



27th June 2013

Dear Parents,
As-Salāmu `Alaykum

Subject: Ofsted at Ayesha Community School

As you might be aware the School had an Ofsted inspection visit on 4th – 6th of June 2013. An official report has been provided by Ofsted and is available from our website

www.ayeshas.org/ofsted.html.

Printed copies are available from the School reception office – however in line with our eco-policy we urge all parents to consider the environment and look at the report online.

Following our policy of being open, approachable and accountable to all our parents and the local/wider Muslim community, we are writing to share our experience with you. Some facts mentioned here are known to the parents who have been associated with the school for the past few years. However, those parents whose children joined recently may not be fully aware of the schools' history.

Ayesha Community School moved from a small 'private house' location, on the West Hendon Broadway, to the current premises in Montagu Road in Summer of 2009. At that time the school had a total of 45 girls in the Secondary section, whereas the Primary School was not even in existence.

Founders of the School were always aware of the need for a bigger School for the community.

Management at the school was not planning to open the Primary until January 2010 at the earliest. But, the needs and demands of parents, particularly those with older siblings in the school, was something we could not ignore. Therefore, within a month of moving to the new location both, Primary & Secondary, opened doors to prospective parents. Ayesha Primary was affectively starting three months before we had originally intended.

Pupil registrations increased from 45 to 245 over the summer holidays of 2009! This extent of growth, more than fivefold, could not have been foreseen or planned for. It would be correct to say that the redefined nature and size of the school, is such that September 2009 could justifiably be regarded as a NEW start for the whole school.

From the schools point of view Ofsted arriving within four months of the NEW start was far too early. It takes more than four months for one to settle down in a new private home. We had 245 young people to care for, recruitment of a lot of new members of staff, building issues to resolve, and many other educational & operational hurdles to overcome.

Hence the last full Ofsted inspection which was in February 2010 highlighted a number of areas which required addressing. In February 2011, Ofsted inspectors revisited our school and found that pretty much all of the issues identified in February 2010 had been resolved and rectified.

The latest inspection in June 2013 was performed under new Ofsted framework which was published at the end of January 2013. This new framework has brought in new procedures and new regulations which are far stricter than the previous inspection framework. Since February 2013, we have been working towards meeting these new regulations and the work is in progress.



In this Inspection, Ofsted inspectors have judged the overall school performance to be adequate and have clearly recognised the following:

- Achievement is on an upward trend
- In the Primary School, the school carries out National Curriculum tests in English and mathematics and these indicate that standards are above average by the end of Year 6.
- There are examples where some pupils make outstanding progress and attain GCSE grades that are well above those expected, given their starting points, and these compare favourably with results nationally.
- The school has a strong Islamic Ethos
- Pupils and staff show high levels of respect to each other which helps to create an effective learning environment
- Pupils' behaviour and personal development are good.
- Good and improved provision is now made for pupils' personal, social and health education. The secular curriculum on offer is broad and balanced and gives due emphasis to the development of literacy and numeracy skills.
- The provision for students' welfare, health and safety is good and all of the independent school regulations for welfare are met. Discussions with pupils of all ages clearly indicate that they feel safe and secure at the school and valued members of the Ayesha School community. They find staff approachable and say that there is someone on hand to talk to if they have any worries or concerns whatsoever. There are strong bonds of trust and respect between adults and pupils at the school.
- The school has significantly improved its procedures for checking pupils' attainment and progress
- Across the school, examples can be seen in lessons, in pupils' books and in the school data of pupils making good progress as a result of good teaching.
- The school provides good careers guidance and helps pupils prepare well for further education placements
- There is a good team spirit in school where staff and leaders work together well and are committed to improving the quality of education. School leaders provide good opportunities for staff to attend professional training events both on and off the school site.
- The school's self-evaluation is accurate and its judgements match inspection findings. It identifies the school's strengths and importantly identifies the areas that need to be addressed to take the school to the next level.
- School leaders are committed to making this a good school have made some notable improvements to the school since the last inspection

Ofsted inspectors have identified the following areas for the school to improve to the next level. We believe that all of these are all achievable for the school within 12 months.

Area of Improvement	What we will do	How will we make sure it is being done	When will this be achieved by
1. Quality of teaching and pupils' achievement	1a ensuring that all teachers set work that is consistently challenging and well matched to the abilities of pupils, particularly the more able	Teachers to be provided further training and guidance HT to monitor all teachers on a fortnightly cycle	June - July '13 Sept '13 – June '14
	1b making sure that all teachers ask demanding questions that require extended answers and promote a greater level of discussion among pupils	The School's Senior Leader Team (SLT) to monitor on a half termly basis	Sept '13 – June '14

	1c ensuring that the marking of pupils' work clearly identifies what the pupils need to do to improve and there is an expectation that pupils respond to their teachers' comments.		
	1d Introduction of marking time/feedback in both the primary and secondary school timetable		
2 Quality of teaching and learning, and at an accelerated rate	2a analysing pupil data and sampling pupils' work alongside lesson observations to arrive at judgements about the quality of teaching and the areas in need of improvement	Teachers to be provided further training and guidance HT to monitor all teachers on a 3 weekly cycle	June – July '13 Sept '13 – June '14
	2b holding more regular meetings with individual teachers to hold them accountable for the progress of the pupils they teach	SLT to monitor on a half termly basis	Sept '13 – June '14
3 Continue and intensify the drive to raise standards in writing	3a ensuring that opportunities to write for different audiences and purposes across different subjects are always taken	HT to monitor all teachers on a 3 weekly cycle	Apr '13 – June '14
	3b mapping Literacy on Schemes of work for all subjects	SLT to monitor on a half termly basis	
4 Provide high quality training	4a to ensure that all teachers accurately assess the levels at which pupils are working and will use the information to set challenging but realistic targets for pupils to aspire to	Teacher training on levelling Headteachers will moderate Teacher assessments and target setting for all pupils every 3 weeks SLT to monitor on a half termly basis	Started 14 th June and completion by 25 th July Sept '13 – June '14 Sept '13 – June '14
5 Provide Showers for pupils aged 11+	5a Identify and area where showers can be fitted and raise funds to provide these facilities	An item for this will be added in our School Improvement Plan which the SLT will monitor every term.	September 2015

If you have any concerns or questions about this report, you are invited to meet Headteachers and myself at the school on Thursday 4th July at 2:30pm.

Jazakallah Khair

Shakil Ahmed, Principal