

Ofsted also commended the high proportions of pupils involved in clubs and after-school activities. Inspectors noted a safe atmosphere at the school, and a clear sense that pupils enjoy learning there.

In terms of areas of improvement, Ofsted has made the recommendation for the current two-year KS3 curriculum to be extended to three years, to improve depth of knowledge, which the school will now consider. The inspectorate also felt there could be improvements in the teaching of the English curriculum, while recognising that George Abbot still brings in results above the national average. There is already an action plan in place on this, as well as plans for addressing Ofsted's feedback on leadership planning and literacy.

**Kate Carriett, Head Teacher at George Abbot School, said:**

"I am deeply proud of everything we are achieving at George Abbot School. As Ofsted says, we set high ambitions for all our pupils and they are continuing to surpass them.

"Almost all 'outstanding' schools have been given a lower rating under the new Ofsted criteria so we must not be disheartened. A school is more than its rating, more than its results even, although of course both are extremely important to us and we will take on board all that Ofsted has said. We thank them for recognising all our great work as well as identifying areas we can improve. I am fortunate to have a brilliant team of staff, committed to giving students from all backgrounds an outstanding education and the path to a bright future."

**Chris Tweedale, Chief of GEP Academies, said:**

"As so many other schools have discovered, the new inspection regime is very different to the previous one, with not a single non-selective school now being recognised as 'Outstanding'. We are disappointed by their judgement, particularly so given it rests very much on our model of having a two-year Key Stage 3 curriculum, allowing for three years of GCSE study. We were pleased that Ofsted recognise our sixth form continues to be Outstanding, and we will look closely at their wider feedback so that we can ensure we are continuing to provide an exceptional education for all of our pupils."

**ENDS**