

A selection of parental comments in response to Ofsted

Compiled June 2024

I wanted to write to Mr Lester and the entire FSG team regarding the recent Ofsted result. Please know that in the words of Mr Lester this Grade doesn't define us!

I recently took part in the Good School Guide discussions, and I spoke at length regarding the absolute individualised care and dedication that FSG has shown my two daughters over the years and could only describe FSG as our "soul place". As a parent I have also only ever received care, support and a listening ear. Both daughters have been extremely happy at FSG. My eldest daughter has now left; my youngest still with you and couldn't feel more happy and supported. You all go above and beyond for us as a family.

The girls have only ever spoken highly of Mr Lester and the team and in fact as I told the good school guide, they've told me more than once that "Mr Lester really does listen and asks what we think. He doesn't have favourites; we are all important to him. For a child to take the time to tell their parent that, it must be something very special.

Thank you for being our "soul place"

I have just read your letter to parents and it has made me shed a tear. I am saddened to hear that you and your wonderful staff have been made to feel dejected and disappointed at a snapshot, single word judgement that does nothing to reflect the wonder that is your school. Your hardworking, passionate and skilled staff, your inspirational and powerful leadership, your passion to support the development of the whole child, the school efforts to support wellbeing and mental health, your inspiring, motivating and engaging curriculum are just a few of the reasons that I thank every day that my daughter has the gift to attend your school. Your school is completely changing her life and that cannot be conveyed in a single word. Not even in a single sentence. I am just eternally grateful, as is she, that she has the privilege to be a part of your school family.

I just wanted to email to thank you all for your hard work and support with the girls. Having read the Ofsted Report last night I just wanted to let you know how appreciated you all are. I am so sad for you that you did not get the judgement you truly deserve! Your school is amazing and we are really thankful the girls are part of your school. The hard work, determination, care and support that the staff in your school give daily is incredible. Our girls are lucky to attend a school where the whole child is valued and it was this focus, not your excellent results that set you apart from other schools. With that said, all of the teachers who have worked with our girls have been amazing at their job and I wanted to extend our thanks to them all, especially the Maths department who may be feeling a little bruised. Girls do not take Maths for A Level through chance and it is the teaching at your school which inspired my daughter to do so.

My congratulations to Mr Lester and his fabulous team for a really positive report.

I know that Folkestone School for Girls is a remarkable school and environment where all flourish. Everyone should be immensely proud.

Dear Mr Lester,

If FSG is not an outstanding school I'm not sure such a thing exists. The school you lead provides a level of care and opportunity that is unrivalled in my experience. I have friends paying extortionate private fees for a fraction of what you and your staff provide.

My daughter is the person she is today, with the academic and personal achievements she has and the future opportunities available to her - in no small part due to the effectiveness and ethos of FSG. She sees no barriers or boundaries and I am constantly blown away by her ambition and dreams.

Thank you to you and your team for the fact you give it all.

I just wanted to offer a note of support to you and the team on the Ofsted result. I know how gutted you and the team must be but I can honestly say that I am so pleased my daughter came to FSG. Whilst, like many youngsters, she doesn't always want to come to school and likes to bend the rules, the opportunities and support she gets are far greater than any other school I know. In fact, her brother regularly says how jealous he is of her after his experiences at school.

With very best wishes to you and the team

And I hope you and your staff don't let this tarnish your shine in any way.

I felt compelled to write to you and your staff after receiving your email with regards to the recent OFSTED report and inspection at FSG.

My daughter is in Year 8 and is currently participating in the Cadet camp. The opportunities and experiences she has encountered since her relatively short time at FSG have been outstanding. She is challenged daily academically (including in set one mathematics) and the progress she is making is evident within her work.

As a parent your visibility at FSG is appreciated - I have only encountered the Head teacher at my sons school once, during their open day! My daughter has also mentioned how you chat to her during lunchtime clubs and at the various challenge days she has participated in.

Thank you to you and your staff for the invaluable effort you put into education on a daily basis and what may, sometimes, seem like a thankless task. Taking on the challenge of educating teenage girls should be commended!

As a parent I could not ask for anything more for my daughter. Your school has exceeded our expectations in all areas and I hope that you and your team really do not give Ofsted a second thought.

Like you, I am disappointed in the grade you received from OFSTED. As you say it is a tick box activity and I don't believe the results are worth paying much attention towards. They clearly don't have an understanding of what holistic education looks like. What you and your staff have done to support my child educationally & pastorally is worth more than an outstanding! I can't thank you enough for all you have done for my daughter and I will continue to tell everyone how great I think you are as a school. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

I have just had sight of the Ofsted report and quite frankly, a snapshot view over a couple of days does not reflect the exceptional school that FSG is.

In my Ofsted parent survey, I highlighted your dedication to the girls as well as that of the teachers. I also flagged that FSG is an exceptional school. As far as I am concerned, a report stating "good" does not change my view of the fantastic job that you all do. My daughter is happy and thriving and is very much looking forward to their big performance at the National Theatre soon.

Keep doing what you are doing, it is appreciated and "outstanding".

We pupils and parents know the school is outstanding.

We really appreciate all the hard work that you and your team put into the FSGBacc. My daughter has had a lot of fun doing radio and continues to get so much from cadets. Just the other day she remarked that she enjoys Fridays a lot more knowing she has cadets after school!

I just wanted to show my support to you all at FSG.

You may not be 'outstanding' in the eyes of Ofsted, but FSG is not just a school - it's a community, a family, an army, raising some outstanding students by some outstanding teachers and outstanding opportunities.

There is no box to tick to say that a kind SDL personally called me to say how proud they were of my daughter when she stood up and delivered a presentation for her EPQ. There is no box to tick to say that a teacher recognised my daughter struggled with a particular subject, but appreciated and how hard she tried and how she took part and made the class a happier place. There is no box to tick for the teacher who was visibly upset when she realised she wouldn't be in school for her class's last A-Level exam. There is no box to tick for the head teacher who shows up on DofE expeditions, cycling around the countryside to check on the welfare of his students. There is no box to tick for the kind form tutor who takes time to provide little gifts and encouraging notes at the end of term or before exams for all her class. And I could go on...

Thank you to ALL of the staff at FSG - I am incredibly grateful for what you do everyday, which is simply immeasurable by Ofsted or anyone else.

Thank you