



**THE NORTON  
KNATCHBULL**  
SCHOOL

**The Norton Knatchbull School,**  
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30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now received the final report from OFSTED following our inspection on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The full report will be published on the OFSTED website on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022. However, we are allowed to inform parents and carers of the outcome in advance.

This was an 'ungraded (Section 8) inspection. There has been no change to the school's overall judgement of good. However, the report concluded that evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might not be as high if a graded (section 5) inspection were carried out now. The next inspection will therefore be a graded inspection, that will take place in 1-2 years' time.

We are pleased to see so many positive comments about elements of our work in the report. Nonetheless we are disappointed that inspectors were not convinced by our curriculum approach at KS3 – despite the improvements at GCSE and A Level in the last four years across Centre Assessed Grades and public exams 2019 and 2022, culminating this Summer in the best outcomes in the last 20 years at both GCSE and A Level. Notwithstanding this we take on board the observations about our curriculum and monitoring and will now be focused on responding to these in our work to ensure we establish a platform to continue to secure the best possible outcomes for all of our students – both in terms of academic results and also in the qualities and experiences our students take with them into the communities they live, work and study in. We relish the opportunity to do this and look forward to sharing more information and detail in the months to come.

An immediate decision Leaders and Governors have taken is to move to a 3 year KS3 curriculum programme. This will ensure that students follow a broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible. This will be implemented from September 2023 – with the students currently in Y8 continuing to follow the full range of subjects they currently study, and GCSE options being taken at the end of Y9. Further information will follow with regard to finer detail – with an information evening for parents in Year 7 and Year 8 in the Spring Term to outline how the curriculum will change in Y9-11. Students currently in Year 9 and above will follow the curriculum programme as it stands towards completion of their GCSEs.

The inspectors found many positive strengths within the school. OFSTED said:

*'There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere at Norton Knatchbull. Pupils try hard to live up to staff's high expectations and the school's core values of integrity, inspiration, growth, respect and community. Pupils are polite, sensible and responsible.'*

**Benefactorum Recordatio Jucundissima Est**

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*'Pupils feel safe in school and know that staff will help them if they have any worries. Staff deal with any bullying or unacceptable behaviour promptly and effectively.'*

*'Relationships between staff and pupils are respectful and kind. Pupils are motivated to do well in their studies. They are committed to getting the most out of what the school has to offer. Pupils enjoy learning and have positive attitudes to their studies. Pupils discuss their ideas thoughtfully and listen avidly to teachers' explanations of increasingly complex concepts.'*

*'Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They carefully tailor activities to help pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), embed new knowledge securely. Staff accurately identify the needs of pupils with SEND. Those who need it receive high-quality support and progress through the curriculum at the same rate as their peers.'*

*'Leaders have designed a well-thought-through personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Pupils develop a deep understanding of inclusivity and diversity.'*

*'Leaders ensure that there is a strong safeguarding culture. Staff are well trained in safeguarding, and they understand their responsibilities. Records are well kept, and appropriate actions are recorded precisely when safeguarding concerns are reported.'*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents and carers who contributed to Parent View, the online Ofsted survey. The inspectors were very impressed with the overwhelmingly positive response of parents and carers – 91% of respondents indicated that they would recommend the school to other parents, an increase from 78% when the school was last inspected. We are not complacent about the work needed on the curriculum to provide our students with the very best education possible, and as such we maintain our commitment to continuous improvement. With the publication of the report, now is the time to look forward and to address the issues that raised and look forward to working with parents and carers to support us with this aim.

Yours sincerely

**Mr B Greene**  
Headteacher