

BRIEFING

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SCHOOL HONOURED: Award ceremony joy for teachers



WORLD CLASS: Maureen Martin looks in on an art lesson

Photo by David Cook CRDC20160106A

Coloma is named as world class in historic first for the borough

By **Sam Truelove**
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A CROYDON school has become the first ever in the borough – and one of only 34 in the whole country – to achieve 'world class' status.

Coloma Convent Girls' School was given the World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM), awarded to schools that have "moved beyond" the Ofsted outstanding rating, in December.

The Upper Shirley Road school, which has consistently been one of Croydon's top performing and most oversubscribed schools, was given the award at an awards ceremony held at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

Anne-Marie Stott, deputy head teacher at Coloma Convent Girls' School, said: "We are extremely proud of all our students in the achievement of this 'World Class Schools Status', particularly as Coloma is one of just 34 schools in the country to have received this prestigious award."

Support

"We know success is a team effort at Coloma and we would like to thank all our staff, governors, parents and friends of Coloma for the continued support they give to our students. We are delighted that these achievements have culminated in us attaining with this prestigious status mark.

"Coloma is now looking forward to the opportunities this new mark will

'BIG MO' IS TAKING A BREAK

THE head teacher of Coloma Convent Girls' School is "taking a break".

Maureen Martin OBE has led the school since 1986 and has seen the Catholic school consistently come out as one of the top performing in Croydon.

Mrs Martin, known affectionately as Big Mo to her pupils, received an honour from the Queen in the New Year's Honours list at the start of 2016.

But she hasn't been at the school for a number of weeks.

Speaking to the Advertiser, a

spokeswoman for the school explained that parents have been informed that Mrs Martin has been "taking a break" since December 9.

The spokeswoman could not say when Mrs Martin was returning to the school.

But she insisted that she was still head teacher and that the governors had been "very happy" to allow her some time away.

Jackie Johnson, who was previously head teacher at St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls, in Carshalton, has taken on the role as acting head teacher.

They were highly commended by the assessors.

Following the audit stage, three student ambassadors attended the final assessment day at the Wren Academy in North London, where they had to demonstrate advanced teamwork and organisational skills.

Their final video on how Coloma embodies the World Class Standards was shown at the awards ceremony.

All schools that apply for the WCSQM must first excel in their Key Stage 4 performance before they are eligible. Students must be highly confident in science, mathematics, technology and culture and be able to

meet the knowledge of the best students around the world.

They must consistently outperform students from similar backgrounds and be dedicated to learning. They must also be globally aware so that they are confident in living and working in an international environment.

Mark

Miranda Perry, co-director of WCSQM, said: "The mark is about recognising how well the top secondary schools in the country prepare their students to thrive in the 21st century. We are absolutely delighted to have Coloma on board. We are a network of some of the best non-selective state schools in the country and so it is a privilege to have Coloma work with us."

Coloma was ranked among the top 250 secondary schools in the whole of the UK at the end of last year.

Compiled annually, the Sunday Times' top 250 list compares more than 3,000 state-funded schools across the UK and ranks them in order of their GCSE and A-level results. The 2016 table was published on November 27, based on a combination of the percentage of pupils who got at least one A* to B grade at A level and those who got at least one A* or A grade in their GCSEs.

Coloma was ranked 170th on the list with scores of 67.1 per cent and 47.4 per cent respectively.