

# St. Francis' College

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29 June 2017

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**When referring to GCSE and A level results “pupils make excellent progress by Year 11 in relation to those of a similar ability nationally; sixth formers show good progress on the same basis.” (ISI Inspection 2017)**

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to send to you copies of the ISI Inspection Reports 2017. The Focused Compliance Inspection confirmed that the College meets the standards set out in the relevant regulations and framework for independent schools, boarding schools and Early Years Foundation Stage and I am pleased to say no further action is required as a result of this inspection.

The College revised its aims in 2016, modernising them without sacrificing the principles of the College and its ethos. The Educational Quality inspection process makes an assessment against the aims of the College which will influence the final judgement. We are therefore delighted with this report which establishes the good progress we have made towards those new aims, in a short period of time and recognises the work the College is doing to continue developing its provision.

As you are aware from briefings in my bulletin, the design of the inspection has been completely overhauled and different criteria for assessment established. The new inspection is therefore not comparable with the old inspection. The inspection report itself emphasises this on page 2.

The main highlights are as follows:

When referring to GCSE and A level results “pupils make excellent progress by Year 11 in relation to those of a similar ability nationally; sixth formers show good progress on the same basis.”

“Pupils with SEND and EAL make good progress in line with their abilities because of the support they receive”

“In the EYFS, all pupils reach the expected levels of development for their age; most exceed them.”

“..attainment by Year 6 is judged to be above that expected nationally for pupils of the same age”

“Pupils also have positive attitudes to learning”

“Pupils are very positive about the school’s curriculum and they respond enthusiastically to what is on offer.”

“From the EYFS onwards, as they move up the school, pupils gain confidence and self-esteem so that they become young people who can express their views clearly and honestly”

“They (the pupils) develop strong self-discipline”

“They (the pupils) are resilient”

“...parents were overwhelmingly positive about the school’s effectiveness in supporting their children’s personal development and of the pastoral and welfare arrangements, including within the boarding provision.”

“A very large majority of pupils surveyed said that the teachers are supportive and helpful with any problems with work”

“Pupils of all faiths and all ages display a reverence in accord with the school’s Christian ethos.”

“They (the pupils) have an appreciation of the non- material aspects of life [...] where they stressed that the most important things in life are principles, values and belief in goodness.”

“Pupils are proud of their very good behaviour and treat each other and adults with equally high respect”

The College is also pleased that the inspection team recognises the developmental work which has been initiated. You, as parents are already aware of the work we have done in encouraging girls to be unafraid of taking risks and learning from mistakes. Many of you attended the ‘Growth Mindset’ evening and many assemblies in school have tackled these issues. The College will continue to develop this aspect of the girls’ education and deepen the impact of these principles.

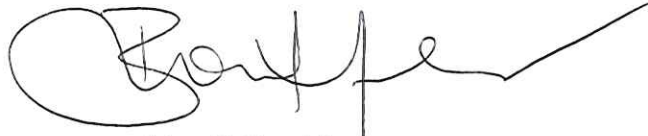
It is clear from the report that some pupils do not feel they have a voice and so, in September, the Senior school will formalise its existing School Council into a constitutional body.

The College remains committed to providing challenge and stimulus to our most able students. It has been looking at the opportunities offered to the more able and those of you with daughters in Year 10 and 11 will be aware of the IGGY website facility which has been opened up to them. Individual girls are also encouraged to take opportunities such as masterclasses. As you are aware, a critical thinking programme is being introduced into the Sixth Form in September 2017 which will help to encourage independent and analytical

thought processes. Furthermore, we will continue with the training and sharing of best practice which is already underway, as highlighted in my bulletins, so that we are confident that the aims we have set ourselves are reached.

We are committed to continuous improvement and development at all levels in the College and, taking on board the recommendations in the report, we will continue with our plans to strengthen our educational and pastoral provision for your daughters.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs B Goulding  
Headmistress

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Goodwin  
Chairman