

An aerial photograph of Hurst School, a large stone building complex with a central church tower, surrounded by green fields and trees. The image is framed by a red diagonal overlay. The text "ISI Inspection Report" is written in white serif font in the bottom left corner, and "Hurst" is written in white serif font, rotated 90 degrees, in the bottom right corner.

# ISI Inspection Report

November 2023

Hurst



A portrait of a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is dark and out of focus.

“School leaders have  
a clear vision for the  
school.”

The College was inspected by ISI (the Independent Schools Inspectorate) at the end of November. This came as a surprise to us because ISI were aware that we were in the midst of internal exams; the timing meant that they were unable to observe any lessons for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. Nevertheless, the inspection team were able to get a good sense of Hurst and I feel that the report reflects the strengths of the College.

The new ISI Inspection Framework came into force in September 2023 and comprises two strands. The first is to ensure compliance with the standards, regulations and legal requirements of an independent school, with a particular focus on the National Minimum Boarding standards and safeguarding. As you would rightly expect from a school such as Hurst, the report confirms that all these standards have been met. The second is to evaluate the quality of education provided, with a real focus on the pupils’ academic achievements and personal development. There are no longer any gradings (e.g. ‘Good’) and I encourage you to read the full report for a more nuanced assessment of the College’s overall performance. This year, however, ISI have introduced a new concept of a ‘significant strength’. This is designed to be a real accolade

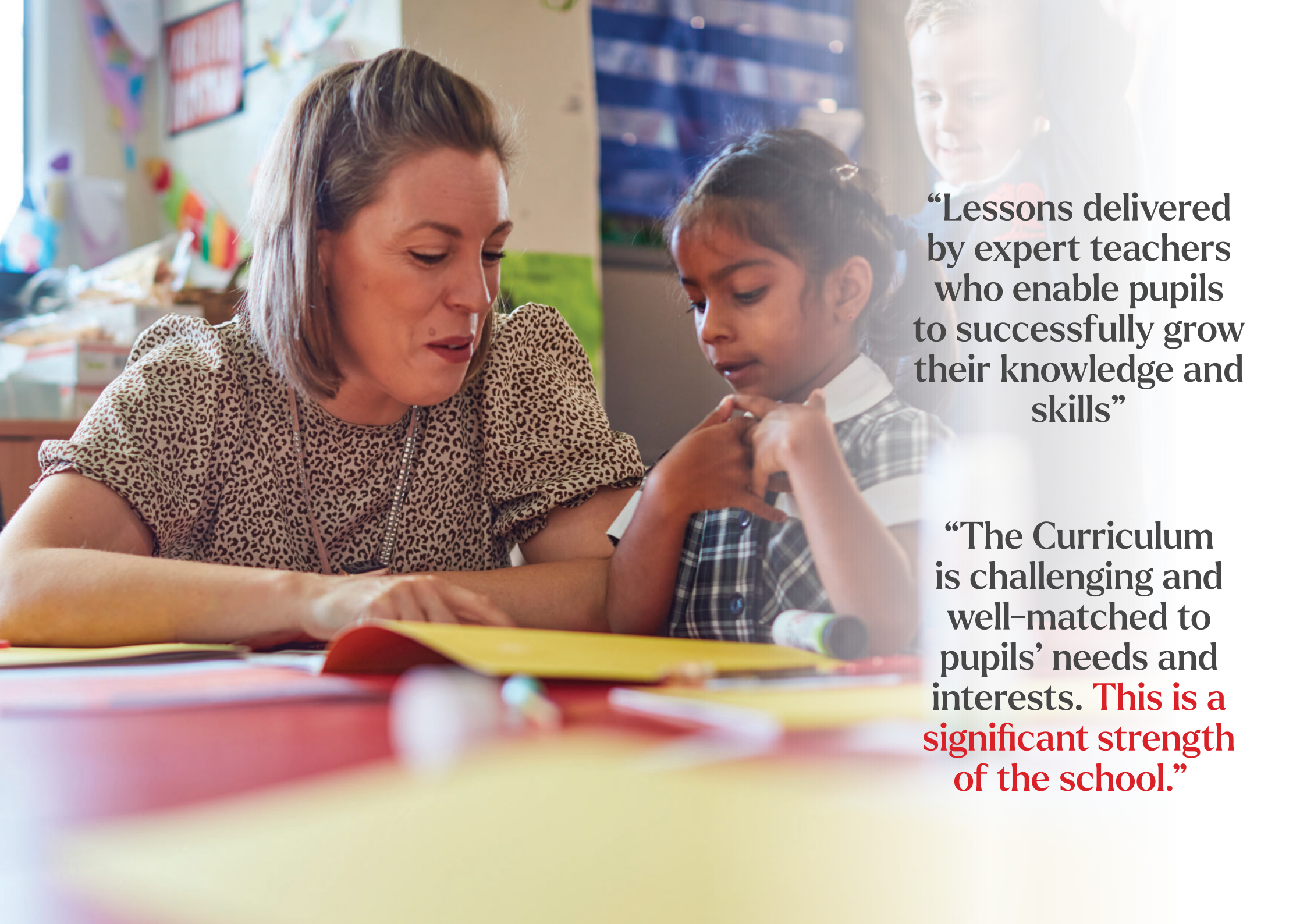
highlighting a particular aspect of a school that stands out as being worthy of particular note. We are not aware of any other school having been awarded a significant strength so far, though there are over a hundred reports published so far and we may have missed it. Either way, it is very pleasing to be able to report that we have been highlighted as having a significant strength for setting high expectations and aspirations, offering a challenging curriculum, and ensuring that effective teaching is translated into pupil outcomes. That may not sound overly exciting to most people, but in the language of ISI reports that is about as effusive as it comes!

