School Inspection Report

Brackenmoor School

Inspection dates: 15 to 17 November 2022

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS **OUTSTANDING**

Summary of judgements

Area	Judgement
Leadership and management, including governance	Outstanding
Quality of education	Outstanding
Pupils' academic and other achievements	Outstanding
Pupils' personal development	Outstanding
Safeguarding	Outstanding
Boarding	Outstanding

School details

School	Brackenmoor School
Address	Ridgeway Lane, LittleAshdene, Hertfordshire
Type of school	Independent co-educational day school with flexi and weekly boarding
Age range	2 to 18
Number of pupils	986
Number of boarders	58
Head	Mr James Whitcombe
Chair of Governors	Mr Geoffrey Lyle
Previous inspection	March 2019 (Outstanding)

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Summary of key findings

- The quality of pupils' academic and other achievements is outstanding. Pupils of all ages show excellent knowledge, skills and understanding across the curriculum.
- Pupils' attitudes to learning are exceptionally positive. They are curious, work hard and collaborate very effectively.
- Pupils' personal development is outstanding. They are kind, confident and show strong moral awareness, in keeping with the school's values of Curiosity, Kindness, Service and Courage.
- Leaders, including the Head appointed in 2019, have built successfully on the school's long-standing strengths.
- Boarders benefit from high quality care and a well planned programme of activities.
- Safeguarding arrangements are effective.

Recommendation

The school should ensure that the very best practice in the use of digital technology to support learning is shared consistently across all departments.

Leadership and management, including governance

Leaders have a clear vision for the school and communicate it effectively to staff, pupils and parents. Planning for improvement is well focused. Governors provide strong support and effective challenge.

Quality of education

Teaching is consistently of a high standard. Lessons are well planned and make good use of the school's extensive facilities, including the Forest School, science laboratories and performing arts spaces. Pupils with special educational needs are well supported and make excellent progress.

Pupils' academic and other achievements

Pupils achieve highly in public examinations and in a wide range of competitions in sport, music and the arts. Younger children make rapid progress in reading, writing and mathematics. Sixth Form pupils show maturity and independence in their studies.

Pupils' personal development

Pupils have high self-esteem and resilience. They show respect for others and value diversity. Pupils contribute generously to the school and local community through service and charity work.

Safeguarding

The school's safeguarding arrangements are effective. Policies are implemented well, staff are suitably trained, and pupils know how to raise concerns.

Boarding

Boarding provision is of high quality. Boarders are well supervised, enjoy positive relationships with staff and feel at home in the boarding house.

Inspection team

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Name	Role
Mr Michael Ashdown	Reporting inspector (sample)
Mrs Clare Beaumont	Team inspector (sample)
Mr Robert Ingles	Team inspector (sample)

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