



**Yardleys  
School**  
**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

Our ref: WRN/QNA

21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

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## Ofsted Report - March 2023

I hope you have all had a restful break. It is wonderful to see the students back in school for the new term.

I write to share with you the final Ofsted report. Please follow the link to the full inspection report - <https://www.yardleys-vle.com/course/view.php?id=2707> or via our VLE webpage - Our School\Ofsted & Performance Data.

We are particularly delighted that three of the four areas were judged as **outstanding** (the highest possible grade), these were:

- Behaviour & Attitudes
- Personal Development
- Leadership & Management

It was wonderful to show the inspection team the amazing aspects of our school. They were extremely complimentary about the school, our staff and our students. I have included a selection of headline findings from the report below:

- "Yardleys School is a unique and special place."
- "Everyone is valued and pupils attend happily, safely and with pride."
- "Leaders and staff insist that pupils behave and attend exceptionally well."
- "Pupils benefit from a rich and diverse education."
- "All staff share a strong morale purpose and 'live by the Yardleys Charter'."
- "Subject Leaders have crafted detailed and ambitious subject curriculums."
- "The extensive range of pupil leadership opportunities, trips and visits, alongside the exemplary enrichment programme nurtures pupils' interests and develops their strength of character."
- "Leaders have created a strong culture of safeguarding in the school."
- "Staff work relentlessly to encourage all to read."
- "Leaders want pupils with SEND to learn the same ambitious curriculum as their peers."

On the first day, inspectors carried out 'deep dives' of six curriculum subjects. Their findings were that we provide an exceptionally ambitious curriculum for our students and that our change from our two-year to a three-year KS3 curriculum has meant that students develop greater knowledge skills and understanding in preparation for a more informed choice of GCSE and vocational subjects at KS4. Inspections were particularly impressed with our outcomes by the end of KS4, demonstrating that we prepare our young people extremely well for their future pathways, as well as comparing extremely favourably with other schools nationally.



It is worth noting that the new Ofsted framework for this inspection is significantly different to the one we were inspected under in 2010. It is extremely difficult to directly compare categories between the 2010 framework and this new framework, but we are justifiably proud of the exceptional provision, care and opportunities we give our students. Our overall judgement of 'good' is informed by the Quality of Education judgement. This is a limiting factor, even though, three out of the four categories were given the highest possible grade of outstanding.

For more information on how the current Ofsted framework gradings should be read in relation to previous frameworks, we would like to draw your attention to a link from Chris Russell, Ofsted National Director - <https://schoolsworld.co.uk/downgraded-outstanding-schools-may-have-actually-improved-says-ofsted-director/>

I am extremely proud of our students who were amazing ambassadors for our school and showed inspectors how welcoming, polite and courteous they were. I am proud of my wonderful support and teaching staff body who were able to showcase all the excellent opportunities they give our students, as well as our robust safeguarding procedures to ensure young people are protected and cared for. Inspectors also spoke with our Trustees and they concluded that they know the school extremely well and are very committed to supporting leaders to achieve the very best possible outcomes for our young people. I am also indebted to you, as parents and carers, for your ongoing support of our school. A school can only be successful with the determined efforts and collaboration between parents and staff, so your support is so valued.

Ofsted did not tell us anything we didn't know about our school already. However, it was lovely to have our views of our exceptional provision, excellent care, guidance and support for our students and hardworking staff to be acknowledged externally. We will continue to strive for excellence in everything that we do as we take our responsibility in educating your children as a privilege.

The first line of the report, I believe, sums up our school. Inspectors concluded that **"Yardleys School is a unique and special place. They put pupils' best interests at the heart of all they do."** This, for us, is a ringing endorsement for our whole school community.

Yours faithfully,

Neil Warner  
Headteacher

