



Tytherington

High School and Specialist Science College

OfSTED Inspection Report November 2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS ON RECEIVING AN EXCELLENT INSPECTION REPORT.

'The school is characterised by a warm and welcoming atmosphere, where staff and students work well together' and 'students enjoy coming to school'.

outstanding features

*'Over a quarter of lessons observed were **outstanding**'*

*'Inspectors saw examples of **outstanding** teaching in a range of subjects'*

*'Students continue to make an **outstanding** contribution within the school and the local community, and show good levels of respect for other people'*

*'Care, guidance and support remain an **outstanding** feature of the school and contribute significantly to students' well-being and personal development'*

*'Students develop an **outstanding** understanding of healthy lifestyles and a high proportion take part in exercise activities'*

*'Leadership and Management of the sixth form are **outstanding** and outcomes are good and improving.'*

'Leaders, managers and staff are aware of areas for development. They are committed to bringing about further improvements and well-founded plans are in place.'

AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY, ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE, RESPECT AND PERSONAL FULFILMENT.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now received the Inspection Report following the HMI led inspection of the school on 9th and 10th November 2011. I hope that you will take the time to read the full inspection report which acknowledges the outstanding contribution of our students to the school and the community and the high quality teaching and learning that is delivered at Tytherington High School.

Outstanding features

Inspectors identified a number of **outstanding** features including: *'Students continue to make an **outstanding** contribution within the school and the local community, and show good levels of respect for other people'* and *'Care, guidance and support remain an **outstanding** feature of the school and contribute significantly to students' well-being and personal development'* and *'Leadership and Management of the sixth form are **outstanding** and outcomes are good and improving'* and students *'develop an **outstanding** understanding of healthy lifestyles and a high proportion take part in exercise activities'*. In addition, *'over a quarter of lessons observed were **outstanding**'* and *'inspectors saw examples of **outstanding** teaching in a range of subjects.'*

Improvements since 2009

You will be pleased to know that many improvements were noted since the last inspection in March 2009. Inspectors commented that *'the school has improved further students' attendance and behaviour, both of which are good'* confirming the positive impact of our new strategies in 'The Tytherington Way'. *'The use of assessment to support learning has improved since the previous inspection and is good overall'*. *'The effective use of computer technology in the classroom has improved since the last inspection'*. *'The school continues to develop its curriculum well. It has maintained a significant strength noted in the previous inspection in the breadth and take up of its enrichment activities'*. *'Inspectors judged that the school has good capacity to maintain the improvements in 2011 and build on this further'*.

Outstanding students

The outstanding contribution of students was evident throughout the school where *'students apply themselves well in lessons. They work hard and want to do well. They are keen to participate and most of them show a genuine interest in subjects, asking additional questions and checking their understanding. As a result they develop a good understanding of topics being studied and produce a good standard of work'*. As a result of this, *'in 2011, the proportion of students gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, improved significantly and returned to above the national average'*. *'Observations during the inspection, and the school's own monitoring, show that the improvement in 2011 is being sustained and achievement is good. The majority of students are making good progress in most subjects.'*

Students' outstanding understanding of healthy lifestyles includes a range of factors including their ability to *'acquire a good range of work-related skills, including how to work well with others and work in teams'*.

Outstanding teaching and learning

Inspectors observed that, 'A large majority of teaching in the school is good or better, and over a quarter of lessons observed were outstanding.' They added that, 'teaching is planned well to meet the needs of students in the group. Teachers set high expectations and use their subject knowledge well to enthuse students. Most lessons include a good range of teaching and learning strategies to help motivate students and develop their understanding. Inspectors saw examples of outstanding teaching in a range of subjects, where teachers used practical activities imaginatively to reinforce learning and make the lesson interesting.'

Outstanding pastoral care

Inspectors were impressed by the school's focus on children's learning as well as how students are well provided for: 'Care, guidance and support are outstanding. Transition arrangements are very good at each stage.' 'Links with external agencies are excellent and this, together with extensive support systems in the school, ensures a high standard of pastoral support for all students. Work to address the social needs of students in danger of becoming disaffected and dropping out of school is exemplary.'

Outstanding leadership and management

In addition to praising the school's strong self-evaluation and well-founded development plans, inspectors observed that: 'The school is well led and managed'. 'A strong middle leadership enhances the work of the senior team'. 'Leadership and Management in the sixth form are outstanding, leading to good outcomes for learners, which are improving each year.' 'This is a popular and successful sixth form.' 'Students thoroughly enjoy their sixth form experience'. 'Enrichment is excellent, and students benefit greatly from the positions of responsibility they hold in school, their work in the community and the high level of involvement in running clubs and other activities'. Such high standards lead to success beyond school, leading inspectors to observe that: 'A high proportion of learners gain places at university, including those ranked as the most prestigious'.

A very inclusive school

The inspection team commented on the provision and care for students of all abilities and backgrounds: 'This is a very inclusive school. It is particularly successful at ensuring learners with high prior attainment, and those students whose circumstances make them vulnerable, achieve very well.' They went on to wish all our students well in the future. We will continue to work together and improve even further to ensure that our students are able to achieve their full potential.

I am pleased to report that the inspection team confirmed that Tytherington is a good school. The two main judgements of **overall effectiveness of the school** and **the school's capacity for sustained improvement** were both judged to be good. Inspectors observed that 'the school is characterised by a warm and welcoming atmosphere, where staff and students work well together' and 'students enjoy coming to school'.

You can access a full copy of the report on our school website. Should you require a paper copy, please contact the school office and we will be happy to send one to you.

Yours sincerely,

K. Harrison

Headteacher

This letter is provided for the school, parents and carers to share with their children. It describes Ofsted's main findings from the inspection of their school.



11 November 2011

Dear Students

Inspection of Tytherington High School, Macclesfield, SK10 2EE

As you know, we recently visited your school and I am writing to tell you about our findings. Thank you for helping us to find our way around and giving us your views. We agree with what many of you told us, that this is a good school. It is friendly and welcoming and the great majority of students enjoy coming to school. It was good to see how behaviour and attendance have improved even further since the previous inspection. You participate well in lessons and are keen to learn. Examination results were not as good in 2010 as in previous years, but increased to above average again in 2011. We judge that you are making good progress in the majority of lessons, although not everyone is reaching their full potential yet. We were impressed by your level of participation in activities outside lessons and we think you are gaining a good set of skills to help you in the future. Those who carry on into the sixth form achieve very well, and others successfully move to other education, training or employment. We agree with you that you receive excellent guidance and support. We think you show good respect for other people and are pleased you are learning about different cultures in some of your lessons. In order to improve the school further, we have asked the leadership team to:

- make sure that all students make the maximum progress they are capable of
- check that actions in the school development plan to bring this about, such as better links between your academic and pastoral support, are successful.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Sue Harrison

Her Majesty's Inspector
