



## Overall effectiveness of the school

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*“There is a moral imperative that all students will fulfil their potential and succeed”*

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- The Catholic ethos and mission shine through everything the schools does, placing equality of opportunity at its heart.

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*“Students’ achievements are outstanding, as is their personal development and well-being”*

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- The good quality of teaching, combined with students’ excellent attitudes to learning, leads to outstanding progress.
- Good practice is shared widely and very good training and support are available for teachers.

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*“Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, those who have joined the school later than Year 7 and those with English as an additional language also make outstanding progress because they are well supported by teachers and teaching assistants”*

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- The school has been very successful in developing and extending the curriculum which is now outstanding. It provides students with flexible opportunities precisely matched to the wide range of needs and aspirations.
- An excellent range of residential experiences, visits and extra-curricular activities is offered at the school and well attended by all learners.
- Strong links with partner schools ensure a smooth transition for students into year 7.
- The school recognises it has a key role in building community cohesion. It is an extremely diverse and harmonious community where all faiths contribute to its spiritual, moral and cultural life.

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*“The school’s self-evaluation process is meticulous and very robust”*

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## Achievement and standards

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*“Students make outstanding progress between Years 7 and 11. The good start they make in Key Stage 3 accelerates for all groups of students in Key Stage 4”*

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- Vulnerable groups and students with learning difficulties make outstanding progress, not only academically, but also in their personal development.
- Students make good progress in the Sixth Form.

#### **Personal development and well-being**

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*“The school rightly judges personal development and well-being as outstanding. Spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is given a high priority by the school and results in students developing a culture of respect for one another and their teachers”*

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- Students take advantage of the wide range of healthy eating options at lunchtime and have an extremely high awareness of the importance of a safe and healthy lifestyle.
- The school council plays an active role in school life. For example, members recently reviewed food provision in school and presented ‘best practice’ at a regional ‘Food in Schools’ conference.
- Students thoroughly enjoy coming to school, which they say is a safe, caring and happy community. Students make an outstanding contribution to the local community in many ways, including a large number of charitable and voluntary activities.

#### **Quality of provision**

#### **Teaching and Learning**

- In the best lessons work is fast paced and challenging and activities are varied and interesting, so students really enjoy learning and work very hard.

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*“Teachers check students’ learning carefully, explanations are crystal clear and work is made relevant to examination requirements so students achieve very well indeed”*

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- Students know the target level they are working towards.
- Teachers make good use of assessment data to intervene in students’ learning and give them extra help if they are falling behind.

#### **Curriculum and other activities**

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*“The curriculum is outstanding because it is so well matched to students’ needs and aspirations”*

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- It is regularly reviewed to ensure an excellent balance of academic and vocational courses particularly at Key Stage 4.
- Students benefit from the emphasis on developing literacy and information and communication technology (ICT) across the curriculum.
- The school provides excellent additional opportunities for students whose first language is not English so that they can engage with the curriculum.
- The extended curriculum contributes very effectively to the students’ future economic well-being.
- The school has good links with local employers and universities.

## Care, guidance and support

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*“Care, guidance and support are outstanding”*

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- Tutors know the students very well and build very good relationships with them.
- All appropriate safeguarding and health and safety procedures are in place.
- Communication with parents is very good and they receive frequent reports which inform them about their child’s progress.
- Very effective assessment procedures are in place to support those who are falling behind or need extra help.

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*“Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive excellent support in lessons. Support staff are very well deployed and provide valuable support to vulnerable groups”*

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- Guidance and support at key transition points between schools and the sixth form are strong and helps students settle in quickly.

## Leadership and management

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*“The leaders of this school have brought about remarkable improvements in the achievement, standards and personal development of students”*

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- Great care is taken to recruit teachers and managers of the highest quality.
- Resources are used very effectively to ensure both outstanding achievement and value for money.
- Partnerships with primary schools and support agencies are very effective and have a significant impact on many aspects of the school’s work.

## Effectiveness of the Sixth Form

- Students are very loyal to the sixth form and the school.

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*“Students have excellent attitudes to learning and enjoy the opportunities they are given to learn independently”*

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- Students studying vocational courses are enthusiastic about their work because they see the relevance of what they are learning and how this may help to prepare them for their future careers.
- Leadership and management of the sixth form are good and the quality of the pastoral care and guidance students receive is excellent and results in outstanding personal development and well-being.