



CHEL TENHAM
PREP SCHOOL



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ISI Inspection 2023

Executive Summary
Rated Excellent in all areas

Inspection Process

The Independent School's Inspectorate is appointed by the Secretary of State for Education to inspect independent schools in England. The process consists of two parts:

An inspection of educational quality

A regulatory compliance inspection



From The Head

Fantastic buildings and amazing facilities are all nice to have, and we are very lucky that we have both in abundance, but they are not what makes a school special. That must come from the staff, from inspiring, dedicated, extraordinary individuals that will, quite genuinely change the path of children's lives forever.

I am thrilled that, throughout this report, the Inspectors recognised the incredibly close relationship between our staff and our children and the positive influence this has on not only their achievements, but also on ensuring they love the journey too.

It is both huge fun, and a real privilege, to be part of this great team and we are all delighted that the Inspectors recognised what we see every day.

Tom O'Sullivan, Headmaster



The quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent.

- Pupils from the very youngest demonstrate an excitement to learn, curiosity and excellent attitudes towards their learning.
- Pupils have outstanding communication skills; they listen attentively, write with flair and accuracy and are extremely confident and articulate speakers.
- Pupils demonstrate strong knowledge, skills and understanding across the range of subjects and apply them extremely effectively.
- Pupils successfully apply their excellent numeracy skills to other areas of the curriculum.
- Boarders' excellent achievement is significantly enhanced by the support they receive.



“Children in the EYFS develop secure foundations to their early literacy and numeracy skills and further their knowledge successfully through a range of well-planned, engaging, and purposeful activities.”

“Pupils thrive on challenge, viewing mistakes as learning opportunities in a learning environment in which governors, leadership and teachers have successfully fulfilled the school's aim to foster intellectual curiosity, academic rigour, independent learning and interests beyond the academic, which brings enjoyment and enrichment.”

“Pupils of all abilities make rapid progress in their communication skills, because teaching develops confidence, provides challenge and is well-matched to individual needs.”

“Pupils achieve notable success in a wide range of extra-curricular activities in and out of school as they are actively encouraged to follow individual strengths and passions.”

““ Boarders say that they value the very strong team spirit and sense of community within the boarding house and being part of the boarding house ‘family’. ””

““ From the EYFS onwards, children learn how to take time to reflect on their own wellbeing practise strategies such as mindfulness and yoga to introduce calm into their daily lives. ””

““ Pupils develop strong writing skills from an early age, and writing is fluent, well written for purpose and applied successfully across the curriculum. ””

““ There is a strong awareness of people who are neurodiverse and those from the LGBTQ+ communities, and pupils understand how to interact sensitively with those with SEND and EAL. ””

““ Pupils from the very youngest demonstrate an excitement to learn, curiosity and excellent attitudes towards their learning. ””

““ Throughout the school, within sports teams, on stage and musically, there is a vibrant sense of collaboration and working with, and for, one another. ””

““ Pupils have a mature appreciation about how to stay safe and physically and mentally healthy, particularly in terms of diet, exercise and a balanced life-style. ””



“Pupils reported in interviews that everyone feels valued in the school community.”

“[Pupils] know how and where to seek help if they are worried or anxious. This was strongly emphasised by pupils’ discussion, who spoke with enthusiasm about how well they are supported and advised by the school and their teachers.”

“Pupils said that they feel extremely well-supported through the school’s PSHE and relationships and education (RSE) programmes, and their strong relationships with their teachers.”

“Pupils talked positively about how they celebrate each other’s cultures in assemblies and through the activities in the boarding house. They are sensitive to and tolerant of those from backgrounds and traditions different to their own.”

“Pupils work extremely well together, in lessons, house meetings, school council or eco-committee towards common goals.”

“Through the ‘Chadwick Leadership Programme’, pupils in Year 8 contribute to both the school and the wider community, undertaking a range of activities which include working with partner primary schools, raising funds for charities such as the local animal sanctuary and clearing overgrown local footpaths.”



The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent.

- Pupils are reflective and self-assured, able to review and improve, and they are well-prepared for the next stage of their education.
- All pupils demonstrate outstanding levels of self-awareness, self-confidence and, resilience because of their warm relationships with teachers and leaders.
- Pupils have excellent social skills, respect each other and have a strong sense of belonging.
- Pupils have a strong understanding of and a commitment to celebrating diversity.

“Pupils embrace the school ethos, which provides a clear framework for personal development and results in pupils who are confident, well-rounded and curious, enabling them to develop into respectful, resilient young people.”

“The development of pupils' strong sense of right and wrong begins in the EYFS where they learn to understand the impact of their actions on others, and acts of kindness are recognised.”

“Pupils increasingly develop the ability to make important decisions maturely and reflectively, understanding that the decisions they make have an impact on their lives and success.”

“Pupils employ mindfulness techniques and appreciate the opportunities in outdoor learning to connect with nature, deepening their appreciation of it.”

“In interviews, pupils said that they regard members of staff and older pupils as role models and respect them.”



Cheltenham College Highlights

During the Cheltenham College (13-18) 2023 ISI Inspection, the school was also rated 'Excellent in all areas'.

“Pupils make excellent progress in developing a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding.”

“Pupils' application of information and communication technology (ICT) skills across all subjects is outstanding.”

“Pupils' achievements beyond the classroom are wide-ranging and sometimes at the very highest level.”

“Pupils display high levels of self-understanding and develop a mature sense of resilience.”

“Pupils' spiritual awareness and appreciation of the non-material aspects of life are extremely well developed.”

“Pupils' social and collaboration skills in academic and social settings are excellent.”





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The full ISI Inspection report is available on our website:
www.cheltenhamcollege.org

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