I encourage you to read the full report on our website, but for those of you reluctant to wade through the full report, some of the highlights are set out in this booklet.

We are incredibly proud and delighted to see our pupils and staff receive such flowing recognition from the inspectors. Their positive feedback is testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

Best wishes,

**Dominic Mott,**  
*Head of College*



**“Lessons delivered by expert teachers who enable pupils to successfully grow their knowledge and skills”**

**“The Curriculum is challenging and well-matched to pupils’ needs and interests. This is a significant strength of the school.”**



**“Leaders have strengthened the school’s promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion, which has enhanced the school’s inclusive environment.”**

**“Teaching is effective, and as a result, pupils make good progress from their starting points year on year.”**







**“Pupils are focused and engaged in lessons.”**

**“Pupils thrive on the challenge, structure, discipline and opportunities provided by the school”**

**“A classroom atmosphere conducive to high-level learning.”**



**“Lessons in PSHE  
help pupils to develop  
a keen awareness  
of bullying and its  
impact.”**

**“As a result, bullying  
happens very rarely.  
When it does occur,  
staff deal with  
it promptly and  
effectively.”**








**“Pupils have opportunities to make valuable contributions to the wider community.”**





**“Pupils learn how to  
evaluate their work  
effectively.”**

**“The teacher training  
programme, ‘Teach  
Hurst’, has helped  
raise teaching  
standards.”**



A photograph of two young students, a girl and a boy, sitting at a desk in a classroom. They are both wearing dark blue school uniforms with white collars and red heart-shaped badges. They are focused on writing on papers with pencils. The background is softly blurred, showing a bright, airy classroom environment. The text is overlaid in the top right corner in a black serif font.

