



Cobham Hall

Cobham Hall 2019 CReSTeD Inspection Report Summary

Our most recent CReSTeD inspection was in May 2019.

Here is a summary of the key findings. Words in italics are direct quotes from the report.

Staff:

Maggie Roberts has been in post as Head of Cobham Hall for one year. Her belief in 'educating the individual' and 'being aware of each pupil's talents, strengths and potential', gives the school a strong and visionary leadership. Maggie Roberts is a Head committed to providing the best educational opportunities for all pupils, including those with SEND and EAL.

Julia Konec is an experienced and extremely well-qualified Head of the Student Support Department (SSD). Under her leadership the department has become a respected and important part of the school.

Julia Konec is a committed and inspirational Head of the very effective SSD Team. Her energy and passion for providing a high level of learning support is evident throughout the school.

This is a well-qualified, experienced team of professionals who share a belief in the vital importance of SEND support. The team is a valuable and much valued part of the school.

IEPs:

These are extremely useful working documents, shared by all who have a part in a student's learning path. Students have input regarding their personal targets, helping them to take ownership of their learning and to have clear strategies and achievable goals.

Teaching and Learning:

The whole school responds to SpLD/SEND in a positive, proactive way. Teachers felt empowered and supported by the SSD, enabling them to deliver differentiated lessons for those with learning differences but also to the benefit of mainstream learners.

There is no sense of 'one size fits all' at Cobham Hall. Arrangements are tailor-made according to the specific needs of the students. This is an excellent way of managing support and building confidence in individuals.

The 1:1 lessons observed in the SSD were excellent. There was good teacher/student rapport. Students were encouraged to ask questions and give opinions and record their work in a variety of ways. Multi-sensory techniques were used to good effect and a range of resources were available to reinforce learning. The lessons were planned to be relevant to mainstream subjects and covered maths, spelling, reading, comprehension, vocabulary and revision and exam techniques.

The SSD has an important role in the life of the school, offering strong interdepartmental links. Liaison between the SSD and subject/class teachers is very good and TA in-class support is a valuable asset for teachers and students.

Parent Feedback:

Parents consulted were full of praise for the school and for the SSD in particular. One parent said of the school 'I can't fault it' and another reported that their daughter 'had come on in leaps and bounds' since being at Cobham Hall. Support in mainstream lessons was described as excellent. It was felt that SEND students are not made to 'feel different'. A Year 7 parent was grateful for the invitation to meet the Head and the opportunity to discuss how the first year at the school had been for their daughter and to raise any possible concerns. This was seen to be a very caring approach. Julia Konec was singled out for particular praise by all the parents consulted. She was described as 'fantastic' by one parent and another said the SSD had always supported their daughter and 'fought her corner' so that she was able to 'do incredibly well.' One parent said 'My daughter is now happy and wants to learn.' Parents were in agreement that their daughters were totally engaged and interested in learning and that a 'can do' rather than a 'can't do' attitude prevailed. A Year 9 parent, who had chosen Cobham Hall because of its CReSTeD registration, has always felt informed regarding their daughter's progress and that she is now a 'much more confident and independent learner.' Overall, parents reported that they are pleased with the student support system which is in place and are 'extremely impressed with the school.'

Pupil Feedback:

The consultant had lunch with a group of mixed age students. These were friendly, articulate and mature young people, who were happy to share their experience of life at Cobham Hall. The general consensus was that they felt well supported in the SSD and in class and that people were accepted by their peers, whatever their learning differences. All the students agreed that Cobham Hall is an amazing place, not just architecturally and with beautiful surroundings, but a place where learning opportunities are rich and varied.

Conclusion:

For families seeking an all-girls school, within a caring environment and offering excellent provision for students with SEND and EAL, Cobham Hall provides the ideal solution. Although at Cobham Hall good academic results are seen as important, it is the nurturing of the whole person to be the best that they can be that is at the heart of the school's ethos. The school's motto, which translates as 'There is more in you than you think..' is borne out in day to day life at Cobham Hall. The school, its Head and staff are loved and appreciated by parents and students alike. It is recommended that Cobham Hall retains its CReSTeD 'DU' category.