



Archbishop Illesley Catholic School

'Justus et Tenax Propositi'

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Head teacher: Mr Glen Alexander



Dear Parents,

On the reverse of this letter you will find a letter from the Diocesan Education Service. It summarises their findings when they visited us in October 2014. They carried out a Section 48 Inspection, this is similar to an Ofsted inspection, but focussed on the teaching of Religious Studies and the Catholic Life of the school.

The report is very positive and recognises the many good things that we as a school, with the support of you as Parents, do to improve the school. The report recognises the strength of the teaching of Religious Studies, and the outstanding results that are achieved at GCSE and A-Level in that area, indeed we are above the 2014 National Averages in these areas.

Overall we were graded as good, however much of the work that we are doing is described as outstanding. This is great credit to the team that were under the spotlight in this inspection. Thank you to Mr El'Habid (Assistant Head Teacher), Mr Gray (Head of Religious Studies Faculty), Mr Crehan (Assistant Head Teacher), Mr Dougan, Mr Bayliss, Miss Bolton, Mr Corrigan, Mrs Bryne, and Father Craig (School Chaplain). But it is also great credit to you as Parents because the attitudes and behaviour of your children throughout this period was exemplary.

The report also evidences that as a whole school we are making very positive steps forward since our last Ofsted Inspection in July 2013.

The full report is available on our school website or on request from the school office.

We deserve a moment of celebration and then resume our journey to outstanding.

Glen Alexander
Head Teacher

Here are some quotes from the report:-

- *Archbishop Illesley School is improving rapidly. It is a good school with an abundance of outstanding features and is ...progressing towards outstanding in Catholic Life and RE.*
- *Self-evaluation rightly judges spiritual and moral development as a real strength of the school.*
- *The governing body is seen as a strength in terms of commitment to the school.*
- *The inclusion of teaching about the major world faiths into the Catholic curriculum is much appreciated by them, and they recognise how this prepares them for life in 21st century Britain.*
- *Sixth formers are proud to act as leaders of Catholic Life within tutor groups and have earned the respect of younger pupils. Pupils are proud of the Catholic ethos of their school and willing to contribute to it.*
- *The school benefits greatly from the work and commitment of the priest chaplain.*
- *Teaching in RE is at least good and often outstanding.*
- *Pupils are proud of the Catholic ethos of their school and willing to contribute to it. They participate well in assemblies and show commitment to the school's innovation of vertical tutoring with a new house system which they judge to be a way of making friends outside their year groups and improving behaviour.*
- *The Head Teacher and his staff are totally committed to improvement which has been invigorated by key decisions in structures and appointments over the last year.*