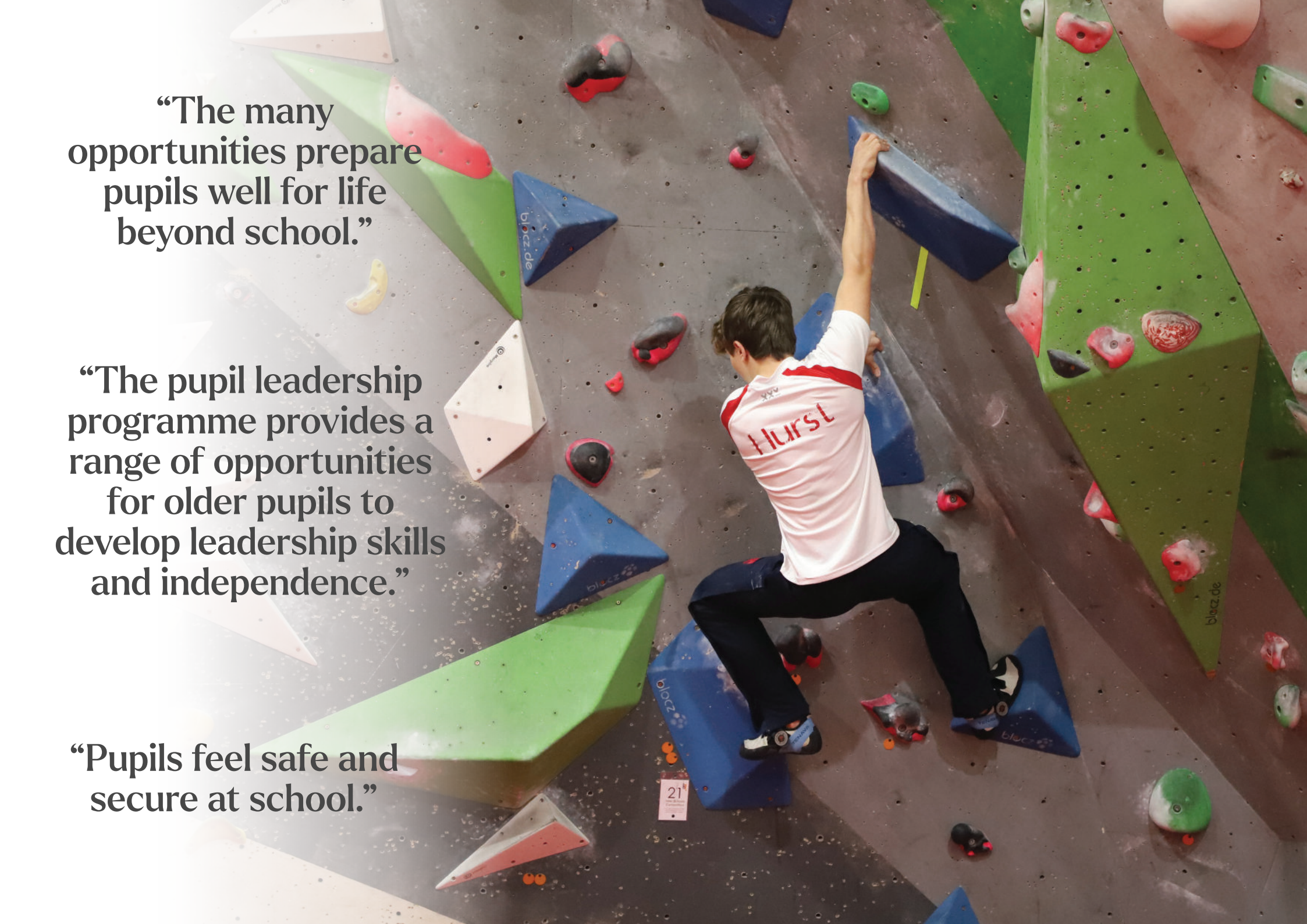
**“The tailored approach  
to teaching promotes  
independence and helps  
pupils to make good  
academic progress.”**



**“The many opportunities prepare pupils well for life beyond school.”**

**“The pupil leadership programme provides a range of opportunities for older pupils to develop leadership skills and independence.”**

**“Pupils feel safe and secure at school.”**







“Pupils are given plenty of opportunities to express their views and opinions, as well as raise concerns.”



**“Leaders actively  
promote the  
wellbeing of pupils.”**

**“The extensive  
co-curricular  
programme extends  
pupils’ social and  
educational needs.”**

**“Pupils feel well  
supported.”**







**“Pupils understand the importance of diversity and being part of a community that is tolerant and respectful. The School’s ethos and pupils’ attitudes are tolerant, respectful and inclusive”**

**“The school’s provision of co-curricular activities supports the school’s aim to provide pupils with a worthwhile and enjoyable education.”**



**“The boarding provision addresses boarders’ physical and emotional needs and supports their wellbeing.”**

**“Effective pastoral care and support enables pupils to develop self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.”**







I hope that this booklet gives you a sense of the pupil experience at Hurst and that you enjoy the highlights of the brilliant things that our pupils and staff do on a daily basis. At the same time, it can only give you a flavour of life at Hurst, so I do encourage you to read the full report on our website at [hppc.co.uk/about-us/inspection-reports](https://hppc.co.uk/about-us/inspection-reports) where you can find a more detailed review of all aspects of a Hurst education.

One of those aspects is a constant striving to improve what we do. In amongst all of the positive comments, you will also find the two recommendations for future improvement on page 4 of the report. In both cases, the inspection team were reassured that plans were already being developed to address these areas at the time of the inspection. Two months later, at the time of publication, the leadership team have already responded. We have come up with some important changes to RSE and the structure of the week to ensure that we continue to improve the educational offering at Hurst for the benefit of each and every pupil.

Of course, even if you read the whole document you will still only get a snapshot of life at Hurst. So much of what makes Hurst such a wonderful school and community is the culture, the dynamic and the warmth that our pupils and staff display every day. So please do visit and see for yourselves all that we have to offer, and I look forward to seeing you at Hurst soon.

Best wishes,

**Dominic Mott,**  
*Head of College*



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