



October 2012

Diocesan Education Service,
Don Bosco House,
Coventry Road,
Coleshill,
B46 3EA

Dear Parents and Carers

Section 48 (Diocesan) Inspection of Bishop Challoner Catholic School, October 2012

I am writing this letter to share with you the findings of the diocesan inspection of your children's school. Diocesan inspection now explores in detail the school's own view of itself as expressed in its self-evaluation. For this reason, much of the report is more technical than used to be the case. You are still entitled to have a copy of the full report should you want one and it will be available on the school website or by request from the school office.

The school is an outstanding Catholic school in all respects. It provides an excellent education for your children within the context of a lively and engaging Catholic life. Pupils respond to the provision with enthusiasm and contribute greatly to the school and to the common good within and beyond the school gates. Through the teaching they receive in religious education and other subjects they develop very well as learners and as individuals. They achieve very highly and particularly in RE at GCSE at which Bishop Challoner is consistently one of the highest performing schools both in the diocese and the country.

Pupils have many opportunities to lead, plan and organise activities in the Catholic life and worship of the school. This promotes their confidence and independence and their ability to work in association with others. These opportunities arise from the very high quality of the leadership of the school at all levels. All in the school are constantly seeking ways in which teaching and learning can be improved. This is particularly the case with the members of the RE department which is the highest performing subject in the school overall. The RE teachers, together with senior leaders, look carefully at how well they and the pupils perform and take effective action to bring improvement.

Many contribute to the quality of the Catholic life of the school, notably the school chaplain, the head of spiritual life, the lay chaplain and youth worker. They motivate the pupils well, but are particularly effective because of the work and support from the chaplaincy group of sixth form students and other pupils.

We have needed to make only one recommendation about extending the scope of monitoring of teaching and learning in RE and even that is from a basis of excellent leadership.

It has been a pleasure to inspect the school and to be given such a good welcome by all in the community. I am sure that you must be proud of the school and your children.

Yours sincerely

John Lally (Dr)
Diocesan Inspector