



Downe House

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## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Downe House School rated 'excellent' in ISI Inspection 2017

A Berkshire independent school has been awarded the highest possible rating in all areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, maintaining its national reputation for outstanding teaching and care in the competitive single-sex boarding sector.

Downe House in Cold Ash underwent a comprehensive inspection of its teaching, pastoral care, facilities and extra-curricular provision in March as part of the regular inspection procedures for independent schools. The key findings of the report acknowledged the excellence of the School in every single area under inspection. The work of staff in fulfilling the School's aims and the outstanding achievements of the pupils in academic studies and personal development were subjects of particular praise.

The report recognised the high standard of academic achievement of the pupils in public examinations, the clear, professional, well-planned teaching, exceptionally articulate pupils and an extensive range of extra-curricular pursuits. Pupils were said 'to approach their academic and other challenges spiritedly and with a sense of adventure.'

It also praised the School's pastoral care, finding that, 'pupils develop into young women with high levels of self-esteem, well prepared to face their future confidently and boldly.'

Headmistress Mrs Emma McKendrick commented, "I am delighted that the Inspectors have captured the essence of the School so effectively, have recognised all that the staff contribute with such dedication and skill every day and have, most importantly, been able to appreciate the girls, all that they achieve and the people that they are."

From a personal development perspective the inspectors found that 'the pupils behave extremely well, displaying a genuine concern and respect for one another.' On global matters, 'girls are appreciative of needs in this country and other cultures and issues in the wider world' and 'undertake ambitious charity

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work at home and abroad,' a full reflection of the School's aim to develop girls with a global outlook who can play a positive part in the world as outstanding women of the future.

In line with the School's boarding aims, the boarding provision was rated of very high quality and Downe was found to be 'a real home from home,' a testament to the exceptional dedication of the Housestaff.

The full report can be read at [www.downehouse.net](http://www.downehouse.net) by following the ISI logo.

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**Note to editors:** Downe House is an independent boarding school for girls aged 11-18 located in Cold Ash, Thatcham.

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