



Cobham Hall

Cobham Hall 2016 CReSTeD Inspection Report Summary

Cobham Hall's Student Support Department (SSD) is an essential part of the learning development for some girls. As a mainstream school, we take pride in the expert specialist support we give girls who have an identified need. This can range from spelling club to full dyslexia support.

Our recent CReSTeD inspection was in March 2016, and the full report runs to 13 pages and so we have produced a summary of the key findings. Words in italics are direct quotes from the report.

Overview: *A friendly boarding and day school that offers excellent learning support combined with access to a mainstream academic curriculum. The school aims to support students in becoming confident and independent learners who reach their full potential. Learning difficulties are very much viewed as learning differences. The school's Round Square ethos encourages all round development of skills, knowledge and character.*

Pupils: *The students observed at Cobham Hall were unfailingly polite, with excellent social skills. They were confident in expressing their opinions in class and out. The range of international students is wide and the girls appear to work and socialise together extremely well.*

Future-Planning: *There is appreciation from mainstream staff for the advice, information and support that the SSD provide. The SSD Development Plan also includes very useful and practical ideas for the future. This is clearly a school that is not going to sit on its laurels regarding continued improvement.*

IEPs: *IEPs are carefully planned and it was good to see that they are working documents with SSD teachers' comments written in. The area for 'key strengths and areas for support' would be useful to mainstream teachers, whilst more detailed targets relate to the SSD. There is also an area where parents can add comments.*

Teaching and Learning: *Provision that includes in-class support as well as specialist teacher input is relatively rare and is appreciated by girls as well as parents. The majority of students found their support lessons extremely useful and all agreed that they were useful. One student commented that they had helped her confidence to develop to the point where she no longer needed support.*

Parent Feedback: *In general, parents felt that their daughters' confidence and self-esteem had risen because of the support they had received. Good academic progress was noted. The pastoral care was highly rated as was in-class support. All in all it was felt that the girls were happy at school and that the range of opportunities was wide.*

Pupil Feedback: *A group of 13 girls, from Year 7 to Year 13, a mix of boarders and day students, were consulted. All agreed that their support lessons were useful and over half found them extremely useful. All enjoyed being at Cobham Hall and felt that the atmosphere was supportive and that they had close and varied friendship groups.*

The girls were impressive in debate, and this is no doubt thanks to Cobham Hall, where they have developed the confidence to talk about their learning needs so frankly. They agreed that their grades are likely to be better than they would have achieved elsewhere and they welcomed the opportunities that are available to them.

Conclusion: *Cobham Hall is housed in a beautiful old building with glorious grounds. It is a school where the Head, Management team, Governors and teachers – mainstream and in the Support Department - seek to refine teaching techniques for the good of their students.*

There is a wealth of opportunities available, and although the occasional student might need to take a step back to avoid being overwhelmed, the majority will relish the chances they have.

Cobham Hall imbues its students with confidence, but also with empathy. I noticed peer support of the best kind. It is doing a very good job for their bright girls who have a particular learning need, and they will, I believe leave here having benefited greatly.