



DIOCESE OF
SHREWSBURY

REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

St Anselm's College, Birkenhead

URN: 136780

18 March 2014

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 indicates that it is **outstanding** in all areas and supports this with appropriate evidence. This judgement is **confirmed** and the following comments summarise findings in the key areas.

1. OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

The standards of achievement in Religious Education are outstanding and indicate improvement at GCSE and AS. At Key Stage 3 progress is measured from baseline CATs testing on entry, followed by regular testing. In each of the past three years all students have reached level 5 by the end of Key Stage 3, with a third of students at or above level 7. At GCSE, students are fast tracked to entry in Year 10, with the majority of students achieving their target grades even with this early entry. The RE Department's GCSE results, with 94% and 93% of students achieving grades A*-C in the last two years, indicate sustained improvement and, despite early entry, the Value Added Key Stage 2 to 4 measure is significant. (+17% above the national average in 2013 and +10% over the three year period 2011-13) 'A' Level results are strengthening with the latest AS ALPS measure placing the results in the second highest category. Students have a positive attitude to the subject at all levels displaying engagement and interest in lessons and respond to the intellectual challenge within the curriculum and its delivery. The students gain significant understanding of the beliefs and traditions of Catholicism while also engaging with the broader spiritual, moral, cultural and social issues of contemporary society. This all is underpinned by the many activities beyond the classroom and was praised in the recent Ofsted inspection. Marking and assessment are regular accurate, clear, consistent and helpful to the students. The standard of teaching and learning is never less than good and often outstanding. The students themselves understand the vision and values of the school and are very supportive of them.

2. LEADERS AND MANAGERS

The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Governing Body are deeply committed to Catholic Christian values and the Church's mission in education. The realisation of this vision is underpinned by the shared values and activities of the Edmund Rice network of schools and colleges. The commitment to these values in which academic and personal growth are so important is evidenced in the college's policy documents and practices. There is constant and rigorous monitoring and evaluation at all levels and the Self Evaluation Form indicates a very effective tiered commentary, where the Head of Department, Leadership Link and Headteacher each provide analysis and evidence. Classroom observations are regular, accurate and well-documented. Prayer and reflection are an integral part of the tutorial and assembly provision and are subject to monitoring and recording by senior managers.. Regular parental surveys and questionnaires, in addition to those connected with inspections, are reflected and acted upon (but are emphatically supportive of the work of the college). Staff, Governors and students appreciate and understand the school's mission and purpose and are keenly and actively involved in their implementation; there is general pride in what the college represents

The Headteacher, supported by the SLT and Governing Body, continually aims for excellence in all aspects of student provision, academic, pastoral and spiritual; the Head of RE and his team effectively and significantly contribute to this,

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. The 'immersion' experience in Sierra Leone is an outstanding example of this and was movingly and sincerely reported on in a recent assembly. Many other activities and groups evidence the practical aspects of faith and values in the life of the college. These include the SVP, Legion of Mary, the Friday Club (assisting adults with disabilities), the Seel Street Mission, charitable fundraising, pilgrimages to Lourdes and a variety of other activities. Other liturgical and spiritual experiences for students and staff, such as retreats and residential, enrich this aspect of school life. The worship and prayer activities reflect a clear commitment, within the college community, to the Church's mission and include the spiritual aspirations and needs of the students. The recent refurbishment of the Sixth Form building included the development of a Chapel which is a significant resource in the spiritual and liturgical life of the college. Voluntary masses are very well attended.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Outcomes for pupils, the provision for Catholic Education, leadership and management in the development of the Catholic life of the college are all confirmed by this Inspection as outstanding. The core values of the college 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 as indicated at GCSE and AS
- Self Evaluation and Monitoring processes are highly effective

RECOMMENDATIONS

- There were no issues to be resolved from the **previous inspection**

In order to maintain and enhance the progress of the college even further it is recommended that the college

- Review other strategies to increase the numbers taking A level Theology/Religious Studies
- Develop a strategy for display of work and other material in RE rooms to ensure a celebratory and stimulating environment for the subject
- Continue to plan for further development of effective and sustained chaplaincy provision