

24 April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to attach the letter detailing the outcome of our recent OFSTED inspection. Please take time to read it and you will see how highly the inspection team regarded our school.

Here are just some of the quotes from the report we are particularly proud of:

'You and the school leaders have created a culture and ethos of high expectations across both school sites. Staff will not stop short of excellence and pupils work hard to do their best.'

'Parents and carers speak highly of the school and are positive about the support offered to both the child and family.'

'Parents appreciate especially the help that the school provides for families through coffee mornings and personalised learning plans for their children.'

'You and the school leaders have ensured that the areas for improvement identified at the time of the last inspection have been met in the full.'

'Systems are in place which assess pupils' progress to check carefully that they can learn effectively.'

'During the inspection, pupils were happy and settled across the school. Any concerns about pupils' attendance are addressed quickly.'

'Through personalised learning plans, all pupils are working towards aspirational targets that are relevant to their individual learning needs.'

'Leaders have a strong understanding of how well pupils are achieving from their starting points. Systems are reliable for monitoring progress from the early years through to post-16.'

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs Marie Neave BA Hons MA NPQH**, m.neave@drumbeat.lewisham.sch.uk

'During the inspection, staff were seen using symbols to communicate with children in a calm and purposeful manner during lesson times.'

'The governing body has a strong insight of the school's strengths and is very clear about the improvements the school has made since the last inspection.'

'Leaders and school governors clearly know the school well and are aspirational for all pupils to achieve the very best possible outcomes'.

The inspection that we had was a Section 8. The purpose of a Section 8 inspection is to determine whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education. In a Section 8 inspection, inspectors do not have the authority to change a school's overall judgement from Good to Outstanding but they can identify sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged Outstanding if it had a longer inspection. This is called a Section 5 inspection. As you can see, our report says:

'Based on the evidence gathered during this short inspection, I am of the opinion that the school has demonstrated strong practice and marked improvement in certain areas. This may indicate that the school is improving towards being outstanding. Therefore, I am recommending that the school's next inspection be a section 5 (longer) inspection.'

Whilst we are pleased that the strength of our school has been recognised, had the Section 8 inspection occurred before January 2018, the Section 5 inspection that is recommended would have happened almost immediately after the Section 8, probably in the same week and we would have had the opportunity to be graded Outstanding then.

However, a revised Ofsted framework has been in place since January 2018. This framework dictates that the Section 5 inspection will typically take place within one to two years.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school. We could see from your overwhelmingly positive responses on Parentview and your conversations with the inspectors just how highly you regard Drumbeat. As far as our journey is concerned, it is onwards and upwards in continued partnership with you!

Yours sincerely



Marie Neave
Executive Headteacher