



## Highlights of ISI Inspection 2025

An ISI inspection of both Bryanston Prep and Senior Schools took place from 29 April to 1 May 2025. Over two and a half days, a team of nine inspectors reviewed every aspect of school life. They observed lessons and co-curricular activities, spoke with pupils, staff, and governors, and examined pupils' work, policies, and records. They also drew on feedback from parents, pupils, and staff who completed ISI's pre-inspection surveys.

### **Ethos**

We were delighted that the inspectors recognised, and commended, so many different areas of Bryanston life, in particular our *“commitment to providing an education tailored to the individual allowing our pupils to follow a personalised path through school life.”* They referred to our personalised tutor system and effective pastoral care, offering consistent support, enabling pupils to make the most of the opportunities available to them. Pastorally, they cited the implementation of policies to deter bullying and promote positive behaviour, which are consistently applied across the school and in the boarding houses. The ethos is well-understood on respecting individuality and developing pupils' wellbeing, which is embedded in daily practice and staff model the value of kindness, responsibility and independence consistently across academic, pastoral and boarding contexts. This contributes to positive relationships between pupils and staff and fosters a sense of belonging and trust.

### **Boarding**

The inspectors commented that boarding is well led and reflects the values of the wider school. *“Boarders feel safe, well cared for and able to raise concerns through established channels. The school promotes a boarding community where pupils' opinions are respected and acted upon.”* The inspectors said that the *“caring ethos of the school is promoted at all times.”* *“Safeguarding is effective and well embedded in the daily life of both the day and boarding communities. Pupils feel safe and well supported, both emotionally and physically. They have access to trusted adults, including staff, house parents, the independent listener and anonymous online reporting systems. In boarding, pupils feel safe and well cared for. Emotional wellbeing is actively promoted. Boarding provision is well maintained and supports both emotional and academic development of pupils.”*

### **Quality of Education**

Mentions were made regarding the breadth of curriculum which allows pupils to pursue academic and creative interests. *“Pupils are encouraged to think independently, engage in meaningful discussion and show intellectual curiosity. Academic lessons are enriched through co-curricular opportunities in art, drama, music, dance and film. Teaching staff and tutors track pupils' progress effectively, identifying gaps in learning through the efficient sharing of information. Pupils benefit from targeted support delivered by specialist teachers, which enhances their academic progress.”* Inspectors said, “pupils grow in academic self-confidence,” because of the tutor system. The inspectors highlighted the prep school's well-planned curriculum and enriched outdoor learning as well as support to help build children's confidence and resilience. *“Its curriculum is well structured and carefully aligned to the development needs of pupils, supporting progress across a wide range of learning.”*

As with any inspection, some technical points for improvement were identified. In our case, this concerned the reporting of mid-year joiners to Dorset County Council. While this was resolved before the inspectors left, it meant two Standards were not fully met on this occasion. ISI will return in the Autumn Term to review this, and we are confident of full compliance.

We pride ourselves on the breadth of all-round education on offer at Bryanston and the inspectors were keen to celebrate that. The ISI report is overwhelmingly positive about: standards of teaching and academic progress, pastoral care, impressive pupil behaviour, extra-curricular breadth, community outreach, a strong and distinctive whole school ethos, amongst many other things.