



22 July 2023

## Annual Statement 2022/23

It would be remiss of me not to start by mentioning the tragic events at the Study Preparatory School in Wimbledon that took place a couple of weeks ago. A shocking incident that is unimaginable. Our thoughts and prayers are with all families that were affected.

As another academic year ends, on behalf of the Rutlish Full Governing Body (FGB) I would like to thank all school staff for their efforts and dedication over the last 12 months. To that, I add my thanks to our Parents & Carers for their steadfast support and of course to all our students from Year 7 right up to Year 13 for their enthusiasm, hard work and participation across all elements of life at Rutlish School.

At time of writing, it appears likely the Government will appoint Sir Martyn Oliver, CEO of Outwood Grange Academies, as Chief Inspector for Ofsted from the start of 2024. His approach to the role will be interesting in light of the various public issues that have arisen under Amanda Spielman's leadership, including the death of Ruth Perry. Not to mention a potential change in Government within his first year.

In 2023/24, Rutlish School is due to undergo an Ofsted Section 5 Inspection. Governors have received the self-evaluation form (SEF) for the academic year just ending and the School Development Plan (SDP) for the academic year ahead. Both documents are very positive. Rutlish is an Outstanding School. While the most recent Ofsted Section 8 Inspection in April 2022 identified a few areas for improvement, these are being addressed and I am quietly confident that a two-day Section 5 Inspection will confirm our Outstanding unqualified rating. There is certainly no room for complacency, however, and we must all strive to ensure every element is pretty much perfect to scrutiny. Only a handful of Schools retain their Outstanding classification and we are determined that Rutlish will be among them.

School has experienced some industrial action this academic year but I believe unions have or are looking to agree to the latest Government pay offer, so hope that the 2023/24 academic year will be free of further disruption. My thanks go to staff for endeavouring to ensure this year's unrest has had minimal impact on our students, who are of course always front of mind for us all.

As mentioned at the Year 11 Graduation event, my best wishes to our legendary maths teacher Mrs Karen Mills who retires this term after 42 years of teaching mathematics. Many thanks for everything that you have contributed to Rutlish School over the 25 years we have been fortunate to have you on the staff roll. Enjoy your retirement and please stay in touch.

Year 11 has been a very strong cohort so School is feeling optimistic about forthcoming public exam results at KS4 – ditto for KS5. We should not forget the impact that the pandemic has had on these two year groups and I sincerely hope that their hard work is rewarded when results are announced in August.

I am very pleased to report considerable improvement in enrichment activities at Rutlish School this year. Increased choice in sporting and non-sporting clubs, curricular and extra-curricular events and opportunities across all years contributes to our goal of exceptionality. The diversity and number of clubs on offer continues to grow, from GSA, coding, board games and chess, to CCF, D&D, music and art.



Highlights include prizes and achievements for our students in maths and literacy, while two Year 12 students were runners up in the London School of Economics MOOT competition and the School's Jazz & Blues musicians performed at Wimbledon High School.

This academic year saw trips to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, the United Nations in Switzerland, the annual Year 10 Geography Field Trip, CCF summer camp, Year 10 DofE expeditions and more. Students will have the chance to enjoy a wide range of overseas trips in 2023/24, including our now annual visit to Ypres and WWI battlefields, a German Christmas market in November, skiing in Salzburg in February and a language visit to Paris next July.

I would like to thank all staff who give up their time to help facilitate enrichment activities for the benefit of the boys.

Thanks too to Rutlish PTA which provides vital support to the School through volunteer and fundraising activities of which there are many, including family BBQs and our Graduation events. The PTA continues to raise funds for ongoing improvements to our beautiful Memorial Garden and has instituted regular second hand uniform sales. Your input and enthusiasm is much appreciated.

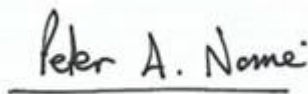
Further thanks go to the Rutlish Foundation for continued support of the School, including stepping in to pay for a hearty daily breakfast for all boys and staff who need one as the rising cost of living impacted many of our families this year. The Rutlish Foundation will continue this support into 2023/24.

Another stakeholder in the Rutlish Family is the Old Rutlishians' Association which has very kindly provided its Poplar Road HQ to support the school across a variety of functions throughout the past year.

Lastly, my fellow governors who are all unpaid volunteers yet continue to contribute their valuable time and expertise for the benefit of the School in their essential governance role: thank you.

As School staff leave the site for a well-earned summer vacation, it is only left for me to wish them well and reiterate my gratitude for the efforts of all who have contributed to a successful academic year 2022/23. We look forward to going again with another cohort of 240 new Year 7 students who will be starting their secondary school careers at Rutlish School in September.

Yours faithfully



Peter A Norrie  
Chair, Rutlish School Full Governing Body

