



SATISFACTORY PROGRESS! OFSTED CONFIRMS!

Parents will, I'm sure, be as delighted as we all are, that the Ofsted 'monitoring visit' which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, confirmed that Elliott is making satisfactory progress.

Although there is still a way to go, the Ofsted team was impressed with:

- the 2009 examination results;
- the new systems that are in place;
- the confident optimism and good morale of the staff;
- students' behaviour and attitude in class;
- very good practice in some lessons (English came out very well – well done, English!);
- the promising start to a new Year 7 curriculum, focusing on literacy;

The Lead Inspector, Meena Woods, HMI, said that she realised that the new governing body (the IEB) and the interim Headteacher have only been in place since June, but the work already done gives her confidence that we will

continue to make good progress.

There's no room for complacency, however! There will be another monitoring visit in January, and between now and then we have to work hard to put right the things that still need improvement. In particular, we have to work to ensure that teaching and learning is consistently good across the curriculum, and that's what all leaders – the Senior Leadership Team and all the Middle Leaders will be taking on immediately and developing over the term.

In the meantime, I am sure you will join us in feeling very pleased that the staff's and students' hard work over the past months has been recognised and rewarded.

We move onwards and upwards – definitely!



STUDENTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON LIFE AT ELLIOTT SCHOOL

On the first day of this academic year, we asked students to complete a survey giving their views and feelings about life at Elliott. Having analysed the responses, we thought we would share them with you; they are addressed under the headings

of the government's "Every Child Matters" agenda for schools. Here are a few highlights. The full analysis can be found on our website.

ENJOY & ACHIEVE

An overwhelming majority – all agreed with the statements, **"I am happy in my Tutor Group."** and **"I am happy in my Year Group."** This is extremely pleasing and is something of which we are proud; after all, happy students will learn more than those who are unhappy. This would appear to be supported by the fact that a clear majority replied positively to the statements, **"I am happy as I learn at Elliott."** and **"I am able to learn more in lessons than I used to."**

All of these responses are a good foundation upon which we can build as we work to restore Elliott School to the respected institution that it once was.

Students were also very supportive in their responses to the statements **"What I learn at Elliott teaches me the importance of education in preparing me for life after Elliott."** and **"The school involves students in planning our future learning."** This encourages us to believe that we are moving forward as a community that listens to our most important stakeholders, the students.

IDENTITY & CULTURE

When asked to respond to the statement, **"All cultures are respected and celebrated at Elliott."** students were very positive, with percentages in the eighties and nineties saying they agreed with the

statement. This is an important issue for us at Elliott, as we see ourselves as a culturally inclusive community and it is gratifying to see that the majority of our students agree.

This was an issue that was highlighted in the recent OFSTED report on Elliott School and is something that we have addressed with the new school behaviour policy that we have introduced. Students were asked about behaviour in their Tutor Groups

BEHAVIOUR

and Year Groups, and they responded in an overwhelmingly positive manner, agreeing that behaviour had clearly improved at Elliott.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It was good that that over 90% agreed with the statement, **"I understand the dangers of smoking, drinking alcohol and taking drugs."** We are sure that parents are pleased that so many of our students have a clear understanding of the dangers of these practices. However, as is always the case, there is

no room for complacency on this issue, and we will continue to deliver the messages of living a healthy lifestyle.

Over 80% of our students agreed with the statement, **"I feel safe in school."** While we should be pleased that so many of our students feel this way, we need to take seri-

ously the fact that 20% don't agree with the statement. However, it was clear that the lowest responses were generally in the younger year groups, and it was the beginning of the academic year, so it is possible that many of these were just natural nervousness about coming to the "big school".

