

Worcester Park school celebrates

Worcester Park's Linden Bridge School caters for 144 students with autism and complex social and communication needs from four to 19-years-old, including 20 in the sixth form and a residential facility which can accommodate 32 places, with pupils typically staying for two nights a week.

The school's pupils are exceptionally well-prepared for future life, and they feel valued and secure as a result of strong relationships with staff, says a recent Ofsted report, which judges pupils' personal development to be 'outstanding'.

The school was inspected in January and graded 'good' overall, recognising the ongoing improvements made since joining **The Howard Partnership Trust** in 2021, at which time it was judged as 'requires improvement.'

Principal, Mrs **Claire Gungah** said "We are absolutely delighted that the inspection report confirms that Linden Bridge School is a good school with an outstanding provision for the personal development of students.

"In highlighting the many strengths in our school, we are particularly pleased that the report recognises that we are delivering on our core mission, and acknowledges the hard work of staff, the Trust and support from our community in developing the school".

Noting that the report celebrated students being a credit to the school, and demonstrated their strong relationships with staff, she added

"A huge thank you needs to go to the students who were at the heart of the process and as always, made us proud throughout the inspection showcasing their maturity, friendships, communication skills and pride in their achievements."

The report says both the school and the Trust have 'rightly prioritised' improving the curriculum. Work had started at the last inspection, but it has 'gone from strength-to-strength.'

"The school's carefully designed curriculum is now well established in most subjects," notes the inspector.

"Learning to read is given a high priority. A new phonics programme has been introduced since the last inspection and is now securely established. Comprehensive training has ensured that staff are confident about teaching phonics," says the report.

"The school provides an extensive and ambitious range of events and activities. For instance, all pupils experience a sporting event and the oldest pupils are involved in organising events such as sports week."