



October 3rd 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to update you on the upcoming Ofsted inspection at St Mary's Catholic College, which will take place over the next two days. We received notification from His Majesty's Inspectorate this morning and all students have been given a paper copy of the letter from Ofsted, which is also attached with this letter.

The inspection will be a full graded inspection under the Education Act, 2005, with 5 inspectors in school for both days. I want to assure you that we are fully prepared for this inspection and are looking forward to showcasing the amazing talents and hard work of your children. We have discussed with all students the importance of the next two days and our vision of **Work Together: Succeed Together**.

As you may know, the last time St Mary's Catholic College was inspected, we received a Grade 3 overall from Ofsted. Since then, we have made many improvements and we are now the school of choice in the community, with most year groups now full or oversubscribed.

These improvements are evident from the learning culture across the College and also from our staff, pupil and parent carer voice. Since the last inspection, we have introduced a number of communication tools to support home-school communications, such as regular parent/carers surveys, parent/headteacher meetings, the Arbor App, year group email addresses, half-termly newsletters, SEND coffee mornings and parent events, Year 11 Saturday revision schools and online parent support sessions. The aim of these has been to improve your knowledge of what is happening at the College to support your children.

We regularly act on feedback from staff, students, and parents by implementing a full programme of feedback surveys. Actions that we have taken in response to surveys have been; improving communications with home, increasing the length of lunchtime, increasing the number of clubs and societies, a new career programme, introducing a new homework system, expanding the curriculum offer, and introducing a communication app. Improving behaviour has been a key focus during the last two years and we are proud of the progress we have made so far and are committed to continuing to improve in all areas.

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Under the framework for school inspections, inspectors will make judgments about the following areas:

overall effectiveness,
quality of education,
behaviour and attitudes,
personal development,
leadership and management.

The inspection team will observe lessons and meet with students and governors. We also encourage as many parents as possible to share your views about St Mary's Catholic College by completing Ofsted's online survey, Ofsted Parent View, at: www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk.

Thank you for the part that you've played in every aspect of the St Mary's experience so far.

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

I will update you as soon as possible after the inspection with the feedback that we receive.

Kind regards

Mr K Maddocks

Headteacher