Education and boarding inspection summary for Beech Grove School

Forest Drive, Nonington, Dover, Kent CT15 4FB

Inspection dates: 30 April to 2 May 2024

Outcome

The education overall effectiveness judgement is: Good

The judgement for the experiences and progress of student in the boarding provision is: Outstanding

What is it like to attend this school?

- Pupils flourish at their happy, inclusive and welcoming school. They are extremely polite and considerate towards others. Pupils' exemplary attitudes toward their education are reflected in their extremely high rates of attendance. Across all phases, they make the most of their experiences in school and achieve well.
- Pupils' enjoyment of learning is shown by the high levels of engagement seen in every classroom. Younger children love exploring the extensive outside spaces. They talk animatedly about their work as they play in the exciting environment.
- The school places a high importance on pupils' leadership skills. Younger pupils enjoy being mentored by their sixth-form peers. Pupils revel taking part in a rich variety of activities such as culinary skills, orchestra, robotics and the ever-popular pigeon racing club.
- Pupils have a strong sense of social justice and equality. They collect donations for the different causes they support. For example, they organised the recent 'ultra-relay' to raise funds for disadvantaged children in other parts of the world. Pupils understand fundamental British values, including the mutual respect and democratic principles. They know that discrimination of any kind is wrong. Pupils told inspectors that people should not be treated differently because of what they look like or believe in.

The inspectors made **one** recommendation to help the school improve, linked to developing staff's curriculum pedagogy.

The school **meets all of the independent school standards**.

What is it like to stay at this school?

- Students thrive in the boarding provision. Not only do students make exceptional progress educationally, but they also develop their independence and self-care skills. This gives them a sense of worth and meaning. There is a strong sense of community in which students share warm relationships, not only with each other but also with staff. Students enjoy socialising and making friends. Students speak passionately about different projects. These include videography, developing graphics and music. Students also enjoy meeting up with friends for long walks. These opportunities enhance students' boarding experiences and promote their mental and physical well-being.

- Students are supported by passionate and dedicated staff who sensitively help students, physically and emotionally. This support transfers seamlessly across their waking day, providing students with high-quality, consistent care. The sense of mutual respect is a strength throughout students' experiences.

- Students enjoy the amenities of the extensive school estate and talk animatedly about the sports and recreational opportunities available to them. They also praise the quality of their accommodation and the whole school environment. Sports facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, fishing lake, and large football pitches, provide students with a wide range of recreational activities. Students take driving lessons, complete first aid qualifications and prepare and cook meals. These activities prepare students for the future and increase their opportunities to achieve.

- Staff have a meticulous understanding of each student and how to tailor the support needed to meet their individual needs. In many cases, these relationships last throughout a student's time in boarding. Parents express high levels of trust and belief in what the provision can achieve for their children. Feedback from parents is universally positive. One parent said, 'My child has grown in maturity, confidence, academics, and creative endeavours.' Another said, 'I really love this school, my child is so well cared for and learns so much, academically and socially.'

- Students, alongside their families, are actively involved in their care planning, giving them a sense of ownership in their lives. Students are listened to in a variety of ways. This is a key strength throughout their residential experience. Regular boarding meetings provide the opportunity for students to share feedback about their experiences, and changes are made as a result. Students can personalise their bedrooms and are consulted on the decoration of communal areas. Leaders identify and understand that some improvements are required to the boarding houses due to the age of the buildings. There are clear plans to

further improve the physical environment and give students more space. This is welcomed by students and staff.

The school **meets all the national minimum standards**.

The inspectors made one recomendation to help the school improve, relating to supervision and appraisal processes for boarding staff.

- View the full inspection report for the education provision: https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/27/131181
- View the full inspection report for the boarding provision: https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/1/2543646

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