

CfBT Inspection Services
Suite 22
West Lancs Investment
Centre
Maple View
Skelmersdale
WN8 9TG

T 0300 123 1231

Text Phone: 0161 6188524

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

www.ofsted.gov.uk

Direct T 01695 566857

Direct F 01695 729320

Direct email: jkinsman@cfbt.com



27 January 2015

Mr David Hubbard
Headteacher
Corpus Christi Catholic High School
St Vincent's Road
Fulwood
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 8QY

Dear Mr Hubbard

Requires improvement: monitoring inspection visit to Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Lancashire

Following my visit to your school on 26 January 2015, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in October 2014. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, senior leaders, and two members of the governing body. A meeting was arranged with a group of students. The school improvement plan was evaluated. Documents summarising other actions taken since the section 5 inspection were also scrutinised. A learning walk was undertaken with a senior leader to evaluate student behaviour for learning.

Context

There have been no other significant changes to the school's context since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

The headteacher presents a very clear and realistic understanding of the school's current performance and the ways and means towards further, sustained and accelerated improvement. The school's post inspection improvement plan and current self-evaluation tackle the key recommendations arising from the October inspection and chart insightfully the direction of the school's journey to becoming a good school. Monitoring systems are well focused and actions to elicit improvement clearly stated, actioned and reviewed. Senior leaders have a strong focus on evaluating the impact of actions to enable improvement.

Current school data indicates that the school continues to build on the improved outcomes at Key Stage 4 in 2013/14. School leaders recognise that improvement in GCSE results needs to be sustained and further accelerated. Intervention programmes to improve attainment and achievement in English and mathematics in Years 10 and 11 are well targeted and monitored. There is a stronger focus to ensure that work in lessons meets the learning needs of all students. The headteacher and senior leaders recognise that further training and development work is required so that all middle leaders fully grasp the nature of their roles and responsibilities and become more proactive and skilful in driving the improvement agenda forward.

Student behaviour in class and around the school site has significantly improved. Attendance rates are improving and fixed term exclusion rates reducing. Students are embracing higher expectations for their behaviour introduced and strongly promoted by the headteacher. Students are increasingly working in a well-ordered and co-operative manner.

A review of the Key Stage 3 curriculum is being undertaken during the summer term. HMI has asked the school to consider how best to develop the Key Stage 3 curriculum so as to better enable and embed student literacy, numeracy, oracy and independent learning skills. HMI has also recommended that school leaders explore ways to involve students more fully as active participants in the development of a stronger aspirational culture.

Governors receive regular, detailed and informative reports on school performance. They have strengthened their understanding of student monitoring and tracking evidence and on how well students are doing in their studies. They have a good understanding of the use of pupil premium funding (additional government money) and of the performance of different subject areas. Governors are actively involved in validating self-evaluation for subject areas and cross-school provision and services.

Ofsted may carry out further visits and, where necessary, provide further support and challenge to the school until its next section 5 inspection.

External support

The local authority is committed to supporting the school in aiding its improvement planning and practice particularly in supporting improved teaching and learning. LA modern foreign language and English advisors regularly visit the school to work with staff on improving teaching, learning and assessment. The school has worked with outstanding schools to improve its practice and systems. School leaders use consultants well to support staff training and development activities.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Director of Children's Services for Lancashire and as below.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Geraghty

Her Majesty's Inspector

The letter should be copied to the following:

- Chair of the Governing Body
- Local authority
- Diocese