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**SHREWSBURY**

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# **REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS**

**Loreto Grammar School**

**URN: 106378**

**13 November 2013**

**Inspector - Mr J Wilbraham**

The areas of focus in this monitoring Inspection were :-

**1. OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS** - How well students achieve and enjoy learning in RE.

**2. LEADERS AND MANAGERS** – How well leaders, governors and managers promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic Life of the school and plan and implement improvement of outcomes for pupils.

**3. PROVISION** – The quality of Collective Worship

The school's Self Evaluation as **outstanding** in all areas is **confirmed** and following comments summarise findings in the key areas.

### **1. OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS**

The standards of achievement in Religious Education are outstanding by every measure. At Key Stage 3 progress is measured from baseline testing on entry. The majority of students move up at least two levels, with all reaching at least level 6 and 91% level 7. At GCSE the department achieves the school's best results where the school's value added score is 1011.9; 100% of students achieved grades A\* -B, including 79% achieving A\*. 'A' level results are very strong with increasing uptake; for example in 2013 the AS ALPS target achievement score placed the results in the highest of the three main categories as significantly good. Students enjoy the subject at all levels displaying engagement and interest in lessons and a real pride in their work. Resources are appropriate, stimulating and challenging. Marking and assessment is accurate, clear, consistent and helpful to the students. The department is outstanding in terms of its results and the quality of teaching. The students themselves understand the visions and values of the school and are articulate about, and supportive of them.

### **2. LEADERS AND MANAGERS**

It is clear that the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Governing Body and the other managers of the school are deeply committed to Catholic Christian values and the Church's mission in education. This is evidenced by the way in which the Loreto order (IBVM) supports the school and the way the Mary Ward values are embedded in the policies, practices and consciousness of the school community. The values are identified in terms of Excellence, Truth, Justice, Freedom, Sincerity, Joy and Internationality. These values are constantly and rigorously monitored and lie at the heart of the school's mission. The work of the Ethos and Values Committee, the Staff Vision and Values Day, the Parental Survey (2013) provide evidence that the Catholic life of the school is a priority and is developed within the partnerships fostered by the wider Loreto family of schools and colleges. Staff, Governors and students understand the school's mission and purpose and are keenly and actively involved in their implementation.

The Headteacher, supported by the SLT and Governing Body, continually aims for excellence in all aspects of student provision, academic, pastoral and spiritual; in her own words the aim is to be 'world class'. The RE Department contributes highly to the implementation of this vision.

### **3. PROVISION**

Collective Worship and prayer are an integral part of the daily life of the school, and involve pupil ownership and participation. These activities are linked to practical experiences and challenges which enrich the students' spiritual, moral and cultural education. Outstanding examples of this are the Indian project and visit, the 'trafficking' initiative, Fair Trade activities and work with the SVP. Other liturgical and spiritual experiences for students and staff, such as retreats and residentials enrich this aspect of school life. The worship and prayer activities reflect a clear indication of the Church's mission and include the spiritual aspirations and needs of the students. The Lay chaplain, local priests and members of staff and the students themselves are all very effective in supporting and leading these activities.

## OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Outcomes for pupils, the provision for Catholic Education, leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the school are all confirmed by this Inspection as outstanding. The core values of the school are strongly evidenced throughout in terms of practice, aspiration and relationships all in the context of high academic achievement

## IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION

- Academic performance has continued to grow from an already outstanding level
- Rooming has been improved
- The work of the Ethos and Values Committee has taken root and made an effective impact
- Induction residentials for new staff have enhance the understanding of the shared vision

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- There were no issues to be resolved from the **previous inspection**; therefore it is recommended that the exceptional commitment to the school's values is continued at whole-school and departmental level.

**In order to maintain and enhance this even further it is recommended that the school**

- Further develop the successful work of the Ethos and Values Committee in providing quality assurance in respect of the 'Mary Ward values' across the curriculum and in the communal life of the school
- In the light of changes in funding, keep under review the accreditation of sixth form General RE to ensure continued quality and entitlement