

# Islamia Girls School



*Bismillah, Ar-Rahman, Ar-Raheem*

11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Respected Parents and Guardians,

*Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh*, I pray that you are at the best of health and eeman.

I wanted to write to you today to let you know about the outcome of the recent inspection by Ofsted of Islamia Girls School. As you may know, our school is regularly judged to be the best in Brent, with our students achieving first-class GCSE results historically among the best in London. These results enable the girls to go on to some of the leading sixth form schools and colleges in the capital, where they then attain excellent A level results and win places at the world's best universities. We are very proud of the education that we provide and the potential that we help fulfil in your girls' lives; and we are very grateful to you for the support you give us as we do that.

Ofsted's report has found that we are good in two categories (in behaviour and in personal development). As you will see from the report, which is on our website, there are numerous very positive comments made by the inspectors. However, Ofsted says the quality of education requires improvement and it has overall judged that the school is inadequate, because of safeguarding. Ofsted had found us to be an outstanding school in every category in its two previous inspections, the last in 2017. We are enormously disappointed by the outcome of this report, as you can imagine, and disagree with the findings. I should add that we submitted a formal complaint to Ofsted.

I would like to reassure you that we have resolved the primary safeguarding issue, which Ofsted says is a lack of clear separation between our school and another school, a primary, that operates within the same building and shares some of our spaces. As a result, we have installed locks on all relevant doors. This issue was never raised during previous inspections of the school by Ofsted over more than two decades; and Brent Council, when Ofsted brought the matter to its attention following this inspection, said it did not require further investigation. We believe safeguarding is effective, supported by the training that all members of staff regularly undergo, most recently on 1<sup>st</sup> September. This safeguarding training is a key component of staff development at the school. Ofsted also references concerns about bullying – not only did all pupils spoken to by Ofsted say that if they had a concern they would tell their form teacher, but 95% of our parents say their child feels safe at our school (source: Ofsted's Parent View webpage).

The other area to assure you on is the quality of education. In spite of the excellent results that our students achieve – something recognised by Ofsted – it says it is concerned that we run our Key Stage 3 curriculum over two years, rather than its preferred three. However, as you know, we continue to offer a very broad curriculum beyond Key Stage 3, and in this area we believe that Ofsted is wrong again. Indeed, Ofsted says in the report that our students must select a broad range of subjects at GCSE, with a modern foreign language compulsory, and lessons in PE and food technology continuing for all up to the time they leave Islamia Girls School. In any case, there is no statutory requirement to complete the GCSE courses within two years; and as an independent school, we have freedom from the national curriculum.

My team and I work extremely hard every day to deliver a world-class education to the children and young people we serve. We are confident that that is what we achieve, and have maintained that throughout the last two years in spite of the significant challenges that the pandemic has posed us, and all our schools. I hope my letter today reassures you of our high standards. Thank you and jazakumullahu khair for your ongoing support of Islamia Girls School, which we never take for granted.

Wassalaam,

*Amzad Ali*  
*Acting Headteacher*  
*Islamia Girls School*