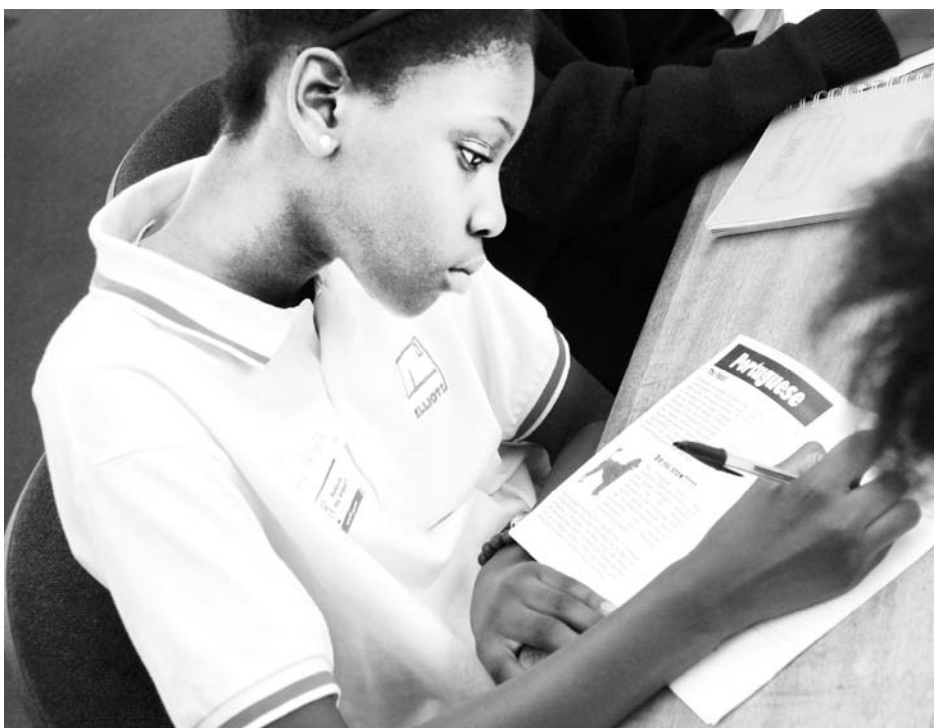
What conclusions can we draw from these responses?

The first is that our students have a very positive view of many aspects of life at Elliott, but at the same time there are areas that we need to work on to improve the overall learning experience for our students. We can also take heart from the fact that our efforts

to ensure that we are an inclusive community are generally successful and appreciated by students. And finally, we believe that our students appreciate the efforts we make to listen to their views and act upon the views they express.

We hope you have found it interesting reading about this survey and we look forward to keeping you updated on the surveys we will conduct in the future.

European Day of Languages



MEET OUR DEPUTIES



I am delighted to have become a member of the Elliott community and look forward to working with the students and staff who have already shown me a warm welcome. The legacy and strength of Elliott's prestigious past is clear from the energy and commitment of the staff and students who are once again be-

coming increasingly focused on their learning.

My past teaching experiences have been in five London schools in varying roles of responsibility. However as a late entrant to teaching I have benefited from working outside the world of education in research and theatre.

I feel privileged that my interests in the Arts, languages and travel are also subject areas where Elliott has won awards and which continue to provide wide learning opportunities for our students.

My aim is to fully participate in developing the school's strengths even further.

The recent OFSTED visit supporting Elliott's school progress is testimony to the potential of this learning community's ability to develop into a high achieving institution once again.

Mrs Thorogood
Deputy Head Teacher for
(Teaching and Learning)



I am extremely happy to have been appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Elliot School and to be a part of the fine community of students and staff that I have seen in my first weeks in the school.

I have worked at several different schools before Elliott; Acton High School, Hurlingham and Chelsea

School, School of St David and St Katharine, and also for a year at Ealing council. I enjoyed a number of jobs before taking on the Deputy Headteacher here, including Assistant Headteacher, Head of Humanities, Head of Year and 14-19 adviser. I have taught a wide variety of different subjects since beginning as an RE teacher including History, ICT, Sociology, Travel and Tourism, Geography, Health and Social Care and Law. All this experience I look forward to putting into Elliott.

I enjoy most sports especially football (I support Middlesbrough), cricket and athletics and look forward to seeing Elliott students in action in these sports. I am a real technology fan and will enjoy working with staff and students in taking Elliott forward in its use of technology over the next few years. I am committed to providing all students in Elliott with a first class education and to maximising their chances of a successful, healthy and fulfilling life.

Simon Watton
Deputy Head (Curriculum)



Many of you will be aware that I have been the substantive deputy headteacher at Elliott since September 2006, having first joined the school in January 2003 as an Assistant head. Previously I have been a Head of English and Drama in 3 schools in Southwark, Ealing and Richmond. As an English teacher and Assistant secretary for the National Association for Teaching English I have enormous fun involving myself in exciting initiatives linked to

my teaching subjects as well as running training sessions for teachers at National Conferences.

Before Elliott I was a senior education consultant for a Local Education Authority and was responsible for driving up improvement and performance of different groups of students, with a special focus on boys who continually underachieve in English nationally (but not at Elliott.) I usually try to keep this secret but I am Ofsted trained as well.

Elliott is a dynamic and creative school full of wonderful young people and staff whom I have found it a privilege to work with over the last seven and a half years. I can safely

say there has never been a dull moment and I continue to enjoy the Elliott experience.

Lesley Leak
Deputy Head Teacher (Training and CPD)

I shall be overseeing this fortnightly newsletter in future and would welcome your views on what stories/information you feel should be included. Please email Barbara Kessie on bkessie@elliott-school.org.uk who is responsible for the production of the newsletter.