

Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form

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Re: Ofsted Report 2017 and Additional Inset Day on 8 January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I am writing to you on behalf of the Full Governing Body (FGB) of Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form (TGS). As you know our Academy had an Ofsted Inspection on 19-20 September 2017. Our previous inspection was five years ago and at that time TGS' 'Overall effectiveness' was judged to be 'Good'. We have now received Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) formal written Ofsted judgement for their September 2017 inspection and the grades we were awarded for all areas they assessed were as follows:

Overall Effectiveness - Outstanding;
Effectiveness of Leadership and Management - Outstanding;
Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment - Outstanding;
Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare - Outstanding;
Outcomes for pupils - Outstanding;
16 to 19 Study programmes - Outstanding.

To achieve an 'Outstanding' grade for every area assessed is a brilliant achievement and reflects the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the teaching and support staff, complimented by the amazing contribution of the students who demonstrated through their performance, behaviour and demeanour the ethos and aims of TGS. Of course neither the students nor the staff could have achieved this level of performance without the support of their parents or carers. I am particularly pleased that HMI identified constructive interaction between students and staff "*There are strong relationships between pupils and between pupils and staff, which foster a positive learning environment*". HMI also recognises that "*Outcomes for pupils are outstanding. Pupils make strong progress across a wide range of subjects because of consistently strong teaching*". In relation to TGS' performance as a whole HMI states "*The headteacher's leadership has ensured that the school has continued to improve over time and provides an outstanding education for pupils*". The full Ofsted report can be viewed on the TGS website at <http://www.tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk>.

Additionally, to achieve such results during a period of unprecedented and prolonged austerity measures with the financial challenges they bring, further highlights the exceptional performance the teachers and support staff of TGS have accomplished under the leadership of their Headteacher, Siobhan Lowe.

We often hear the terms "professionalism, commitment, dedication etc." but that is what we, the FGB, expect of our teachers and support staff. What is often overlooked is the exceptional 'good will' and 'going one step beyond what is expected' that makes the tangible difference between achieving 'good' and 'outstanding'. Our teachers and support staff demonstrate, on a daily basis, that they have an abundance of 'good will' and they consistently 'go one step beyond what is expected'. An example of this is the fact that Ofsted, understandably, will notify a school it is inspecting only a few hours before the inspection takes place, thereby providing insufficient time to introduce systems and processes that could effectively influence an inspection. In anticipation of an Ofsted inspection TGS has been on a heightened state of readiness for over 12 months - that in



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itself places an exceptional strain on all staff. Many members of staff have regularly worked extended hours, arriving at school as early as 5am and leaving after midnight without seeking any financial recompense.

I believe TGS is a unique school that benefits from a wide range of cultural, racial, ethnic and religious diversity that enriches the staff and students. This diversity is supported by a strong pastoral system that creates an environment of mutual respect, which in turn, produces a sense of belonging to an extended family where people are treated as individuals. Collectively this leads to a safe and constructive educational environment where students are encouraged to fulfil their potential.

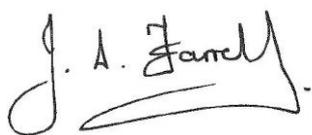
The FGB recognise, acknowledge, and wish to show our appreciation of the outstanding achievements of our students, teachers and support staff by awarding them all with an extra day off. The most efficient way of doing this is to insert an additional Inset Day to the school calendar. The authority to do this is provided by Paragraph 71 of the TGS Scheme of Delegation and this has been formally approved by the FGB. Consequently, **the additional Inset Day is Monday 8 January 2018** (this would have been the day that TGS returned from the Christmas holidays, and this day, in effect, adds one more day to the end of the Christmas holiday period). If this decision causes any of you childcare issues that you cannot resolve then please contact the Headteacher, Siobhan Lowe (email: contactthehead@tolworthgirlsschool.co.uk) who will be able to assist you.

May I assure all parents and carers that any gaps caused to the curriculum by this school closure will be addressed throughout the rest of the academic year thereby ensuring that no student is adversely impacted by this additional Inset Day.

We at TGS understand that receiving an ‘Outstanding’ for all areas of an inspection does not mean we can now tread water. On the contrary we believe there is always room for improvement and now is the time we will strive to build upon the solid foundation we have built by getting students to think more widely, deeply and independently about their learning. Our staff will be encouraged to broaden their professional horizons by looking at other educational establishments to identify best practice that we can adopt, adapt and introduce to cater for the future needs of TGS in our quest to consistently improve the outcomes for our students against a background of continuing austerity.

Finally, on behalf of the whole of TGS, I thank you for all your support and I hope you will share with us the fantastic sense of pride that both the students and staff of TGS feel at achieving this Ofsted grading of ‘Outstanding’.

Your faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. A. Farrell' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Joseph Farrell BA (Hons), PGC.
Chair of Governors
Tolworth Girls' School & Sixth Form