

Letter for children and young people

Name of boarding or residential special school: Rikkyo School in England

URN: SC014681

Date of inspection: 30 April 2019

Hello Everyone,

You may remember that Sarah, John, Dan and I recently did an inspection of the boarding provision at the Rikkyo School? I am writing to let you know our judgements on how well the boarding provision is doing.

First of all I would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who spoke to us, to let us know your views on the boarding facility, and what it is like to be a boarder at the school. This really helped when we were thinking about how well the boarding facility is doing.

We decided to give the boarding provision a judgement of 'good'. We think the staff work hard to make sure you are well looked after. They encourage you to do well in your studies, and listen if you have any problems. Many of you told us that if you were worried about anything you would speak to a teacher, the chaplain, the independent listener or the counsellor. Dr Okano and the staff are keen for you to express your views on how the school is run, and how well you are looked after.

Many of you told us that although you have told teachers that the quality of the food is not good, nothing has been done to address this. We also found out that you do not have the facilities to make healthy snacks and drinks in the boarding houses. I have asked Dr Okano to make changes to address these two issues.

During the inspection we examined how effectively the teachers keep you safe. We thought that overall, the teachers make a good job of this. However, we thought more effective action could have been taken on two occasions when the privacy of students was not fully respected.

When we spoke to some of the younger students, they told us that when they first arrived at the school the older students made them feel welcome, and were very kind to them. We thought it was positive

that you all try to live as one big family at the Rikkyo School.

We asked many of you if bullying was a problem in the school, and everyone we spoke to said it was not. We thought Dr Okano, and all of the teaching staff are working hard to ensure that none of you become the victims of bullying.

The school regularly arranges educational visits, and this gives you the opportunity to learn about life in the United Kingdom and have fun. Many of you also said you had a positive experience of staying with a homestay family, where you were also taken out on trips.

We have made some other recommendations, so that the school becomes an even better place for you to live and study. These relate to reviewing the security arrangements, planning and ensuring that the trustees keep up-to-date with how the teachers ensure you are always kept safe.

Thank you again for making us so welcome. We really enjoyed our time talking to you, and would like to wish you great success in the future.

Stephen

Social Care Regulatory Inspector