

Dear Parents,

Following our inspection on 17th January 2019, I am pleased to be able to share with you the report, which is extremely positive about our school. The new inspection regime requires a one-day inspection to confirm whether the school continues to remain at its current grading. Our outcome is the highest we could achieve and is explained in the Ofsted Handbook:

The school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one to two years after the publication of the section 8 short inspection report.

Due to the positive inspection on the day, we will therefore receive a two-day inspection, most probably in the next academic year, which would give us the opportunity to change our current grading.

We are very happy to have had the opportunity to be inspected by Sir Robin Boshier. The inspection was a positive experience for children and staff. I enjoyed and benefitted from the professional dialogue that was held throughout the day. His pen portrait reads as follows:

Sir Robin's previous roles include headteacher, national leader of education and executive headteacher. After being an executive headteacher, Sir Robin was the director of primary education for a large and successful multi-academy trust. Sir Robin has previously been an HMI. He was recently Ofsted's regional director for the South East and National Director for Inspection Quality and Training. He has worked as a City Challenge Adviser for the Department of Education and led the London Challenge Primary Programme.

Thank you for your support on the day and contributing so positively via Parent View. Thank you also for your continued support, as I always say, it is a team effort! We are very proud of our achievements at Amherst School. Staff have worked so hard over the last five years to ensure Amherst continues to be an excellent school for all pupils. What I am most proud of, is that we have made many improvements but at its core Amherst is still the same fantastic school it has been for many years. Recruiting and retaining outstanding staff is still the single most important factor in enabling high standards. We have created a positive culture where children and staff can thrive.

We take on board any recommendations from the inspection but ultimately we will continue to follow our own bespoke agenda of what Amherst pupils need to experience, to achieve their full potential. The needs of Amherst children come first which may not always match national agendas!

Please take the time to read Sir Robin Boshier's report and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

