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PRESS RELEASE

It's Official- Cantonian is "Best in Class"!

GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS today proclaimed Cantonian High School "best in class"- the first school in Wales to receive two "Excellent" ratings in a new inspection regime.

The report, published today by Estyn, HM Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, highly praised the Cardiff secondary school, singling out pupil wellbeing and support, the care and guidance it gave to its children and Cantonian's sector leading practise in encouraging inclusivity and partnership working.

John Sheppard, Chair of Governors, commented: "This is an outstanding result for the school and it's fantastic for the Cantonian "family", reflecting really well on the hard work of all the staff and, more importantly, on the strong and positive impact they are having on improving the life chances of our pupils – who come predominantly from families in Fairwater and Pentrebane."

The Government Inspectors pinpointed a strong set of performance positives stating: "This is a good school because most pupils gain a good range of qualifications.... (Their) wellbeing is a high priority and all pupils can learn in a safe, secure and inclusive environment and members of staff support pupils progress very well." Learning experiences are good. There is an extensive range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and pupils are actively encouraged to contribute to school life

Their report concluded that the sound foundations laid by Cantonian's staff and pupils held the promise of building even further improvement because of:

- "The effective leadership of the headteacher and senior staff;
- The high quality of self-evaluation and planning for improvement; and
- The strong and well established practice of partnership working."

As part of the inspection Estyn conducted a survey of both parents and pupils with 86% of parents responding that they were very positive, or positive about the education their children received. The pupils themselves commented that they were doing well, their teachers help them make progress in their education and the school is preparing them well for the next stage of their education or for their working life.

The Head of Cantonian High School, Lois Spargo, added
“We are very pleased that the excellent work achieved by pupils and staff, supported by parents and the community, has been recognised by Estyn.”

The Estyn report confirms the excellent progress Cantonian has made over recent years. In particular, in 2010 the school achieved its best exam results ever with 60.25% of pupils achieving five or more GCSE or equivalent paces at grades A – C. This was the third year in succession that exam results had improved – a trailblazing trend among schools in the capital.

For further information contact:

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Note to Editors: The full report is available from 14th April either from the school or on the Estyn web-site