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18 April 2013

Mr Peter Coady  
Headteacher  
Trinity Catholic College  
Saltersgill Avenue  
Middlesbrough  
TS4 3JW

Dear Mr Coady

### **Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Trinity Catholic College**

Following my visit to your school on 18 April 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave during the inspection and for the time you made available to discuss the actions which have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

### **Evidence**

During this inspection, meetings were held with the headteacher and two members of senior staff, three members of the governing body, two representatives of the local authority, a diocesan representative and the executive headteacher of an associated secondary school. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plan were evaluated.

### **Context**

Since the inspection which judged the school to have serious weaknesses, a member of the local authority staff has joined the school staff for three days a week. He is part of the Resident Inspectors Team that was formed to contribute to the improvements needed in the school. There has been no change in numbers of teaching staff. There has been a change to the leadership and management of the mathematics department.

## **The quality of leadership and management at the school**

The headteacher and senior leaders have used the judgement of serious weaknesses as a catalyst to bring about improvement. Many of the issues identified by the inspection had already been identified by the school and the Ofsted report promoted further planning for improvement. A significant response is seen in the formation of the Resident Inspection Team. This pulls together key people from the school, local authority, diocese and an associated high performing school to monitor progress made in response to the Ofsted report. This sound, strategic approach promotes good levels of communication between key partners and direct involvement of the local authority.

The planning response of the school seen in the action plan is detailed and well focused on the points for improvement cited in the report. Planning is systematic and involves clear descriptions of actions, timescale, staff responsibilities, success criteria, milestones for checking progress and impact. The local authority's statement of support is similarly strongly focused on bringing about the improvements needed and its form and contents complement the action planning of the school. The close collaboration of the school with the local authority is a strength.

The means by which improvement is planned include a wide range of actions, such as professional development plans for individual teachers, more rigorous lesson observations, better sharing of good practice within and between departments, provision of courses to bring about improved teaching and improved middle management. Consistency is a principal aim in the quality of teaching and assessment, and marking and feedback to students. Here again, the focus is on individual students to ensure all are being challenged effectively.

The governors are fully aware of the improvements needed. They have reviewed their roles and links to departments to strengthen their contribution. They have undertaken training to enable them to provide better support and challenge, for example, in interpreting performance data and RAISEonline reports. More training for governors is planned to improve their capacity to carry out their role. They are playing a greater role in monitoring progress against clear targets, not simply receiving reports but interrogating data and monitoring teaching and assessment.

Following the monitoring inspection the following judgements were made:

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

The local authority's statement of action is fit for purpose.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State, the Chair of the Governing Body, the Diocese of Middlesbrough, the Director of Adult and Children's Services for Middlesbrough. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Ian Richardson  
**Additional Inspector**