



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

INTEGRATED INSPECTION

LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

4.(d) The quality of boarding

- 4.19 The quality of boarding is excellent.
- 4.20 The outcomes for boarders are excellent. The school's boarding aims are fully achieved. On joining the school, boarders rapidly develop a sense of confidence and individual responsibility in a safe and healthy environment that promotes their well-being. The two boarding houses, together with two host family residences, monitored comprehensively by the school, make a strong and vital contribution to the school's distinctive ethos.
- 4.21 Boarders are confident, polite and articulate, and they demonstrate a pride both in their school and in the boarding houses. They are able to influence boarding provision through the boarders' house and food committees, and there are regular informative house meetings. The excellent relationships between staff and boarders and amongst boarders themselves are warm and sincere. Staff work hard to cater for individual needs and boarders feel very well cared for. They enjoy the challenge of leadership roles within their houses and eagerly celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the different nationalities represented in the boarding community. Boarders are encouraged to be fit and healthy, and they take advantage of the excellent facilities on the campus available to them. Behaviour in the houses is exemplary and boarders thrive in the atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.
- 4.22 The quality of boarding provision and care is excellent. The promotion of boarders' health and arrangements for medical care are well managed and the recently reviewed medical protocols reflect good practice. The medical centre is staffed by qualified nurses. Boarders may attend at any time and a doctor visits weekly. The atmosphere is warm and welcoming, with appropriate facilities for sick boarders. All medication is appropriately stored and dispensed, with parents' consent in place. The arrangements for self-medication are effective and the confidentiality and rights of boarders are respected. Records are appropriately maintained. Boarders feel that they are well looked after. They readily confirm that there is a range of appropriate adults with whom they may discuss personal issues. Houses are warm, comfortable and well maintained. Each has kitchenettes, enabling boarders to prepare a variety of snacks. Laundry provision is efficient. Houses have good recreational facilities, with televisions, video and table-top game equipment, together with access to a piano, a small library and computing facilities. All bedrooms have desks for private study and lockable spaces for the boarders' valuables. Bathroom,

shower and toilet provision is adequate and, in most cases, has been recently refurbished.

- 4.23 Boarders benefit from the school's extensive programme of extra-curricular activities and comprehensive sports provision, in addition to a number of dedicated activities in the evenings and weekends. There has been much investment in the upgrading of boarding accommodation to a very good standard in recent years and there is a good plan for ongoing refurbishment. A variety of electronic devices enables boarders to keep in touch with their parents, including across different time zones. The catering provision is very good and offers a wide choice of plentiful, nutritious and well-prepared food. Special dietary requirements are catered for. Suitably trained boarders enthusiastically assist the catering staff with the preparation of some meals.
- 4.24 The arrangements for welfare and safeguarding are excellent. Procedures and practices ensure that the safety of boarders is well promoted, and managed effectively by all boarding staff. Effective anti-bullying and behavioural policies and procedures include measures to deal with cyber-bullying. Boarders feel safe and valued. The school's clear and comprehensive safeguarding policy encompasses all staff, visitors and contract workers. All boarding and other staff are regularly trained in safeguarding and know what they should do if any concerns arise. Boarders know when and how to report concerns and they are extremely confident in speaking with house staff, secure in the knowledge that all their concerns are taken seriously and dealt with promptly.
- 4.25 Clear and effective systems for signing in and out ensure that staff are aware of the boarders' whereabouts. House staff are readily available overnight should help be needed, and boarders have contact numbers to ensure that assistance or advice are accessible. The missing child policy is clear and understood by all boarding staff. Effective communication between boarding staff and parents promotes the safety and welfare of boarders. Appropriate risk assessments are in place. Regular fire drills take place outside teaching time, and all zones and extinguishers are regularly checked. Fire logs are up to date and correctly stored. Emergency lighting is regularly checked and these checks are logged appropriately. A recent fire and site review has generated appropriate action plans that are being implemented.
- 4.26 The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the boarding provision is excellent and is reflected in the high quality relationships and personal development of boarders. Policy making is mostly clear and concise, and monitoring is good overall. Governors have recently visited the two boarding houses. The senior management team meets regularly to review arrangements for boarding, ensuring that changes and developments have a positive impact on boarders. Strong house loyalties, together with the friendly and positive relationships and atmosphere, are nurtured by highly dedicated staff. The resident housemasters are supported well by other resident and visiting staff. All staff involved with boarding have clear job descriptions and receive effective induction. The boarding community benefits from the services of two Gap Year students. A number of staff have achieved or are studying for qualifications in boarding education and relevant boarding courses are well attended. The complaints procedure for parents is operated effectively. In response to the pre-inspection questionnaires, boarders and their parents expressed extremely high levels of satisfaction with boarding provision. A minority of boarders expressed concerns about the food on offer. Inspection evidence does not support this view. Discussion is underway regarding the use of self-evaluation and appraisal

as a management tool to support the longer-term development of boarding in the school.

- 4.27 The school has responded positively to the recommendations of the 2011 Ofsted boarding report.