



3 April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

A Team of Ofsted Inspectors recently spent two days at the school as part of the regular inspection cycle. The ESW Board, Coombeshead Governors and school leaders have a very clear view of the strengths of the school, the areas where we need to do better and the actions that we are taking. These will enable us to fulfil our vision of Coombeshead as an outstanding school, where learning, respect and enjoyment are at the heart of all we do. We are pleased that the Inspectors agreed that we "set high expectations and are ambitious for pupils and staff" and validated the approaches that we are taking. Improvement takes time to embed, and the 2018 results were not as strong as we needed to secure higher judgements. We are all confident that the actions we have been taking will show strong results in 2019 and beyond.

Inspectors commented that "leaders know what the weaknesses of the school are, and they are addressing them." We are very proud that inspectors recognised that we value each and every child, that "leaders are very inclusive, and this ethos pervades the school." We are also proud of their recognition that "pupils are safe and feel safe". They say "that pupils conduct themselves well throughout the day, including at breaks and lunchtimes. Lesson transitions are smooth. Pupils are polite and are keen to share aspirations with visitors." "Pupils wear their uniform with pride." "Pupils do not use derogatory language". Moreover, "the school is an orderly environment. Pupils respond quickly to instructions and requests from staff, allowing lessons to flow smoothly and without interruption. Low level disruption is rare." They recognised the wide "variety of extra-curricular opportunities and uptake is strong". They thought the quality of education being provided in the Sixth Form was good, with high expectations, comprehensive programmes of study, effective work experience, and high attendance. "As a result, students are successful in both academic and vocational pathways."

They recognised that unsettled staffing, in the past, has led to a number of issues. Despite our best efforts, the poor attendance of a small group of pupils, some with severe medical or mental health issues, overshadowed other strengths recognised by the inspectors. We know that we have to improve the achievements of some of the pupils and some of the subjects in the school, and that we do that by ensuring that the quality of teaching is consistently high across all subjects all of the time. We have been working on that, recognise that our efforts have not yet had full impact and are confident that this summer's results will show the necessary improvement.



The full report is now on our website, along with a letter from the Lead Inspector. Do contact us with any further questions and queries. We have achieved a great deal; we know what more we have still to do. We are very proud of our pupils and teachers, and together we can all look to the future with great confidence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Hulbert'.

Andrew Hulbert

Head Teacher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Yelland'.

Lindsay Yelland

Chair of Governors