



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you as we approach the end of another busy and important term, one in which we prepare as a whole school community to celebrate the Easter Triduum (the three days from Good Friday to Easter Sunday). This feast allows us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and as a school allows us to reflect that everything we do is centred upon a set of core values that we believe will prepare our students for the rest of their lives.

This term has of course been busy for our Year 13 and Year 11 students who have been preparing for their summer examinations. As an exam centre our school oversees 4,330 exams a year in wide ranging courses from GCSE, IGCSE and A levels to vocational qualifications such as BTEC and OCR technical exams. The wide variety of subjects and exam boards reflect the diversity not only of our school but the skill and dedication of the 150 staff who contribute to your child's life at school.

Part of our mission statement is to build a no excuses community where every child can achieve their full potential and fully participate in every aspect of the school community. Our school continues to be on a journey of improvement and we continue to work towards not only providing an 'outstanding' education for all of our pupils but also to be a beacon of excellence for Catholic Education in the West Midlands. A year ago this term we welcomed Ofsted to our school, marking a key point in the school's transformational journey as it marked the first time since 2013 that the school had moved from being 'inadequate' to being graded 'requires improvement'. I wrote to you after this inspection (29 March 2018) noting that the report had commented how the leadership team had put in place, "Rapid, effective changes to improve the quality of education for pupils" as well as acknowledging that the "Quality of teaching is improving quickly[sic] there are pockets of excellent practice across the school."

As a school we want the very best for your child and have therefore continued this journey of rapid improvement over the past twelve months. As the term draws to an end I wanted to take the opportunity to provide a brief overview of some of the further improvements that have taken place:

- 1. Building sustainable networks with partner schools:** We are fortunate to be part of the Romero Catholic Multi Academy Company and as such we are able to access links for school to school support that other schools are unable to. Over the past twelve months we have linked with St Augustine's Redditch, St John Wall Birmingham as well as two further Coventry based teaching schools. This has allowed us to access specialist staff training to upskill staff in teaching methods as well as gain a better understanding of new GCSE and A Level courses.
- 2. Long term governance:** Last year we put in place a school improvement body to allow specific support for our programmes of rapid change across the school. This meant a smaller, specialised team of governors has been in place to advise and challenge the school. We are currently working with the Diocese to replace this SIB at the end of this academic year and allow for the return of a Local Academy Committee. We believe strongly that this will allow for greater stakeholder representation at governance level through parent and community governors.

Executive Principal: Mr Anthony Quinn

Principal: Mr Thomas Leverage



3. **Consistency and impact of teaching:** This has firstly been greatly improved by the reduction of supply teachers working with classes compared to last year. We have worked very closely with Warwick University and other teacher providers to ensure that we have recruited strongly into key departments such as Science, English and History. The staff have also worked with leading subject specialists and colleagues across the country to implement our exciting knowledge based curriculum at Key Stage 3 which we believe will provide a sound foundation for all our pupils as they prepare for their key stage options.
4. **High expectations of behaviour:** Last summer we introduced our new '100% compliance' behaviour policy. This has had a dramatic impact on teaching and learning throughout the day and allowed us to dramatically reduce the number of behaviour incidents throughout the school day. We track this data every day which allows us to work very closely with parents when concerns arise. Currently, less than 2% of the school population requires support in internal inclusion and we will continue to work with pupils to ensure this figure drops further.
5. **Site development:** At 46 acres, our school is one of the largest in Coventry. Luckily we have an extremely talented site team and since March last year they have been working hard to improve the site to ensure that your child accesses the best possible learning environment and one that is safe and secure. The installation of our new reception and exterior fencing has provided a much higher level of security control at the front of school. We have also updated all of our CCTV and Alarm systems to ensure that your children are safe and secure when they come on to our site. Over the Easter and summer holidays the site work will continue with fences to section off our car parks and create clearer pathways for pupils to follow during movement between lessons. We are also installing a number of controlled fire doors which will break up some of our larger corridors and make it easier for pupils to move between classroom blocks. We will also be building a new toilet block on the playground with separate toilets for boys and girls.

I hope this provides a useful update on the work we are undertaking to move towards 'Good'. As part of our commitment to improved communication we will continue to provide a weekly newsletter which is emailed, texted and posted on our school website. Please also feel free to follow us on our Twitter feed @OfficialWiseman where you can find updates and celebrations of some of our pupils' fantastic achievements. We will continue to run our parent coffee mornings which also provide an informal opportunity for you to meet and discuss any issues with our staff.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a restful and peaceful Easter and I look forward to meeting with you at the beginning of the summer term.

Yours faithfully



T J Leverage MA (Cantab)
Principal