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Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware we had an Ofsted Inspection last week. Whilst we expected our window to open this term we didn't expect to be the first on the list! We are the first school in the London Borough of Hounslow to have experienced the new framework.

The experience was very rigorous with 4 inspectors including 2 senior HMI (His Majesty's Inspectorate) inspectors. Our Lead HMI Inspector has we believe over 25 years experience alone. As you would expect the children and staff were amazing and you should be very proud.

We will be given a copy of the draft report within 3 weeks and then it will be very carefully quality assured by OFSTED.

There is a renewed approach to education inspection that aims to give parents better and more detailed information, as well as helping raise standards for all our children.

The new framework places a much greater emphasis on a comprehensive, nuanced picture of school life, rather than relying on a single overall judgment. The new inspection framework is **considerably** different to the old one.

The previous framework focused on four key areas and culminated in a single word grading (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate). The new approach is structured around a **multi-graded Report Card** to provide you with far more detailed and specific information about a school's performance.

Inspectors will no longer provide a one-word judgment for the school as a whole. Instead, the assessment will be provided as a comprehensive Report Card featuring multiple, distinct grades.

The Report Card will feature a new five-point grading scale for each evaluation area, replacing the previous four point scale:

- Exceptional
- Strong Standard
- Expected Standard
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement



The inspection will now deliver specific grades in detailed areas, with a stronger focus on the quality of the student experience. Core areas now include:

- Inclusion
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Personal Development and Wellbeing
- Leadership and Governance
- EYFS and/or Sixth Form

Safeguarding will continue to be judged separately as 'Met' or 'Not Met'.

It is essential to understand that, due to the magnitude of these changes, the results and grades awarded under the new framework are not directly comparable to those from the old framework.

Comparing an old grade (like 'Good') to a new grade (like 'Expected Standard') is not a simple like-for-like comparison for the following reasons:

- Shift in evaluation criteria: The old framework relied heavily on four broad categories. The new framework explicitly shifts the focus to the quality and *substance* of the curriculum and how well *every* student, especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils, are included and achieving their potential.
- Increased granularity: A single 'Good' from the past is replaced by potentially seven or more individual grades on the new Report Card. A school may achieve 'Expected Standard' in Curriculum and Teaching but 'Needs Attention' in Attendance and Behaviour. This level of detail did not exist previously.
- Different benchmarks: The core standard has been redefined. The new 'Expected Standard' serves as the clear baseline for meeting statutory and professional duties, whereas the old grading system had different implicit benchmarks. The methodology used to reach each judgment is entirely different.
- Previously there had been a 'Best fit' so that if a school had most of the descriptors for a judgement they would be given that judgement. Now it is a grade and not a judgement, schools have to get every descriptor to achieve the standard. Therefore it is likely that schools will have many facets of the higher grade than the one displayed.

The new framework and its Report Card aim to offer a clearer and more nuanced account of a school's strengths and areas for development. We ask that you view our inspection results through the lens of this new, distinct system.

Ofsted are currently emphasising that they expect the vast majority of schools to have one of the three 'middle' grading for each of the evaluation areas.

Thanks once again for the feedback that you gave to the inspection team as they were impressed with how our community value our school. Not only the results educationally but also the love and care that staff put into every lesson with every child.

We look forward to sharing the report card with our community as soon as possible.

Thanks for your continued support.

Senior Leadership Team

