



### **Penrith Secondary School Announces OFSTED Inspection Results**

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, based in Penrith, is pleased to announce that they received a 'Good' rating in all areas of assessment, in their latest OFSTED Inspection, which took place in January 2023.

This was the first routine inspection that the school has received since the COVID-19 pandemic began and was considered in the evaluation of the school. However, the overall effectiveness, quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, and sixth-form provision were all rated 'Good.'

The team of inspectors spent two days observing lessons, reviewed samples of pupils' work, spoke with teachers and pupils about their learning, as well as governors, and parents through the Ofsted Parent View facility. They also spent time reviewing a range of documentation, including leaders' behaviour and attendance records, self-evaluation documentation and minutes of meetings held by those responsible for governance.

As part of this inspection, inspectors carried out deep dives in mathematics, art and design, English, history, and physical education. They found that teachers have designed an "aspirational and ambitious academic curriculum to ensure that pupils, including students in the sixth form and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), can live up to the aspirations that leaders have for them." Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their subjects and use their expertise to design learning well.

Leaders have also ensured that there is a suitable programme to support pupils' and students' wider development, such as careers advice and guidance and extra-curricular activities and commented that the school is a "hive of activity."

Pupils, including students in the sixth form, are happy to attend school each day, which is reflected in their high rates of attendance. Staff are also proud to work at the school, with many staff commenting positively on the changes made in recent months to the senior leadership team and governance.

David Marchant, Headteacher of the school comments,

*“We are delighted to have received the new rating from OFSTED, which highlights the hard work we are doing to move the school forward in the right direction. It outlines how happy the pupils are, as well as the team who work here. We challenge and encourage our pupils in the right ways to ensure they have a good education and are prepared well for the next stage of their education, employment or training.”*

The school was last inspected 14 years ago in 2009 when it was graded Outstanding. In 2021-22 only 17% of schools of 370 “outstanding” schools in the UK kept their grade when they had a full re-inspection.

QEGS has faced several challenges, especially over the past six to twelve months, however the report details how the leadership of the school has been “strengthened considerably”. Along with a new Headteacher, there is a newly elected board of trustees who provide an appropriate level of challenge to leaders and have the knowledge and skills to hold leaders to account fully for the quality of education that pupils receive.

*Mr Marchant continues,*

*“Following our recent inspection, we are eager to improve further and won’t be resting on our laurels. We want to put what has been a turbulent few months behind us, and concentrate on moving on. With a strong leadership team and improved governance, we are determined to continue to work with our community to provide the best possible education for the children in our care.”*