THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR SCHOOL

Oxford Diocesan
BUCKS SCHOOLS TRUST

FULLERS HILL
CHESHAM
BUCKS
HP5 1LR
Tel: 01494 782211
Email: office@tha.odbst.org
Website:www.thomasharding.org.uk

Interim Headteacher: Joanne Butler
Chair of Governors: Dr Viraj Rajadhyaksha

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 19th and 20th May 2026. I am delighted to let you know that the report reflects the hard work, commitment and care shown every day by our pupils, staff and wider school community.

Across all the areas inspected, the school was judged to be working at Strong or Expected standards, with several strengths highlighted:

Inclusion – Strong Standard

Inspectors praised leaders for setting high expectations for all pupils and identifying additional needs early. They noted that staff *"break learning into small steps and adapt teaching and routines to meet pupils' individual needs."* The report also highlights the strong partnerships with families and the effective use of additional funding to support disadvantaged pupils.

Personal Development and Wellbeing – Strong Standard

The report recognises the school's highly inclusive culture and the way pupils are supported to develop confidence, independence and respect for others. Inspectors were particularly impressed by the breadth of opportunities available, from wellbeing support to pupil-led clubs. Pupils were described as kind, thoughtful and proud of their school.

Achievement – Expected Standard

Inspectors noted that pupils *"develop secure knowledge and skills across the curriculum"* and are well prepared for secondary school. Pupils achieve well, with attainment at the end of Year 6 above national averages.

Attendance and Behaviour – Expected Standard

Inspectors judged behaviour across the school as positive, with pupils described as polite, respectful and confident. They commented that pupils feel staff will help them if problems arise. There was praise for leaders' supportive work with families and how this is helping more pupils attend regularly.

Curriculum and Teaching – Expected Standard

Inspectors recognised the ambition of the curriculum and the strength of teaching across the school. Inspectors found that teaching is typically effective, with teachers demonstrating secure subject knowledge and modelling language clearly to support pupils' speaking and writing.

Leadership and Governance – Expected Standard

Leaders were praised for their clear priorities, effective training and thoughtful approach to staff wellbeing. Governors and trustees were commended for fulfilling their statutory responsibilities and for their purposeful engagement in school life. In spite of many changes in leadership over the last few years, the leadership and oversight of the school received positive judgement.

Safeguarding

Ofsted confirmed that "the safeguarding standards are met", recognising the strong culture of safety and vigilance across the school. Inspectors noted that pupils *"are made safer and feel safe"*, which is a testament to the dedication of our staff and the trust your children place in them.

Next Steps

Ofsted identified two key areas for continued improvement:

- Further developing staff expertise in checking pupils' learning to ensure gaps and misconceptions are consistently addressed.
- Continue to ensure teaching supports pupils to build secure, fluent and legible handwriting.

These are priorities already in the school's development plan, and leaders were praised by inspectors for the action being taken to strengthen both areas.

A School to Be Proud Of

Perhaps the most heartening part of the report is the description of what it is like to be a pupil at Thomas Harding. Inspectors wrote that pupils *"feel proud to belong to their caring school community"* and that they *"behave well… treat each other with kindness and respect… and feel safe."* This reflects the values we hold dear and the strong relationships that make our school such a special place.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank all staff for their dedication, our pupils for their enthusiasm and kindness, and you - our parents and carers - for your ongoing support. This report is something our whole community can be proud of.

The full report is attached and will be available on the Ofsted website in due course.

With warm regards,

V Rajadhyaksha

Dr Viraj Rajadhyaksha
Chair of Governors
Thomas Harding Junior School