

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr A Celano, BSc (Hons), MEd



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8 January 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that you enjoyed a Happy and Holy Christmas, and are now having a peaceful start to the New Year. I am writing to update you in respect of our most recent Inspection Report. As you may be aware from our Winter Magazine, we received a routine 48-hour notice inspection just before Christmas, and hosted four inspectors for two days on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. The inspection was undertaken by the Diocese of Westminster under Section 48 of the Education act 2005.

The inspection has 11 judgements; 9 individual judgements and 2 overarching judgements. The results of the inspection are summarised as follows, the full report is on our website, and of course we are very pleased with the outcome.

Whilst Inspections come in various shapes and sizes, this was a very significant inspection for us as it externally validated what is most dear to us: the very essence of life at St. Mary's, including our Catholicity and our Religious Education.

It is hard to summarise the entire report in a short letter, but I would like to draw your attention to the first page which provides a useful summary. The key judgements are also listed below, and I have included just four of the many quotes we feel provide a most accurate and pleasing reflection of the school.

Inspection Area	Outcome
Pupil Achievement	Outstanding
Quality of Teaching	Outstanding
Effectiveness of Leadership & Management in RE	Outstanding
Scope & Coverage of the Curriculum Directory	Outstanding
Religious Education as Core Curriculum	Outstanding
Catholic Worship	Outstanding
Contribution to the Common Good	Outstanding
Partnership between parents, school, parish & Diocese	Outstanding
Effectiveness of Leadership and Management whole school	Outstanding
Overall judgement: Curriculum RE	Outstanding
Overall judgement: Catholic Life	Outstanding

*"There is a relentless pursuit for excellence..."*

*"Pupils are provided with an inspiring, vibrant and engaging curriculum...high quality teaching and learning ensures that all pupils achieve their full potential... lessons are well crafted by expert teachers and learning is challenging and inspiring"*

"The school's motto: 'achieving excellence for all' has become a reality at this outstanding school" (Section 5 OFSTED Inspection)

"There is a relentless pursuit for excellence..." (Section 48 Inspection, January 2018)

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*"The school has a rich and vibrant Catholic life which supports pupils academically, socially and spiritually. Pupils enjoy coming to school and are very proud to be a part of the community."*

*"('our very strong sense of service and mission'...) colours all management decisions and policy making. As a result, the school has a very strong Catholic ethos with deep foundations".*

Parents, whilst the events of life inevitably bring good times and bad, these are God willing, exciting times in the life of our school. My association with the school began in the 1980s when I arrived here as a fresh-faced First Former (Year 7, to use current terminology). I did not then imagine I would return in 2015 to oversee a £1million Science Refurbishment Project, and hopefully an even bigger £multi-million redevelopment of our oldest buildings. And of course, whilst the bricks and mortar of improving our school is an important development, the development of our students and school community is always the higher purpose.

Therefore, to be able to send you all a report such as this is a real pleasure and privilege. The report highlights the fruits of the valuable hard work that goes on at the school, day in day out. To read that pupils enjoy coming to school and our proud to be a part of our community is something, amongst many other things, that we can all be truly pleased with. I am constantly reminded, particularly at times like this, how blessed St. Mary's is to have supportive staff, parents, pupils, parish priests, governors, Friends of St. Mary's, St. Mary's Association and wider community: Thank you all, and may God bless you in 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Celano  
Headteacher