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Danielle Scott
Principal
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Dear Mrs Scott

Ofsted visit to Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School

Following my visit with Michael Pennington, Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI), to your school on 3 December 2020, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the visit's findings. Thank you for the time you made available to discuss your actions since September 2020, when the government expected all schools to open fully to all pupils.

This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended.

Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. We are not giving graded judgements. We did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities and were unable to check other sources of evidence, such as visits to lessons or looking at pupils' work. The content of this letter gives an overview of our discussions about what has happened in your school this term.

During the visit, we spoke to you, your vice-principal, other members of the senior leadership team (including the senior leader responsible for safeguarding) and a group of middle leaders. We did not speak to pupils because of the protective measures in place.

Context

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full

education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of:

- approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate)
- maintained schools, academies and free schools, special schools and centres of alternative provision, including those in cities, and coastal, town or rural communities.

The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. We did not find any significant concerns during the visit. In such a case, an inspection report would be published on our website and available to parents and carers.

We did not consider your response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020, when the school was not open to all pupils.

From this visit, inspectors noted that:

- Since the start of the autumn term, almost two thirds of pupils have needed to study from home on at least one occasion. A few pupils in each year group have studied from home on multiple occasions.
- Pupils are following all of the subjects in their usual curriculum. However, because of COVID-19 you have noticed that many pupils need support with their well-being. To address this, you told us that you have introduced personal development lessons for all pupils.
- You described how teachers are using a range of strategies to check what pupils know and remember of their learning since March 2020. Teachers are making time in everyday lessons to revisit the curriculum content that pupils need the most help with.
- You explained that teachers have made some adjustments to the curriculum plans that are delivered to pupils in Years 7 to 9. For example, in technology and science, pupils are watching videos of practical demonstrations in addition to carrying out adapted practical activities themselves. You intend to resume the usual curriculum content by summer 2021.
- You explained that you are prioritising access to specialist rooms and resources for pupils in Years 10 and 11 to support them with preparation for their examinations. You told us that pupils in Year 11 now have extra revision sessions each week to catch up on what they have forgotten since March

2020. You said that during the spring term, teachers plan to provide additional support for Year 10 pupils who need to catch up.

- You described the different ways that you offer remote education to pupils who need to self-isolate. You expect pupils to follow their usual timetable when studying from home. Pupils have access to online resources or, where necessary, paper-based study packs.

Thank you again for contributing to this important national work. The views and experiences you have shared will help to inform future policy.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Halton. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Goodwin
Her Majesty's Inspector