



ISI Inspection 2023

The Abbey was inspected on two occasions in 2023: in February and September.

Educational Quality outcome

The inspections found that the quality of students' academic and other achievements and the quality of their personal development are **excellent**, the highest category on offer.

The reports recognise the qualities of which we are most proud in our school and our students. Inspectors commented that students achieve '**outstanding academic, musical, sporting, linguistic and dramatic distinctions**' with '**exceptional**' outcomes '**actively encouraged by a strong culture of expanding horizons and discovering passions in accordance with the aims of the school**'.

Additionally they found that '**they are confident and inspired to take on the challenges of the next stage of their education**' and that the way in which they '**engage in contributing to the lives of others in the school, the local community and wider society is outstanding**'.

Headline judgements are:

- *Pupils' pursuit of knowledge and understanding is demonstrated consistently at a very high level across the curriculum and through exceptional results in public examinations.*
- *Pupils are extremely articulate communicators who express themselves eloquently, both orally and in writing, and who apply their skills effectively to a wide range of subjects and interests.*
- *Pupils are highly successful collaborative and independent learners; they display high levels of intellectual curiosity and develop strong critical thinking skills.*
- *Pupils have extremely positive attitudes towards their learning; they show initiative and independence and are determined to make the most of the opportunities the school provides.*
- *Pupils' levels of self-awareness and resilience are highly developed, so that they are confident and inspired to take on the challenges of the next stage of their education.*
- *Pupils are perceptive decision-makers.*
- *Pupils display excellent social awareness for their age; they understand the value of service to others and make a positive contribution to the school and wider community. Pupils demonstrate a strong appreciation of diversity and a pronounced respect for other cultures.*





The reports included one recommendation for further development, which we fully support, and which is part of our strategy:

- *Ensure that pupils better understand how to improve their appreciation of global diversity by further engaging with pupil voice across all ages.*

The reports are effusive in their wider praise:

The level of pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding is outstanding and develops quickly across the range of their endeavours. This is as a result of the school's multi-disciplinary approach to the curriculum and high expectations set by teachers.

They are exceptionally articulate and highly confident in discussion and debate and listen perceptively and sensitively to the views of others. This is a consequence of teachers who provide challenge which enables pupils to lead their own learning.

Their sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts is encouraged and supported by challenging teaching that is informed by the needs and aptitudes of each pupil.

Pupils establish extremely advanced study skills, reflecting senior leaders' focus on enabling pupils to learn to think critically and creatively, to take intellectual risks and to distrust easy answers. From the very start pupils are enabled to lead their own inquiry, ask their own questions and find their own answers. Pupils use critical and creative thinking skills highly effectively to accelerate their own learning.

Pupils throughout the school exhibit excellent attitudes to learning. They work with high levels of interest, enthusiasm and engagement. Pupils are intellectually curious and willing to persevere when challenged in the knowledge that they are well supported by their teachers.

Pupils show excellent self-knowledge and self-reliance... This is promoted by the commitment of the school's leadership and management to the Abbey Learner Profile, which puts a strong emphasis on helping students to become thinkers, enquirers, communicators and risk-takers. Pupils are extremely motivated and well prepared for the next stages of their lives.

Community is embodied in the values of the school and leaders are committed to promoting service and the deepening of pupils' understanding of their community and themselves.

Pupils of all ages feel a strong sense of loyalty to the school. This is because the school's values of courage, honesty and kindness are fully embedded and enacted daily.

Pupils are proud of the inclusivity and diversity of their school. They demonstrate a strong appreciation of diversity and a pronounced respect for other cultures as a result of the high level of mutual respect within their own community. They have an informed sense of justice and strive to treat everyone fairly, regardless of preferred gender identity, faith, race or needs. This is reflective of the sustained commitment of the leadership and governors of the school to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

Across all ages pupils articulated their personal interpretation of joy, successfully meeting the aims of the school - to equip pupils to live with joy.





Focused Compliance outcome

Inspections also look at compliance with government regulation and standards.

In one area of our operations, the Single Central Register of all employment checks on staff, not all standards were met in February. The issues were administrative and posed no risk to the safety of students or our community. However, we took this very seriously: compliance with legislative requirements is vital and as a school we care passionately about getting these matters right. We addressed the issues immediately and the second inspection in September confirmed that that the school had passed all requirements with flying colours.

Full text of report

The full texts of the ISI reports are available here:

[February report \(including educational quality\)](#)

[September report \(confirming focused compliance\)](#)