

Headteacher: Mrs C Tasker MA (Cantab)

High Storrs Road
Sheffield
S11 7LH

Telephone: 0114 267 0000

Fax: 0114 266 3624



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A "High Performing Specialist School"

25th May 2022

Dear High Storrs families,

How are you all? I hope you are all well and enjoying the nice weather. I also hope those of you with children taking exams are managing the nerves (yours and theirs) and surviving. I can tell you that they are doing you proud in school – exams are going smoothly so far.

Amid all the exam preparation, we received our final report from the Ofsted inspection on 29th and 30th March 2022. You may remember me sharing with you that it was a 'section 8' inspection? This means it is not a full inspection under 'section 5' (although I can assure you it felt very 'full on') and its purpose was not to regrade but to ensure we are still a good school meeting the full criteria.

I am pleased to share that they found that this was the case! The full report will go on the Ofsted portal from 30th May, and I will share the link with you after the half term break. In the meantime, I share some snippets from the report,

- **Pupils thrive in this highly ambitious and warmly supportive school.**
- Pupils are inspired by the broad range of subjects they can study.
- Pupils with special needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported to achieve well.
- Leaders regularly seek the views of parents, pupils and staff. They celebrate the different backgrounds of pupils and staff within the school. Leaders lead by example, creating a warm environment where everyone is welcome.
- Staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. Teachers rarely need to use the behaviour system. Pupils behave extremely well in lessons.
- Pupils study personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education (PSHCEE) in all key stages, including the sixth form. Pupils remember this learning. They talk confidently about healthy relationships. They know how to stay safe online and offline.
- Leaders offer pupils many extra-curricular experiences
- Staff are proud to work at the school. Staff morale is very high.

That is not to say they did not identify any areas to improve. They named two specifically - one linked to checks on learning and the other to an aspect of paperwork for alternative provision. These (and other aspects of their feedback) will be addressed as part of our 22/23 School Action Plan.

Please do share this letter with your children. They were so brilliant during the inspection (and are every day for the most part!). I have made sure I have thanked the wonderful HSS staff too – they are the key to our success. There was some dismay (that I share) that we were not inspected under 'section 5' and could not be considered for an Outstanding judgement ... next time!

Have a lovely half term break. The new half term starts on Monday 6th June 2022.

Best wishes

Claire Tasker