



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

**REPORT ON THE
MONITORING INSPECTION
OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS**

All Hallows Catholic College, Macclesfield

URN: 139139

21st March 2016

Inspector – Mr J Wilbraham

The areas of focus in this monitoring inspection were :-

1. **OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS** - How well students achieve and enjoy learning in RE and RS.
2. **LEADERS AND MANAGERS** – How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school and plan and implement improvement of outcomes for pupils.
3. **PROVISION** – The quality of Collective Worship

This inspection confirms the College's self-evaluation which judges itself **outstanding** in all areas of its provision for Catholic Education.

1. OUTCOMES for STUDENTS

Outcomes for students are consistently high in all key stages. This is indicated by an increasing number of students taking Religious Studies at A level, up from 6 in 2013 to a current 19 in Year 12 with an anticipated 23 in September 2016. There is a positive value-added (ALPS) score, which has also risen from 1.06 to 1.09 in three of four years from 2012 to 2015. In GCSE RS from 2013 to 2015, A*-C grades have been high and rising (73.9%, 76.8%, 77.8%), consistently matching or outperforming other core subjects; a positive value-added residual of 2.3 was the highest subject score for male and female combined, and 3.1 the highest for female students in 2015.

At KS 3, over time RE closely mirrors English at end of Year 8 with 85% or more achieving level 5 or above. The General RE programme in the Sixth Form is well-structured, effectively delivered and well-received by students who participate in the varied and engaging activities.

The standard of teaching throughout the department is consistently high and leadership and management with effective monitoring for quality is highly effective. The Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme and 'Flight Path' strategies provide stimulus and purpose for effective learning and teaching. Students are clear about targets and what they need to do to achieve them.

Students engage with the subject and enjoy it, while benefitting from clear, consistent and informative assessment and marking. Their experiences within curricular religious education are carried beyond the classroom into the students' broader experiences of college life: for example in collective worship and Christian social enterprise.

2. LEADERS AND MANAGERS

The Principal provides outstanding leadership and inspiration, and he is supported by the Deputy and Assistant Principals, Governing Body, Chaplains, RE team and the other managers and staff of the college, who are deeply committed to the college's clearly declared Catholic values. There is clear evidence that these values are not only stated in policies, but are firmly embedded in the consciousness and daily practices of the whole college community. The Principal and other leaders constantly and carefully monitor the development of these values and ensure their application to the whole life of the college. Regular parental satisfaction surveys and the recent pre-inspection questionnaire provide positive evidence that the college lives out its values in its provision, ethos and culture.

3. PROVISION for COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship and prayer are treated as a vital and integral component of the daily life of the college, and are facilitated by the Chaplaincy team, supported by the staff as a whole. Liturgical events are well-supported also by the Performing Arts Faculty. Student ownership and participation are additionally supported and encouraged by the Faith Council, involving students and staff who aim to enhance student ownership and engagement in the religious life of the college. Worship and Prayer are linked to practical activities, inspired by the 'Pay It Forward' philosophy to enrich the students' spiritual, moral and cultural education and the living out of Christian values. Examples of this are the many activities and experiences provided by the college, such as support for a community development project working with the Presentation Sisters in India, the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, regular retreats and 'Faith Days'. The Catholic ethos of the college is palpable in relationships and is supported by inspirational images and quotations, which are displayed throughout the college. The worship and prayer activities reflect a clear indication of the college's commitment to its mission and include the spiritual aspirations and needs of the students. Local priests lead the celebration of Mass for a variety of events such as welcoming new students or special feast days, with a regular weekly rota to provide students with a positive experience of Eucharistic celebration.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Outcomes for students, the provision for Catholic Education, leadership and management of the Catholic life of the college and the RE department are all confirmed by this inspection as **outstanding**. The values of the college are strongly evidenced throughout in terms of practice, aspiration and relationships. Not only does the college provide for excellence in academic terms, but it is able to ensure that this excellence includes its provision for the education, welfare and spiritual well-being of students of all ages and needs.

IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION

All issues from the last inspection have been addressed successfully. Additionally, the following improvements have been achieved:

- Students' ownership and leadership of Collective Worship and Prayer have further developed and are a very strong feature of the Catholic Ethos.
- Staff from all backgrounds feel able to make a strong contribution to the Catholic ethos of the college and they readily lead prayer and reflection for each other as well as for the students.
- The college provides significant support to other diocesan schools, both in teaching and learning and in the development of Church school ethos.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **There are no issues to be resolved; therefore the recommendation is that the college continues its commitment to a highly effective provision inspired by its core Christian values and its mission statement 'Aspire not to have more but to be more.'**