

# CARDINAL WISEMAN

## CATHOLIC TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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*Forward In Faith*

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Dear parents,

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This week we will be celebrating the good news from our recent OFSTED report which was published on the OFSTED site on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Although our report has rated the school overall as still requiring improvement because of our last set of GCSE results, I was delighted that they increased the judgement on Leadership and Management to 'Good' and agreed that our Behaviour and Safety is still 'Good'.

Because of the acknowledged strength of leadership and management parents should feel assured that, notwithstanding the need to further improve results, OFSTED have judged that we have the ability to do that by ourselves and so from now onwards we will no longer be monitored by an HMI. I copy parts of the section on Leadership and Management below.

The leadership and management are good.

- Leadership and management are good because senior leaders, under the tenacious leadership of the headteacher, are swiftly tackling weaknesses in teaching and students' achievement. Leaders have set a clear agenda which insists on every teacher wanting the very best for each student. As a result, there is a clear pattern of improvement across the school. For example, the proportion of students making expected progress in English is now above the national average.

- School leaders are ambitious and share the headteacher's vision for the school. They believe that all students should have the opportunities to develop their talents. Leaders use their time effectively in improving the school because they have clearly defined roles and responsibilities and are held to account by the governors.

- Teaching is improving quickly. This is because senior leaders regularly check the quality of teaching using a range of evidence to do this. They make accurate judgements and use this information to provide support and challenge for teachers. Teachers value the training they receive and the opportunities to work with other colleagues to share good practice.

- Teaching is also improving because of robust ways in which teachers' performance is checked which are clearly aligned to the standards teachers should achieve. Any under-performance by teachers is rigorously challenged and there is a clear link between performance and salary progression.

- Students are set challenging targets and their progress towards these is tracked in forensic detail by senior leaders and heads of subjects. Where students are not making the progress they should, leaders intervene quickly to provide additional support.

- Leaders of subjects are held rigorously to account for the students' performance in their subject areas and this is securing improvements in a range of subjects. The skills and expertise of subject and year group leaders are developing well but are not yet consistent in their effectiveness, particularly in mathematics.

■ The range of subjects and qualifications offered to students is broad and balanced. All students are provided with good opportunities to gain valuable academic as well as vocational qualifications. The personal, social, health, economic and citizenship education curriculum is well planned across subject lessons, 'enrichment' days and a school assembly programme. As a result, the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness is well developed. This, together with the school ethos which strongly promotes tolerance, respect and understanding of democracy, means that students are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

■ The school provides students with good information, advice and guidance on the subjects they choose to study during Years 10 and 11 and in preparation for what they will do beyond Year 11. School leaders have been very successful in making sure that all students who recently left the school have continued in education or training or found employment.

■ The school's arrangements for safeguarding students meet requirements. Leaders are tenacious in taking swift and appropriate action to secure the safety and welfare of the students. It closely checks that other agencies are doing everything they can to help potentially vulnerable students or those who need additional support.

■ The governance of the school:

■ Governors have a clear understanding of their role and bring a good range of skills and experience to the school. They undertake regular training to ensure they are best able to fulfil their role.

■ Governors regularly visit the school. They contribute their expertise to appropriate areas and hold leaders to account. They meet with them regularly to review the progress being made in various aspects of the school's work.

■ They are confident in analysing the considerable amount of information provided by the school. As a result they have a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses including the quality of teaching and how the progress of students compares to national averages.

■ Governors understand how the school uses performance management to improve teaching. They have supported school leaders in rewarding good work and challenging underperformance.

The full report is available on the OFSTED site and on our school website. To celebrate with our pupils, on Friday, all pupils will be able to wear non-uniform without a fee BUT more importantly all staff will be asked to wear school uniform instead! During the day pupils will be in their English groups to have a 'Popcorn and Film day'.

There will be assemblies for Year 7 and 8 at 9am, Year 9 and 10 at 9.45am and Year 11 at 11.15am where I will be sharing the report in detail with our pupils. I would welcome any parents who would like to join us for those assemblies and we will ensure that you have an opportunity to discuss it with a member of the leadership team.

We will be finishing school at 1 pm on Friday but any parent who wishes their son or daughter to remain in school until 3.10 should contact us and we will make arrangements for that to happen.

**We are improving rapidly and we will continue to do so because we are all committed to your children having the best education possible. We couldn't do that without you and I am grateful for the parents who came in to speak to the inspectors, the hugely positive response to our parental questionnaires and for your ongoing support. Thank you!**

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Christina Stewardson**  
Head teacher