

27th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Celebrating Our Exceptional Ofsted Report

I am delighted to share the wonderful news following our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 3 February 2026. The inspection confirmed that Dormers Wells High School is providing an exceptional and strong standard of education across almost every area of school life. This report reflects the dedication of our staff, the hard work and character of our pupils, and the continued support of our families and community.

For clarity, in the Ofsted framework:

- Exceptional means practice is of the highest standard nationally and other schools could learn from it.
- Strong means standards are above what is expected nationally.
- Expected means working at the level the government expects.

Safeguarding – Standards Met

Inspectors confirmed that safeguarding is robust and embedded in the culture of the school. There is a strong, open culture where safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Pupils told inspectors that they feel safe, well cared for and confident that adults will act quickly if they need help. Inspectors noted that **"pupils are happy and feel safe"** and that safeguarding is a clear priority across the school.

Inclusion – Exceptional

We are particularly proud that our work on inclusion was judged exceptional. Inspectors found that inclusion is at the heart of leaders' work and that staff share a consistent belief in the potential of every pupil. They recognised that this belief transforms pupils' self-worth and raises aspirations for pupils and their families. Skilled staff identify pupils' needs quickly and provide highly effective, tailored support, particularly for pupils with SEND and those who are disadvantaged.

Inspectors recognised the school as **"an inclusive school with high expectations for the outcomes of all pupils."**



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Cultural Diversity Quality Standard

Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

Dormers Wells Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3HZ

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Achievement – Strong

Pupils achieve highly across the curriculum, including in reading, communication and mathematics. Pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils make strong progress from their starting points. Outcomes at the end of Year 11 have been above the national average for several years, and disadvantaged pupils achieve particularly well, significantly above national figures.

Inspectors noted that **“leaders have high expectations for the outcomes of all pupils”** and that pupils make strong progress across subjects.

Attendance and Behaviour – Strong

Attendance for all groups of pupils is much higher than national averages because pupils feel that they belong to our welcoming community. Pupils are self-disciplined, respectful and care about their school and one another. Inspectors described the school as having **“a calm, respectful and purposeful atmosphere”** and noted that pupils behave well in lessons and around the school.

Bullying is rare and never tolerated, and pupils’ attitudes to learning are exemplary.

Curriculum and Teaching – Strong

Inspectors recognised that we provide a broad, ambitious and imaginative curriculum designed to prepare pupils well for adult life. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and adapt learning effectively so that all pupils can succeed. There is a strong focus on reading, vocabulary and spoken communication in every subject, and gaps in learning are identified and addressed quickly and effectively.

Inspectors highlighted the strong teaching and curriculum, noting that **teachers use assessment well and revisit learning so that pupils remember more over time.**

Leadership and Governance – Strong

Inspectors praised the ambitious vision shared by leaders, trustees and governors. They recognised that leaders evaluate the school carefully and make wise decisions that put pupils first. Staff morale is high, and inspectors noted that leaders support staff workload and wellbeing while providing high-quality training and leadership development.



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Inspectors noted that **leaders are ambitious for pupils and have created a culture of high expectations and continuous improvement.**

Personal Development and Wellbeing – Strong

Personal development is a high priority at Dormers Wells. Pupils learn about equality, respect, healthy relationships, online safety and fundamental British values. Pastoral care is strong, with mentoring and counselling available for pupils who need additional support. The school offers a wide range of clubs, trips and enrichment opportunities, and all pupils in Key Stage 3 learn to play a musical instrument.

Inspectors recognised the strong personal development offer and the wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Post-16 Provision – Expected and Improving

Inspectors recognised that the sixth form is improving strongly. Students are eager, engaged and confident learners, and achievement—particularly in Level 3 applied courses—is rising and now significantly above national averages. Students benefit from strong careers guidance, university and apprenticeship support, and opportunities to develop leadership skills.

What It Is Like to Be a Pupil at Dormers Wells

Inspectors noted that ambition is at the centre of school life. There is a thriving sense of community, and pupils are polite, respectful and motivated to succeed. Pupils feel safe, enjoy their learning and believe they can achieve highly because staff consistently reinforce this message. There is a strong sense of belonging, and pupils are proud to be part of the school.

Inspectors described the school as a place where **“pupils are proud of their school and value the support they receive from staff.”**

Next Steps

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we will continue to strengthen the sixth form so that the impact of the curriculum is consistently strong across all subjects. We will also continue our work to identify and close any gaps in pupils’ knowledge so that every pupil can achieve their full potential.



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This exceptional report is a celebration of our entire community. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, our wonderful pupils, and you, our parents and carers, for your continued trust, support and partnership. We are very proud of what we have achieved together, and we will continue working to ensure that Dormers Wells High School remains a place where every child can thrive, feel valued and achieve their very best.

Our report is now live and can be found here:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/145348>

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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