

23 July 2024

Sheila Ward
Principal
St Paul's Academy
Finchale Road
Abbey Wood
London
SE2 9PX

Dear Sheila,

It was with pleasure that I read your recent Catholic School Inspection report.

Throughout the report, St Paul's is presented as a welcoming and inclusive Catholic community where all are 'God's work of art.' I was pleased to read of the many ways in which the students and staff support the wider community through visiting the elderly, helping homeless families and being such good role models for peers, rooted in the Church's teachings.

It was lovely to read that students enjoy their religious education lessons. You must be pleased that outcomes in religious education at St Paul's are on a clear upward trend and that the students are progressing at a good rate. I am sure that this is a result of the dedication and hard work of the head of department and those who teach religious education.

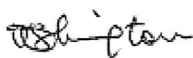
Prayer and liturgy are the heart of the Catholic school and St Paul's clearly has a strong heart. Reading of the many ways in which the students plan for and enjoy times of prayer and liturgy was a joy. The school chapel is clearly a special place, and I was delighted to read that the students were involved in the process or refurbishing it. The many comments from students, parents and staff about the impact of the prayer and liturgy offer is a credit to the strength of chaplaincy and the priority given it by leaders and governors.

I noted that the school has recently had a rebrand of mission statement with leaders, supported by governors, at the helm of this process. It is good to see that this mission, with dignity at its core, is being lived out by the school community.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the St Paul's community, staff, students, governors and parents. Please pass on my thanks to your staff, for all the hard work they do to ensure the students in your school community receive a good quality Catholic education.

Be assured of my prayers for you and for all in the school.

Yours sincerely



Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for Education
CC: Sarah Griffin, Chair of Governors