



Beyond & Above

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE 2023



CHELTENHAM
COLLEGE



Inspection Process

The Independent Schools 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

Executive Summary

Rated 'Excellent in all areas'



I am delighted to be able to share the outcome of our recent inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

This was a full inspection of both regulatory compliance and a judgement of the quality of education we provide in terms of pupil achievement (academic and other) including pupils' personal development.

College was judged to be fully compliant and Excellent, the highest rating, in every area.

We were delighted to read the detailed comments included in this Executive Summary, which externally and rigorously validated the hard work and dedication of the staff and the fantastic attitude of the pupils that I see on a daily basis.

We were also thrilled that the application of ICT across all subjects by both pupils and teachers was deemed to be outstanding, which is a testament to the major focus we have had, post COVID-19, in making the most of the new digital skills we have all learned. We look forward to building on this in the future.

It was also recognised by the ISI team that our "passionate teachers and highly supportive house staff ensure every pupil achieves their potential and beyond."

We are incredibly proud of this outcome and comments provided.

Best wishes,

Nicola Huggett
Head Cheltenham College

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

- Pupils make excellent progress in developing a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Pupils are excellent communicators; in particular they are articulate and expressive speakers and respectful listeners.
- Pupils' application of information and communications technology (ICT) skills across all subjects is outstanding.
- Pupils' achievements beyond the classroom are wide-ranging and sometimes at the very highest level.
- Pupils' attitudes to learning are excellent.

"The school wholeheartedly fulfils its aim to equip pupils to lead purposeful and fulfilling lives by providing an excellent all-round education."

"Pupils develop an excellent range of knowledge, skills and understanding across a broad range of subjects. This is as a result of well scaffolded and differentiated teaching."

"Pupils' strong academic progress, both within lessons and over time, is clearly evident in their academic outcomes."

"The majority of pupils gain entry to their first-choice universities at a wide range of institutions in the UK, USA and Canada to study a broad range of subjects."





“Pupils in Year 13 (Upper Sixth) ably applied the principles of Lenz’s law in Physics to determine the induction of a wire’s current by an oscillating magnetic field.”

“Pupils in Year 10 (Fourth Form) extended their English vocabulary to describe techniques in poetry such as metaphor, caesura, ellipsis and onomatopoeia when analysing Carol Ann Duffy’s love poetry.”

“Pupils of all ages are able to develop their dramatic skills through their participation in one or more of the seven annual productions, including a performance in a local professional theatre and major productions involving nearly 100 pupils, for example the recent success, *Grease*.”

“Music is of pivotal importance to school life. Pupils perform in a range of choirs, orchestras and other instrumental ensembles and their singing en masse in chapel is extraordinarily robust.”

“Through their endeavours, pupils develop a greater awareness of the wider socioeconomic society and understand the important contribution they can make. Successful fulfilment of the school’s aims are exemplified in the pupils’ development of skills for a modern world and a commitment to the service of others.”

“Pupils listen extremely attentively to their teachers and peers whilst in lessons and discussions, and are exemplary in their active and supportive appreciation of their peers.”

“Four-fifths of pupils wholeheartedly participate in the extensive programme of sports fixtures as members of 130 teams across 15 sports, including hockey, rugby, cricket, netball, polo, rackets and equestrian pursuits.”

“Pupils develop excellent communication skills throughout the school. They relish regular opportunities to discuss and debate in lessons.”

“Two-thirds of pupils participate in the school’s well-established community projects, including The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DofE) scheme, and a third of all pupils opt to join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), where they develop exceptionally strong teamwork, resourcefulness, self-reliance, communication and leadership skills.”

“Pupils exhibit notably advanced research skills enabling them to demonstrate secure ownership of their own learning.”





The quality of the pupils' personal development is excellent

- 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 setting are excellent.
- Pupils' contribution to others, the school and the wider community is highly effective and excellent.

"Pupils display high levels of self-understanding, self-esteem and self-confidence within the classroom and more widely around the school."

"Pupils develop excellent decision-making skills and are able to think for themselves and make well judged choices in many aspects of their busy lives."

"Chapel sits at the heart of school life and presents pupils with regular opportunities to reflect, celebrate and contemplate their community through scripture readings, hymn singing and pupil-led homilies and addresses."

"[Pupils] are courteous and sensitive to the feelings of others and have a healthy respect for their peers and teachers."

"[Pupils] base their approach on the school's ethos of curiosity, creativity, character, community and continuous excellence."

Cheltenham Prep Highlights

Following the Cheltenham Prep School (3-13) ISI Inspection, the school was also rated 'Excellent in all areas'.

"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 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 a strong understanding of and a commitment to celebrating diversity."



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

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