

Top of the class

by **TRISTAN KIRK**

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A KENTON secondary school is celebrating after being rated outstanding by Government inspectors.

Claremont High School, in Claremont Avenue, was rigorously inspected last month by schools watchdog Ofsted, and came out with top marks, placing it among the best eight per cent of high schools in the country.

Inspector Gill Close said in her report: "Students care about each other and get on well together.

"Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. They make an excellent contribution to the school and wider community.

"Students very much enjoy coming to school and have particularly high attendance."

She praised the staff for their commitment to the school and noted the high success rate of pupils in maths and English.

Inspectors observed dozens of lessons and interviewed teachers, pupils, and parents during their visit on May 12 and 13.

Inspection rules have changed since the last time the school was assessed, making achieving an outstanding rating tougher, and the school was praised for improving its work with minority groups in and out of the classroom.



■ **Great result: Headteacher Terry Molloy, left, is delighted his school is rated one of the top eight per cent in the country**

Headteacher Terry Molloy welcomed the report which was published today, saying: "We are absolutely delighted that our school has been recognised by Ofsted.

"Ours is a true community working together with one overriding ambition — to support, enable and challenge our students to do the very best they can do.

"To have this recognised as 'outstanding' is fantastic and a testament to the dedication of our exceptional team and the support of our governors and families."

As one of the top ranking schools, Claremont High can automatically apply for academy status if it chooses to, under new government directives, giving Mr Molloy and his senior staff a bigger budget and more control over how the school is run.



What do you think about Claremont School's achievement?

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