

## UCS inspection reports 2006 – highlights

### Overall

The report shows that the UCS foundation (both the Senior School and Junior Branch) successfully achieves all the high academic standards that you would expect, but manages to do so in a relaxed, supportive and informal environment that allows for pupils to personally develop to their full potential.

### Senior School

Commenting on the Senior School, the inspectors noted:

In the area of attainment:

- “The values of the governors and senior managers place on high academic standards and a rounded education are evident in the hard work of the staff, the learning and articulacy of the pupils, the high achievements in public examinations, and the pupils’ whole-hearted involvement in the opportunities offered. They are also reflected in the happiness of the pupils and their appreciation of the pastoral care they receive.”
- “There is a very strong work ethic” and “a relaxed but focused atmosphere exists in classrooms.”

With respect to quality of teaching:

- “The quality of teaching is good, and contributes very effectively to pupils’ attainment and progress” and “teachers have high expectations of behaviour, effort and achievement, and these are almost always fully met.”

Regarding the care of the pupils:

- “The quality of pastoral care is outstanding”
- “The school prides itself, justifiably, on the emphasis it places on the individual and his response to the world he encounters around him” and “the boys show very great tolerance of beliefs, values and faiths of others.”
- “[Pupils] enjoy the benefits of an ethnically diverse school community which makes them fully aware of other cultures in the wider world in which they live.”

And concerning other activities:

- “Achievement and quality in activities are very good. The range and variety of activities makes this area a great strength of the school.”

In respect of the School’s management, they commented:

- “the Headmaster provides a strong lead, showing vision and making his expectations clear, and the seniors managers work very hard in supporting these.”
- “careful controls are kept on costs to avoid waste and to ensure that money is spent in accordance with school priorities, as for example in the generous staff:pupil ratio to allow time for high quality pastoral care.”

## **Junior Branch**

Commenting on the Junior Branch, the inspectors observed:

In the area of attainment:

- “The standards pupils attain are high in English, mathematics and science. Pupils’ attainment in national tests at the age of 11 is also high in relation to their abilities.
- “The very good quality of pupils’ attitudes to their work and their good behaviour are major strengths of the School.”

With respect to quality of teaching:

- “The quality of teaching is very good. On occasions it is excellent. Such high quality teaching contributes directly to the high standards pupils attain.”

Regarding the care of the pupils:

- “Pupils display a good deal of common sense and responsibility. They are considerate and very polite. Older pupils, in particular, protect and help younger ones. This fosters the school’s characteristic family atmosphere.”
- “The quality of relationships between teachers and pupils is very good and this makes an important contribution to the work pupils produce.”
- “Rooms are pleasant, adequate in size and, together with the good displays of pupils’ work, make a most attractive learning environment.”

And concerning other activities:

- “The quality and range of extra-curricular activities are very good and make a significant contribution to enhancing pupils’ overall experiences and the quality of education they receive.”

In respect of the School’s management, they commented:

- “the School is well managed and led,” and “[The Headmaster] provides the leadership necessary to achieve the high standards, good behaviour and personal development towards which the School aims.”