

EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' SERVICE



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Interim Monitoring Visit

St John Fisher Catholic High School, Peterborough.

11th December 2018.

St John Fisher Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic comprehensive school which provides secondary education for approximately 750 students aged 11-18 years of age.

The Headteacher Mr Sean Hayes has overall responsibility for the Catholic life of the school and is assisted by the Deputy Head Tom Reilly. The Interim monitoring visit of 5 hours included:

- Meeting with Lay Chaplain
- Observation of two form groups' acts of worship
- Meeting with Fr Adam (governor)
- Participation in the weekly voluntary Mass
- Discussion with student panel
- Meeting with Headteacher, Deputy Head and Head of RE Clodagh O'Connor to discuss the developments since the last inspection in 2013
- Learning walk including yr7, yr8, yr10 and yr12 classes
- Work scrutiny
- Plenary meeting to discuss the findings of the day in relation to the recommendations of the last section 48 inspection.

Students are rightly proud of the school and were very keen to point out the strong, caring and professional relationships they had with the staff. They feel very safe in the school and feel supported by the caring ethos of the school. The students have a strong sense of the school's background and vision, and live out the school's mission statement "I have come that they might have life to the full" in the charitable works they so keenly undertake. The lay chaplain works well with the "Student Chaplaincy team" who assists the Catholic life of the school in a variety of different tasks and duties. The voluntary Mass on a Tuesday is well attended by the students and all are made to feel very welcome regardless of background or belief. Students spoke very highly of the penitential services in Advent and Lent where a reflective atmosphere was created before the sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated.

The RE department is well led; it has a high profile within the school and enjoys exceptionally high A-Level results. ALPS scores also highlight the impressive levels of progress that the school makes with

students from point of entry to exit. GCSE results have been consistently maintained and show progress in line with the national average.

The school has responded well and appropriately to the recommendations in the last section 48 report and has made solid and sustained progress with regards to all four action points.

1 Continue to develop the chaplaincy, looking for increasing levels for student leadership.

Student involvement in chaplaincy is clearly evident through the school's Self Evaluation (SEF), and through the weekly chaplaincy meeting with students. It was really pleasing to see the support given to students by the lay chaplain who enthused great passion for the school. There is a spiritual uniformity across the school where teachers and students share acts of collective worship in a respectful and reflective manner. **The diocesan inspector recommends that the school should use the excellent format for form group worship to include traditional acts of Catholic prayer such as the Rosary or Stations of the Cross where appropriate.**

2 Continue to monitor work to ensure regular and thorough marking in line with the school's marking policy. A robust system of monitoring and scrutiny **is in place** across the school. This involves learning walks and book scrutinies from the Head of RE and SLT respectively. As a result of this policy, the quality of work and marking is outstanding. Students were well aware of their level of achievement and had clear direction in order to make continued progress to the next level. Feedback to teachers' comments was encouraged and in the best cases technical challenges were responded to by students with detailed responses.

3 Plan differentiation tasks as part of the schemes of work and lesson plans to stretch the able, gifted and talented and support those with special needs. Differentiation **is clearly evident** in the SEF, in the RE development plan and in students' books. It was pleasing to note that the RE department fully embraced the diverse needs of the students with challenging and appropriate work. Staff has a real understanding of students' needs.

4 Once departmental members have embedded the consistent approach to teaching outstanding lessons, allow them greater autonomy when appropriate to give opportunity for variety. The head of RE has a clear vision for her department. She works tirelessly and collaboratively with her colleagues in order to provide an accessible and engaging curriculum. **There is great consistency** in the department, and RE teachers demonstrated strong individual skills and talents.

The inspector agrees with the school's self evaluation and suggests that Religious Education could possibly be outstanding, due to innovations developed to enhance learning in the RE department, the amazing RE A-level results, the progress of students at KS3 and KS4 and the ongoing commitment to differentiation.

I would like to thank everyone at St John Fisher for the warm welcome I received during my visit.

Damian Wallace, Diocesan Section 48 Inspector