

19th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: OFSTED Inspection Report

Following our recent inspection on the 28th and 29th November, I am delighted to be able to share the OFSTED Inspection report with you, prior to its publication on the OFSTED website within the next week.

As you will see from the report, OFSTED have rated Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy as '**Outstanding**' in every area and for its overall effectiveness as a school. This is an incredible achievement, one that around only 15% of primary schools in the country achieves.

Inspection of Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy

Abbey Lane, Abbey Hulton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST2 8AU

Inspection dates: 28 and 29 November 2023

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Early years provision	Outstanding

First and foremost, I want to say a big thank you to our children, families, and staff for all the hard work and support you have given on this journey to outstanding and in helping us to create a school of which we are all immensely proud of. I am delighted that the hard work and dedication of all of the staff has been recognised by OFSTED and they have clearly seen the very special place that OLSB is 'where love shines brightly'. For our wonderful children and extended school community this is nothing more than you deserve.

Rightly, the Inspectors recognised the strong relationships at the heart of the school where pupils are known, loved and feel safe. The caring ethos is at the heart of Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy. The most important part of the process for me was that the Inspectors were able to clearly see and feedback on the aspects of the school that make Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy a special place to learn and work. I have included a few extracts from the report for your information:

- Strong relationships are at the heart of this inspirational school
- Pupils are known loved and feel safe
- Pupils thrive as a result of rapid improvements that have been made
- The school is ambitious for all pupils
- Pupils Flourish
- Pupil's behaviour is impeccable. Pupils are calm and polite and focus well on their learning.

- Expert staff make successful adaptations to lessons to enable all pupils to learn well.
- The school priorities reading. Leader's actions to improve reading have been highly effective. Children make a strong start in learning to read. Expert teaching enables pupils to become fluent and confident readers.
- There are harmonious relationships between pupils.
- Pupils concentrate well and are proud of their well-presented work.
- School has taken precise and swift action to improve pupil's attendance.
- Learning is enriched through carefully planned visits and links, these increase pupils opportunities and sense of future possibilities. Pupils talk with maturity about their aspirations.
- Leaders are clearly focussed on ensuring pupils succeed and any barriers to success are removed. This shared vision has been instrumental in enabling the school to make rapid progress. These actions have made a huge contribution to the outstanding education that is provided.

This report is something to celebrate. We are very proud to be part of The Newman Catholic Collegiate who have supported the school on its journey to Outstanding. It has been a huge team effort where rapid improvements have taken place which are allowing our children to flourish.

The most important focus for me though, is that we maintain our unwavering commitment to the highest quality of education, care and opportunity for every child at Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy. We will never become complacent, will relentlessly focus on improvement, and continue to grow. We will continue to have the highest expectations and ambition for every child at the school. Together we will continue to Love, Learn and Look forward with Christ.

Please do join me in congratulating the whole OLSB family.

With thanks,



Mrs Sarah Clowes Principal

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