



RESPECT  
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## Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

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Ms K. Smyth    Headteacher

KS/LL

30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

Ofsted visited our school for a one-day inspection on March 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. The spoke to representatives from the local authority and the Archdiocese of Liverpool, met with a group of our students, had meetings with staff and members of the governing body, observed lessons and behaviour in classrooms and around the school. They reported their judgements back to us earlier this month and I am now pleased and able to share them with you.

Ofsted were very pleased to note that we have not “..shied away from tackling the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection”. Changes we have made to improve the leadership of the school were praised, especially the greater clarity over roles and responsibilities and the ways in which this has made it easier to check on the impact of what we do. Our leaders’ plans to “improve the school are appropriate and highly focused”. Ofsted believe we are providing effective training and support to develop the skills of our middle leaders, so that they have become more effective in improving the quality of teaching and learning in their own subjects.

Ofsted, I am delighted to report, believe that earlier inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning are being systematically eradicated and that the vast majority of our students “benefit from teaching that is routinely good”. Our teachers are placing a greater emphasis on the knowledge that your son acquires over time and how well he retains this knowledge. They particularly singled out for praise the improvement in the quality of the teaching of mathematics and history.

Ofsted were highly complementary about the ways in which we use our Pupil Premium funding for our disadvantaged students and believe that our actions “have secured improvements in the progress made by (them)”. They were very pleased to note that we are now sharing with other schools the strategies and good practice we have devised and which have proved so effective.

Ofsted noted that, as a school, we have implemented a range of strategies to improve students’ attendance and that these are having a positive impact. It observed that “..the proportion of pupils who are regularly absent from school is now in line with the national average” though the proportion of disadvantaged students who are regularly absent from school remains an ongoing issue which we are determined to address. Ofsted praised the ways in which our students feel safe in the school and that issues, as and when they occur, are dealt with speedily and effectively.



Ofsted noted that progress made by students studying A Level has been disappointing over the past two years. We were aware of this ourselves and have made changes in the ways in which we monitor the quality of teaching in the Sixth Form. There is still a deal of work to be done here but we are moving in the right direction and, as Ofsted, commented, “..students in the sixth form are making greater gains in their learning than students in the past”. We have refined our procedures involving advice and guidance that students receive in Year 11 and we are undertaking a thorough review of curriculum provision.

I have always said that this is a school that is not complacent, that does not rest on its laurels. We have made significant progress since our last inspection and this is freely acknowledged by Ofsted in its report. As a community we have worked hard together and I would want to thank all parties involved, yourselves included, for what we have achieved. We still have things to do but we know what they are and we will do them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Smyth', written in a cursive style.

Ms K Smyth  
**Headteacher**