



Newman Catholic School

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Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, the school had a monitoring inspection by a team from Ofsted in May. I am delighted that the inspectors' findings praise the clear vision for school improvement.

The inspection report, which published this week, confirms that improvements in teaching are having a positive impact on students' progress across the curriculum. This was evidenced in the 2017 exam results and the positive Progress 8 figure.

Inspectors also noted the commitment of governing body to the school, as well as its effective focus on driving improvement.

The inspection team confirmed that school leaders and governors have responded well to the areas for improvement. They commented on the improvements in the quality of teaching and learning.

They also noted that staff feel positive about the school's future and that staff morale is high, with a strong sense of team spirit. This is at a time when we are moving on with our new campus and are looking forward to moving to a fantastic new building.

The team also commented on our effective safeguarding of students, our relentless focus on the importance of good attendance and our drive to ensure disadvantaged students make good progress and reach their potential.

Another focus for improvement is literacy and the inspectors acknowledged how this has been given a high profile across the whole school. Students have a wide range of opportunities to develop their speaking skills and are focussing on literacy skills.

In the context of the inspection, the inspectors carried out joint learning walks with senior leaders and observed students during lessons and social times. They also undertook a scrutiny of students' work across a range of subjects and year groups. They also reviewed the school's safeguarding policies.

A wide range of documentation was also reviewed, including the minutes of governing body and strategic improvement meetings, students' achievement information, behaviour and attendance data, and records of evaluations of teaching. Inspectors scrutinised the records of the external reviews and the school's work in partnership with other schools, the Diocese and the Local Authority. Inspectors also considered feedback from parents, which was positive.

We are already acting upon the inspectors' recommendations and working to bring further progress. We are ambitious for every student in every year group, and are determined that they will receive an excellent education at Newman.

A copy of the monitoring inspection report can be found on the Ofsted website from 13 June: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> or on our school website: <https://newman.cumbria.sch.uk/about-our-school/ofsted>

In addition to this positive news, we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Lancaster, Bishop Paul Swarbrick, to Carlisle on 8 June. Bishop Swarbrick carried out a blessing of the new site for Newman Catholic School and also planted a cherry blossom tree, which will mark new beginnings for the school community.

Bishop Paul took this opportunity to meet with the Knights of St Columba (KSC), who are working with the school to help raise funds for a new chapel at Newman. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support with this fundraising campaign.

It was wonderful to be able to welcome the Bishop, Trustees and representatives of the Diocese of Lancaster, together with members of the local community who have supported the school. These people will work with us in the coming months as we build a new school where our young people will study and grow.

It is fantastic news that we can now move on with our new campus, ensuring that Catholic secondary education continues and develops in Carlisle in a modern and well-resourced environment.

Yours sincerely



J McAuley
Headteacher