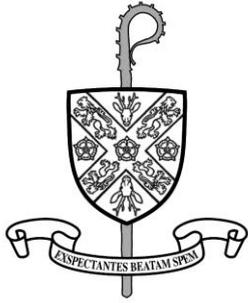


Diocese of Middlesbrough



26 March 2015

Diocesan Schools Service

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Mr Peter Coady
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Dear Peter

Interim Review Visit: TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, MIDDLESBROUGH

Conducted by Anthony Finnerty on March 18th 2015

Overview:

The Review Visit to Trinity College took place on Wednesday March 18th 2015. I was able to do two learning walks, meet with a range of students and have lunch with the RE department. I met with the deputy head teacher [in the absence of the head], and with the head of faculty as well as the chaplain (a deacon who works full-time in the college) and had a tour of the Sixth Form buildings with two students who are part of the chaplaincy team. At the end of the visit evidence demonstrated that Trinity has a strong Catholic identity and is a home and a haven for young people from very diverse and sometimes very troubled backgrounds. Gospel values are spoken of and put into practice. Although there are challenges ahead, the college has sufficient self-awareness and determination to continue its journey of improvement.

The three areas raised by the last Section 48 inspection have clearly been addressed - and the College is stronger for that. The Sixth Form, an area of concern in both the Section 5 and Section 48 reports, has been transformed in a very short time and the changes have been welcomed and enjoyed by students and by most staff. Evidence indicates that this is set to continue on a positive trajectory. The newly established Religious Education programme in the Sixth Form has had a strong start, and the further development of the AS and A level Religious Studies courses is being enthusiastically addressed. Responsibility for both of these elements is shared by senior leaders, the chaplain and by RE practitioners.

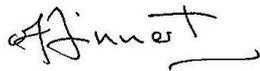
The hopes for the leadership now present in the RE department, which were expressed in the Section 48 report, have been realised and the changes in outcomes for students at Key Stages 3 and 4 have been achieved. Outcomes for students at GCSE was the second area flagged up for improvement in the section 48 inspection, and this has been demonstrably addressed, with the RE department now seen as one of the vanguard departments for teaching and learning in the College. The professionalism of the teachers, their caring and positive relationships with students and their enthusiasm for the subject, make this a very strong department. Weaknesses that have been identified by internal processes are addressed in ways that are intelligent, effective and take into account the differences in human lives. The imminent maternity leave of the head of department has been prepared for appropriately.

The third recommendation in the report referred to collective worship. Prayer and liturgy run through the life of the school and it is a great testimony to all involved, and to the overall climate within the

school, that in the region of 60% of students come to the half termly voluntary Masses. There has been a problem in accommodating all those who turn up – a problem earnestly desired by many schools (and parishes!). Work to make the provision and the experience of collective worship consistently outstanding is underway. The provision, in terms of the work of a creative, energetic and deeply committed chaplain and chaplaincy team, is excellent; but the process of developing authentic involvement of students in the planning and leadership of worship and ‘fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations’ is necessarily gradual. Monitoring and evaluation of pupil experience is being developed and refined.

I was left in no doubt that the recommendations from the last report have been achieved or are receiving serious attention from the senior leaders and the key staff, and that the College manifests a strong commitment to Catholic Life. Trinity College is undoubtedly good - as designated in the S.48 inspection of 2013 - and it has many aspects that are outstanding.

A copy of this report will be sent to Kevin Duffy, Director of Schools, Theresa Laverick, Diocesan Religious Education Adviser, Sr Moira Cashmore, Chair of Governors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Finnerty', with a horizontal line underneath.

Anthony J. Finnerty
Diocesan Secondary R.E. Adviser

QUESTIONS FOR THE ADVISER TO CONSIDER

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| <p><i>Does the school have good quality, practical and achievable improvement plans for Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school, especially for those areas which were subject to recommendations in the last inspection?</i></p> <p>Yes. There are documents showing development planning for the RE department and for the work of the Chaplaincy. The particular concerns identified in the last S.48 inspection are addressed.</p> | |
| <p><i>Does the school have evidence that progress of the plans is being monitored?</i></p> <p>Yes. A senior leader (the head of Sixth form) monitors the chaplaincy and another senior leader (the head of Humanities) monitors the work of the RE department – this happens formally and informally. The deputy head teacher oversees both areas.</p> | <p><i>Does the school have evidence to demonstrate progress with the plans?</i></p> <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p><i>Did what the Adviser saw and heard around the school reflect at least the previous grade of the S 48 inspection?</i></p> <p>Yes. There was little that would be considered less than good, and there were clear examples of outstanding practice in some areas.</p> | |
| <p><i>Did the most recent Ofsted inspection raise any concerns; and are these reflected in Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Catholic Life of the school?</i></p> <p>The principal concern raised in the last S.5 inspection relating to RE, worship and Catholic Life referred to the Sixth Form. There is no doubt that very significant progress has been made in this area and there is a determination, and plans in place, to continue this improvement.</p> | |
| <p><i>In summary, is the school making good progress since its last S48 inspection?</i></p> <p>Trinity College is making very good progress since the last Section 48 inspection.</p> | |

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| <p><i>Recommendations.</i></p> <p>Continue the process of whole school improvement with the same commitment, energy and enjoyment that has already been demonstrated.</p> <p>Implement and carefully monitor the strategies already in place to manage the RE department during the maternity leave of the head of RE.</p> <p>Further develop the good work underway regarding the experience of collective worship.</p> |
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