

# Education and boarding inspection summary for Haberdashers' Adams

High Street, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7BD

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Inspection dates: 10-13 May 2022

## **Outcome**

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of children in the boarding provision is: good

## **What is it like to attend this school?**

- This is a school at which staff provide high levels of both academic and pastoral care. The house system sits at the heart of school life. Pupils enjoy the various ways in which they can represent their house and the opportunities they are given to celebrate success. Pupils have a strong sense of belonging at the school and described the house system as like 'being part of a family'.
- Pupils behave exceptionally well. They are mature, articulate young adults who show a hunger for learning. At break and lunchtimes, pupils play together sensibly and are polite and respectful to both staff and their peers. Bullying is extremely rare and, when it does occur, it is dealt with swiftly by staff.
- Leaders are keen that pupils extend their learning at key stage 3 beyond their curriculum subjects. In Year 8, pupils have a 'world affairs' lecture once a week, and in Year 9, pupils complete an independent learning qualification. Pupils can select from a wide range of subjects at both GCSE and A level and achieve very well.
- Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the school. They recognise and value the support their children are given. As one parent commented in response to Ofsted's survey, 'My son has flourished at this school both academically and emotionally.'

The inspectors made **three recommendations** to help the school improve, covering curriculum planning and sequencing, relationships and sex education and the work of trustees and governors.

## What is it like to board at this school?

- The quality of care and support that children receive is good. The daily routine is organised well and effectively structured, balancing academic study with opportunities to relax and have fun. Children value the school and recognise the positive benefits of boarding. The residential staff team develops meaningful relationships with each child. Because of this, children feel secure and develop a sense of value and belonging.
- There are appropriate numbers of staff on duty with a good mix of boarding and teaching staff. This helps to promote the ethos and culture of the school and encourages children to make use of extra study time in the evenings.
- There are positive relationships between children and staff that reflect the mutual respect that they have for each other. Staff have high expectations for all the children to succeed academically and personally. This is reflected in the daily life of the school, with children continually encouraged to make good progress in their lives and to be responsible citizens.
- Children treat everyone with respect and with consideration for their needs and feelings. Many children come from all parts of the world, but all become part of an inclusive community irrespective of their heritage.
- Staff have a good understanding of children's physical health needs and monitor their healthcare plans to ensure that strategies are being followed. Staff also maintain oversight of the children's emotional well-being, and make themselves available to meet with any child who may be struggling with the boarding environment or having difficulties living away from home.
- Consultation with children who board remains central to the ethos of the boarding provision, and there are several different ways by which their views are sought. House meetings and discussion groups provide children with opportunities to contribute to the ongoing development of the boarding provision. An example of this would be the change of menu that was made in response to the food committee's suggestions.
- Children are supported to prepare for the transition into adulthood through learning and developing independence skills in accordance with their age and ability. This has been positively commented on by parents who value the support of their child's educational, social and emotional development. A parent reported, 'A truly inspirational and motivating environment for my child – physically, mentally and socially. We are privileged to be able to watch our son transform into a confident young man because of the impact the teachers and his peers have on him.'

- Accommodation for children is of good quality. The school has implemented a programme of refurbishment for one of the buildings that is ongoing. Children can personalise their sleeping areas.
- There is a range of extra-curricular activities available that promote children's emotional and physical development effectively.

The school **does not meet the national minimum standards for boarding schools** relating to staffing and supervision and complaints.

### **AND**

The inspectors made **one recommendation** to help the school improve, covering safer recruitment of staff.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/137446>.
- View the full inspection report for the boarding provision:  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/1/sc020589>.



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