



Department for
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LACE
Croxteth Drive
Sefton Park Tel:
Liverpool Fax:
L17 1AA

(0151) 522 1050
(0151) 522 1060

Email: d.seddon@rcaol.co.uk

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Mr Ivan Gaughan
Headteacher
Holy Cross Catholic High School
Myles Standish Way
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 3LS

Dear Mr Gaughan,

Department for Christian Education Monitoring Visit of Holy Cross Catholic High School on 26 January 2017

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Christian Education, Archdiocese of Liverpool to confirm our findings following the monitoring visit to your school on 26 January 2017.

Thank you for your help and the time you, the governors, departmental leaders, staff and pupils offered on the day.

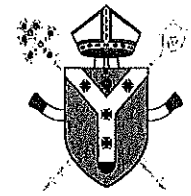
The basis for the visit was the Self Evaluation document and what improvement has been made since the last inspection. The main findings of the visit are enclosed with this letter.

The school's Section 48 inspection will take place during the academic year 2018 to 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Rev Des Seddon
Director of Christian Education



**Department for
Christian Education**

**MONITORING VISIT at Holy Cross Catholic High School on Thursday 26 January
2017**

THESE ARE AREAS TO CELEBRATE

- The Section 48 Self-Evaluation document is accurate, detailed, and practical. The content has been compiled by governors, senior and departmental leaders, so demonstrating clear understanding of the need for collegiality in directing Catholic Life and Religious Education.
- Catholic Life is expressed through the determination of the Holy Cross community to live its mission statement by echoing the words of John 10:10, "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full." Pivotal to its expression is the role of the Lay Chaplain, who personally states that chaplaincy is about, "Enabling pupils to be resilient in the face of challenge and make good choices." Chaplaincy embraces the needs of staff and parents. Much work has been undertaken in establishing the Faith in Action award, by which pupils readily link their school and parish pastoral activities. This is evident through their commitment to numerous and far reaching projects for the needs of others. Pupils regard the chaplaincy team as open and representative. Governors and leaders have conducted a staff Ethos and In-Service Day. Finding will inform the forthcoming Mission Day. Implicit is the attention to community development in the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural dimension.
- Collective Worship is efficiently co-ordinated and monitored. Pupils are trained to participate. They appreciate the range of prayer and worship. They feel called to respond to challenges to serve and to strive toward their personal best. Resources are carefully prepared in accordance with the Liturgical Year. Leaders of Collective Worship are encouraged to adapt the content according to need and personal creativity. Year 7 Collective Worship shared in the Chapel during monitoring was the epitome of good practice. This could be demonstrated for training.
- Religious Education is meticulously line managed and led. Governors and senior leaders understand how and why it is pivotal in supporting Catholic Life. Attention to development is both conscientious and challenging. Members of staff work effectively as a team and share their expertise. There is commitment to data informed planning and intervention strategies for pupils. Continued professional development includes participation in diocesan training.

- Achievement and attainment in Religious Education is strong. In Key Stage 3 the large majority are making at least three levels of progress with more than half the number of pupils making four. In Key Stage 4 there is full cohort entry for GCSE with the percentage attaining A*-C consistently well above the national average. There is successful focus on progress for members of Pupil Premium. Assessment is well linked to overall progress. Formative marking and annotation is in accordance with the whole school policy and inclusive of Religious Education levels of attainment. Its attention to "Command Marking" ensures that staff and pupils maintain dialogue in addressing key areas for improvement and identification of study pathways. The department is thorough in its drive to monitor and standardise each teacher's approach to marking. Pupils respond well to individual study plans and constructive feedback which they regard as creating a sense of purpose toward progress.
- Teaching and Learning benefits from the continued drive in enabling teachers to share their own unique contributions. Practice is well planned and creative. Any areas for improvement are speedily identified and rectified. Differentiation is implicit. Pupils enjoy their learning because there is a mix of collaborative and independent approaches. Close monitoring is abundant. Their progress is shared and celebrated.
- The curriculum fulfils the requirements of the Bishops' Curriculum Directory. There is 10% provision. *People of God - Called to Serve* has been phased in to Years 7 and 8. The 2018 GCSE has been implemented. Content is enriched by Scripture and by Catholic Social Teaching. Pupils commented favourably on the quality of departmental resources.
- At Holy Cross, Catholic Life, Collective Worship and religious Education is identifiably founded upon and expressed through Gospel values. These in turn inform an understood commitment to British Values. Other world faiths and religions are expressed, understood and celebrated.

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Continue with the successful implementation of the Section 48 Self Evaluation Document.
- Remain on course to establish the *People of God* framework in Year 9.

Monitoring Visitor: Dcn Paul Mannings