



# CATOR PARK SCHOOL

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**Ms M Davies** BA (Hons) NPQH  
Headteacher

Our Ref: DV.zk.PPE  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

In January 2009 we were identified as one of the most improved schools in the country by the Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners. In fact, we have been one of the most improved schools in the country for the past three years and this year came in the top 2%. I was extremely proud to accept the award on behalf of the school from Sir Michael Tomlinson at the National Award Ceremony in February. This is a great achievement for us all at the school and is testament to the hard work of the whole school community - our students, staff, and governors and, of course, our partnership with parents. I am hugely grateful for the ongoing parental support we receive and the belief in us as 'a school that is going places'.

On the day after the school reopened after two highly unusual days' closure because of the snow and lack of public transport, we were the only UK school to be visited by a delegation of Swedish MPs on a flying visit to the UK to meet government representatives at the DCSF (Department For Children, Schools and Families). Coming from Scandinavia, they were totally bewildered, as you might imagine, by the transport chaos caused by the snow in London!

The following week, we had a two day OFSTED inspection – which is effectively one and a half days. Whilst there are many excellent observations of our school in the report, we do not feel it is a report that fully reflects the schools successes and achievements. Our examination results are now above the national average for all schools and our sixth form outcomes are outstanding. Our value added score in the sixth form was amongst one of the best in the whole of London and was the best in Bromley, which is itself a high performing authority. We are fully subscribed in all years and our applications for Year 7 entry are increasing annually. Whilst we do accept that there is always room for improvement, we nevertheless remain committed to offering an outstanding education for all, regardless of a student's ability or background. We are not a selective school and, in fact, we celebrate the richness and diversity of all of our students. The previous OFSTED inspection commented that:

*There is a determination...to ensure that all the girls, whatever their social and educational background, receive the best possible education.*

This statement still holds true. So whilst we were recognised as 'good' in many areas, we were still awarded an overall 'satisfactory', the same grade we were given over three years ago. We do not feel this adequately reflects our progress and we, our governors and the Local Authority have made an official complaint to Ofsted which is being investigated. There appears to be an inconsistency within OFSTED itself at this current time as some schools with lower outcomes than schools such as ours still manage to get better overall gradings.



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However, there is a great deal of good which has been recognised by the inspectorate team, which we would, of course, also endorse. For example, Ofsted believe we have a good capacity to continue to make any necessary improvements, the personal development and well being of all our students and the extent of our students' spiritual moral and social development is also good. Our carefully planned curriculum is also a strength. The inspectors believe that the extent to which our learners make a positive contribution to the community is outstanding. Overleaf are some statements taken from the report:

- *Students enjoy their school life and the subjects they study.*
- *Students make an exceptional and outstanding contribution to our local community, both within and outside the school.*
- *Students' commitment to raising funds for many charities has been acknowledged.*
- *Students are well cared for and guided and students' personal development and well being are good.*
- *Good pastoral systems ensure that students feel safe and secure.*
- *The curriculum is exciting, relevant and well-matched to students' needs. It is carefully planned and reviewed. It contributes much to students' enjoyment.*
- *Students take good advantage of the wide range of physical activities on offer. There is an excellent range of popular and well attended clubs and many opportunities for students to engage with other schools and the community.*
- *Students identified as Gifted and Talented speak highly of the successful programmes provided by the school.*
- *The schools specialist areas of Technology and Performing Arts are used well.*
- *Provision and achievement in the sixth form are good. Teaching and student progress is consistently good.*
- *Lessons are consistently well paced with clear and appropriate learning objectives.*
- *Students are attentive in lessons. Students enjoy learning.*
- *Spiritual and cultural development are good.*
- *Students use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) effectively.*
- *Visits to places of interest and field work deepen students' learning. International links are well developed.*
- *The school keeps parents informed on a regular basis about the progress their child is making.*
- *Staff identify effectively any students who have learning difficulties or additional needs.*

- *Comprehensive intervention mapping programmes are devised for each individual.*
- *The leadership and management of the school are good. Senior and Middle Managers share the Headteacher's vision.*
- *School governors are knowledgeable and well organised. They are clearly committed to supporting the school.*
- *Students are given very good guidance on choosing options in Years 9 and 11.*
- *Regular subject reviews contribute well in the drive to raise standards*
- *Whole school academic targets are set and reviewed on a regular basis, providing impetus for improvement.*

We are immensely proud of our achievements and will continue to strive to make further improvements.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Davies  
Headteacher