

SPECIAL EDITION

OFSTED : This is an outstanding school

From the Chair of Governors

The governing body was immensely pleased and proud finally to be able to announce the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection on the final day of last term. We have been convinced for some time that Beaumont is an outstanding school, but it is hugely gratifying that this has been officially recognised - at last!

Our particular thanks and congratulations to Mrs Hitch and all of the staff for working so hard over a number of years, as well as on the inspection days themselves, to achieve this result. Thank you too to the students (whose behaviour was at no time less than outstanding, according to the inspectors) and also to parents, for the unprecedented and overwhelmingly positive response on the Parentview website. It really felt as if the outcome was as a result of a community effort. Whilst the Ofsted report itself is glowing, there are a few points that I would like to highlight:



- Beaumont has been found to be outstanding in ALL respects: achievement; teaching & learning; behaviour & safety; and leadership & management.
- This was under Ofsted's most stringent guidelines to date.
- Very few schools in Hertfordshire have attained "outstanding" status since September 2012.
- The Lead Inspector told governors that the inspection team found Beaumont to be "a breath of fresh air", and we were told that some of the classroom practice they observed was some of the best they had seen in their inspecting careers.

Well done again to everyone. The governing body is now fully focussed on ensuring that the improvements to the Sixth Form centre and the FAB Project are brought to fruition, so that our students are provided with outstanding facilities to match the quality of the education that Beaumont School provides.

Alex Hall, Chair of Governors

From the Headteacher

In the last edition of Beaumont Life the outcome of the Ofsted inspection on 19 and 20 March was still confidential so I hope you'll enjoy this short Beaumont Life this month, celebrating the well-deserved outcome of 'outstanding' across the board! I was delighted that Ofsted managed to turn the report round in time for us to let everyone know the outcome before Easter so that staff, students, parents and governors could enjoy celebrating over the holiday.

You can read the summary over the page and, of course, the full report is on our school website under the Ofsted tab. I hope you agree with me that this reflects what you already knew about Beaumont; it is one of the most 'glowing' Ofsted reports I have ever read! The report was finally published on the Ofsted website on 28 April.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and congratulations to the whole Beaumont community. Staff and governors work tirelessly for the benefit of all students and I am so pleased that all their work has been validated. The students did themselves proud, as we knew they would, and parental support was overwhelming. We even received supplies of biscuits and cake from various parents to keep the staff going during the inspection! That was very much appreciated. Thank you too for all the cards and emails since the publication of the report, again, much appreciated.

And so we move on! At the staff meeting immediately after the holidays we focussed on the next steps. We will continue to strive for the very best for our students in delivering outstanding teaching and opportunities. Alongside this we are now continuing our focus on providing outstanding facilities. To this end we have appointed a Project Manager, Mark Eustace, to drive the developments forward over the next three years – these are exciting times to be a part of Beaumont! Please keep an eye on the website for updates about the developments.

Thank you as always for your support of Beaumont School. I look forward to working with you all in continuing to ensure the very best for our students.

Elizabeth Hitch

OFSTED Summary of key findings for parents and students

- Students receive an outstanding education at Beaumont School that prepares them extremely well for their future.
- In 2013 the school achieved better results for students at the end of Year 11 and Year 13 than in 2012.
- The headteacher, leadership team and the governors have a relentless focus on raising achievement for all students in the school.
- Teaching is consistently good and much of it outstanding. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and demonstrate a passion and love for their subject.
- Teachers plan exciting, challenging lessons that stretch students' thinking. In most subjects and for all abilities, including the most able, students make rapid progress.
- Students are very respectful towards each other and their teachers. The behaviour and attitudes of students is exemplary in and out of the classroom. Students are very proud of their school.
- Attendance is above average.
- Students feel safe in school and say that bullying is uncommon but if it happens they have confidence that teachers will deal with it.
- Governors and senior leaders set themselves very high standards. Checks on the quality of teaching and how well students are doing are robust and rigorous. This promotes further improvement in achievement.
- The teaching and learning group in school relentlessly support the leadership team in their continuous drive to improve the percentage of outstanding teaching. This is enhancing provision in the school. This best practice is being shared with other local secondary schools.
- The sixth form is outstanding. Most students at the end of Year 11 transfer to the sixth form and the vast majority go on to their first choice of university.
- Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school.

May/June Diary Dates

Mon	12 May	AS and A2 Art exams Year 11 and 12 exam leave begins German AS Year 11 fast track Oral exam with visiting examiner
Tues	13 May	German Years 12 and 13 A2 (inc Sandringham candidates) Oral exams with visiting examiner
Weds	14 May	*CED 5 Author Sita Brahmachani in Library all day
Thurs	15 May	AS Spanish speaking exams all day Photography AS & A2 Exhibition Private View 4pm-6pm in Tech Foyer
Fri	16 May	Year 9 Million Makers DofE Bronze Qualifying expedition – all day
Sat	17 May	DofE Bronze Qualifying expedition – all day
Mon	19 May	Year 9 Million Makers
Tues	20 May	Year 9 Million Makers
Weds	21 May	Year 9 Million Makers BSA AGM 7.30pm Library - tbc
Thurs	22 May	Year 9 Million Makers
Fri	23 May	Year 9 Million Makers Last day for Year 13 before Exam leave
Mon	26 May	Half Term break
Tues	27 May	Half Term break
Weds	28 May	Half Term break
Thurs	29 May	Half Term break
Fri	30 May	Half Term break
Mon	2 June	Internal exams Years 7-10 this week – see website for draft timetable