

Sixth Form

“Standards of attainment in the sixth form are very high and well above average. In 2008, all students attained pass rates at A level in the A to E range and 74% achieved A or B passes. Senior staff are taking effective action within subject areas, through improved assessment processes and the tracking of individual students’ progress, to improve performance.

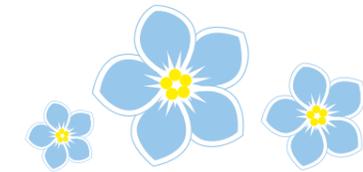
The large majority of lessons seen during the inspection were good with some outstanding practice evident in the Sixth Form.

Focused questioning by teachers provides the degree of challenge required for students to reflect upon their work and gain deeper insight into their studies.

The majority consistently demonstrate responsibility for their own learning, working effectively with others when tasks are shared with some students showing genuine leadership qualities.

A wide range of interesting and intellectually challenging subjects is taught in the sixth form. This has recently been extended to include new subjects such as psychology and courses and activities in, for example, citizenship. Consideration is rightly being given to widening the curriculum further as the interests and abilities of students admitted to the sixth form change over time.

Given the high standards attained in literacy, numeracy, and information and communication technology (ICT); the widening opportunities to understand the worlds of industry, commerce and government; and the clear self-confidence which students develop; preparation for employment, training or further study is excellent.”



The Belvedere Academy

News Magazine Special Edition



HMI
REPORT
Her Majesty's Inspectorate

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“The Belvedere Academy, like its predecessor school, is meeting its fundamental aim to inspire girls to high ambition and achievement.”

HMI June 2009

23rd & 24th June 2009

The Belvedere Academy was visited by Her Majesty's Inspectorate on 23rd and 24th June. This was the Academy's first inspection since opening in September, 2007. This is what the inspectors said....



Achievement and standards

“Standards are well above average in the main academy and students make good progress. This is reflected in external examination grades, the academy’s detailed assessment records and the work seen in the lessons observed.

Standards in the Key Stage 3 national tests and the GCSE examinations are significantly above average.

Standards of attainment in the sixth form are very high and well above average. The proportion of students reaching the highest grades in GCSE examinations is also well above that seen nationally.”



Personal development and well-being

“Students’ good attendance reflects their commitment to the academy and their enjoyment of what it provides. Senior leaders and staff have maintained a climate of high expectations while offering support so that students feel well cared for.

Behaviour is very good; students demonstrate exemplary attitudes and application to their work.

Students have good opportunities to develop responsibility and make a positive contribution through representation on the student council. They consider their views and opinions are valued and acted upon. These factors combine to support the harmonious climate evident in the academy and contribute to the strong and positive relationships between staff and students.”



Quality of provision

“Students’ commitment and application is first class.

The academy has retained the effective academic and broad curriculum inherited from its predecessor school. This core provision remains in place while the curriculum is being expanded to ensure the needs of the wider ability range of students now being admitted to the academy are met.

Throughout the academy the formal curriculum is supported by an excellent enrichment programme and well organised provision to promote students’ personal and social development, alongside their capacity to live safely and healthily.

Students are given excellent care, guidance and support and staff go to great lengths to ensure that they maintain good progress. They develop into confident and articulate young women.

Targets are challenging and accurately reflect prior learning and future potential. Students’ progress is tracked in increasing detail.”



Leadership and management

“The principal’s highly effective and skilful leadership has successfully steered the academy through a challenging period of transition while retaining a resolute focus on the maintenance of high standards. He has received very effective support from the senior team and together, they demonstrate an incisive understanding of where improvement has occurred and offer a combination of drive and purpose in targeting those areas where further development is required. Collectively, they have enabled middle leaders to forge improvements in their own departments with clear accountability for performance. Evaluations carried out within subjects are rigorous, frank and thorough, often pointing the way for future developments.

Representatives from both Governing Bodies demonstrate a clear understanding of the academy’s performance and the challenges ahead.”