



BELFAST MODEL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Principal: Mr E. Wright, BSc (Hons), PGDE, NPQH

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I am pleased to inform everyone associated with our school that our recent ETI inspection report is now publically available. The report is very positive in its commentary however, owing to the on-going industrial action between the teaching unions and employer, the report does not contain any summary judgements about the school.

The ETI were clear with me that they intended to continue with the inspection regardless of the industrial action and would evaluate what they could from the evidence available. Owing to the industrial action, the ETI feel unable to make a summative judgement about any school affected and as such are using a standard phrase for all inspections involving action short of strike that take place. It says the ETI are 'unable to assure the quality of education'. The Chief Inspector has further determined that all schools in this situation should have their report concluded with:

"Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the pupils. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice."

The Board of Governors, my SLT and all staff work tirelessly to quality assure our provision and make sure that we are doing the best we can for each student; we do not have any problem assuring the school community of the quality of the education received by our students. The Belfast Model School for Girls is going from strength to strength and this is evident in the report. I would like to offer some quotes from the same report (see below) that exemplify our progress perfectly, and in our opinion debunk the idea that the ETI "cannot assure the quality of education".

- Over the past three years, the percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, has increased and is now in line with the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar non-selective schools. It is of note that the similar percentage for pupils entitled to free schools meals has almost tripled.
- The outcomes attained by the pupils in one-half of the GCSE subjects and three-quarters of the GCE A level subjects at grades A* to C improved last year.
- The proportion of pupils progressing to higher education courses is well above the NI average. Over the past two years, a majority of the year 12 pupils progressed to post-16 provision in the school and most of them stayed on from year 13 to year 14.
- The pupils who require additional support with their learning benefit from early identification and intervention. There is highly effective liaison with parents and effective partnership arrangements with a range of external agencies to help the staff, the pupils and their families in addressing the barriers to learning and progression. The pupils have excellent opportunities to engage in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities.



- A significant and effective review, at all levels, of the curriculum provision, including how it impacts on the outcomes attained by the pupils, is on-going. Consequently, good progress is being made in the establishment of a broader, flexible and more fit-for-purpose curriculum.
- ETI's evaluation is that there can be confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated.
- The highly effective leadership by the SLT is characterised by a collegial ethos and a clear, shared strategic vision for school improvement. An evolving culture of self-evaluation is leading to well-targeted and effective actions; the initial evidence shows improvement with a positive impact in areas such as pupil outcomes, curriculum review, attendance and positive behaviour.
- A key strength of the care, welfare and support provision is the highly effective use made of pupil consultation, feedback from which supports the planning for improvement.

It is also the case that the ETI has limited the options available for the safeguarding judgement from three to two. We received the highest judgement available and comments from the inspectors were:

- The pupils reported that they feel safe and secure in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being.

The Board of Governors and I are very proud of our report and am grateful to all parents who took the time to fill in the parental survey in such a positive manner. Your support means so very much to me and everyone at the school. I can certainly and confidently assure all parents and stakeholders about the quality of education at the school and am confident going forward that we will continue to make great strides together. The full report can be viewed at <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications> and on our school website.

As always, should a parent wish to contact me about this letter, or any aspect of school life, please contact my PA Ms Finlay for an appointment or avail of one of my Principal's drop-in sessions which are advertised on our website.

Yours sincerely,



Mr E Wright
Principal