



MALVERNSTJAMES.CO.UK

Malvern St James, 15 Avenue Road, Great Malvern WR14 3BA

T +44 (0)1684 892288

E enquiries@malvernstjames.co.uk

HEAD DR GARETH P LLOYD, PhD, PGCE (CANTAB.), FMusTCL, NPQH

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the OGA,

Firstly, I would like to thank our parents, pupils and staff for engaging so positively in the ISI feedback survey back in January. I am delighted to share the outcome from our recent Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection, which took place between 14th and 16th January 2025. I know that many of you have been eagerly awaiting the outcome, and we are thrilled to report that the inspectors were very impressed with our wonderful community.

To explain the inspection in further detail, schools are required to meet 74 published standards. There are six broad areas that are inspected. If any of the first five areas are not fully met, then the school automatically fails to meet the standard on Leadership. You will see that the school did not fully meet a *part of one of the 74 standards* because although our monthly internal fire extinguisher checks were diligently kept up to date, the annual external servicing was overdue. This contract has now been renewed as a rolling programme to ensure that this does not happen again. Within the ISI report, there are several references to this one unmet standard. Consequently, by rectifying this service lapse, all other areas of development which have been mentioned in the report will be 'met' by default.

You will be reassured to know that in every other aspect of fire safety, the inspectors were satisfied. The Senior Leadership Team are confident that when the inspectors return in the next few months, we shall meet this standard.

That aside, we were delighted with the comments we received throughout the report. The inspection highlighted the exceptional quality of teaching and learning at MSJ. The inspectors recognised the dedication of our outstanding staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils, noting the engaging and supportive learning environment which we provide. Their report reflects the academic ambition and achievement for which we strive as a school, and so I must take this opportunity to thank my amazing teachers in this regard.

Beyond the classroom, the co-curricular opportunities at MSJ were praised for their breadth and inclusivity. The inspectors saw first-hand how our pupils flourish through music, drama, sport, and a vast array of clubs and activities, all of which enrich their educational journey and allow them to develop vital life skills. The inspectors commended MSJ for "a well-rounded curriculum and extensive co-curricular opportunities that foster academic progress, creativity and personal development" - reinforcing our dedication to empowering every girl who attends MSJ.

The personal development of our pupils was another area of great strength. The inspectors commended their confidence, kindness and resilience, as well as the strong sense of community and responsibility. It was evident to them that MSJ fosters an environment where pupils grow into well-rounded individuals, prepared to embrace future challenges with assurance and integrity.

The ISI highlighted how outstanding the boarding provision is, particularly praising the extensive range of trips and activities which enrich pupils' experiences. Feedback from



parents, pupils and staff was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the school's strong commitment to pupil wellbeing. Inspectors recognised that every boarder has access to an independent person for support, ensuring that they always feel heard and valued. They also noted how the exciting opportunities available help pupils develop confidence, friendships and resilience. Above all, safety remains paramount, with rigorous measures in place to ensure that pupils are well cared for in every aspect of their boarding life.

Finally, our outstanding pastoral care was acknowledged as a cornerstone of life at MSJ. The inspectors saw how deeply we value the well-being of every pupil, ensuring that they feel supported, safe and empowered. They recognised the strength of the relationships between staff and pupils, which underpin our nurturing and inclusive ethos. I was especially pleased with these observations, for happiness is truly the key to success. I passionately believe that a happy child will excel in their academic studies, engage with their co-curricular activities, and most importantly, develop a sense of altruism that draws upon knowledge, competence and confidence. This will enable them to have a positive impact on the world around them, both now and after they leave school.

The inspectors truly captured the essence of what makes MSJ so special, and I would personally like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, our wonderful pupils, and our supportive parents and OGA who contribute to this success.

With my very best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Dr Gareth P. Lloyd.

