



Newman Catholic School

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26 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, the school had an inspection by a team from Ofsted in January. I am delighted that the inspectors' findings praise the journey of school improvement which is underway. The inspection report, published next week, confirms that the school no longer requires special measures; this is excellent news.

The report also confirms that actions to improve the quality of teaching have secured improvements in many subjects, resulting in many pupils making good progress. This was evidenced in the 2017 and 2018 exam results and the school's Progress 8 figure.

Coming out of special measures is a tribute to the hard work, dedication and talents of all Newman staff, governors and pupils. The report highlights much of the positive work going on in school and is an accurate picture of the strides we are taking to improve the outcomes and experiences for our pupils. It is pleasing that the inspection team noted the improvements to the quality of teaching and the high expectations teachers have of pupils, whilst fostering positive pupil-teacher relationships.

It is also satisfying that the team judged pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare as good. We are proud that our pupils benefit from effective safeguarding. The inspectors commended the "highly effective pastoral support" which benefits our pupils. I am delighted that the report recognises the calm atmosphere around the school and the positive behaviour of our pupils, who are described as friendly and courteous.

The report highlights the improvements made to introduce a well-planned programme of independent careers education, advice and guidance for all our pupils. This is helping to raise our pupils' aspirations and to prepare them to move to further and higher education, training or employment.

Newman has come through many challenges over recent years, most significantly the devastating flooding of our city centre site. The inspectors commended the work of school leaders to overcome the challenges of running a school in temporary accommodation, whilst ensuring that pupils have continued to access a broad curriculum. The inspectors also noted that our staff and pupils are positive about the school's future, as we look forward to moving to our fantastic new school.

A copy of the monitoring inspection report can be found on the Ofsted website from 4 March:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/> or on our school website: <https://newman.cumbria.sch.uk/about-our-school/ofsted>

We are already acting upon the inspectors' recommendations to improve further; governors, the leadership team and staff will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the best for all pupils.

It is pleasing that the Ofsted inspection follows an especially positive Section 48 denominational inspection carried out by a team from the Diocese of Lancaster who judged the Catholic life of the school and the quality of Religious Education to be good.

Yours sincerely

J McAuley
J McAuley
Headteacher