



12th February 2020
Our ref: 183/SH/cw

Mr Paul Kershaw
Acting Headteacher
Beechwood Sacred Heart Independent School
12 Pembury Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
TN2 3QD

Dear Paul

My congratulations to you and everyone at Beechwood on achieving a good outcome following your first denominational inspection.

It is clear that the pupils enjoy and benefit from the Catholic life of the school. That the inspectors noted the significant amount of positive parental comments, and those of the pupils illustrates the 'tremendous sense of care and community' which exists. This is a credit to you and all who work at Beechwood. Developing and nurturing children, both academically and spiritually is clearly an important aspect of life in the school. It is illustrated through the many ways in which pupils engage with the wider Catholic and local communities; through yearly retreats, fundraising and volunteering.

I was pleased to read that pupils respond positively to their Religious Education lessons and have strong relationships with teachers. It is also good to read that, from September 2019, GCSE Religious Education has been made compulsory for all pupils. However, it is disappointing to learn that the Bishops' Conference expectations are not being met in relation to time allotted, curriculum taught and assessment of Religious Education. I am sure that once these expectations are met, the pupils will achieve just as well in Religious Education as they already do in other curriculum areas.

Collective worship was judged to be outstanding and it was lovely to read of the wide variety of prayer and liturgical experiences provided to the pupils. It was a pleasure to read of the many ways in which Beechwood pupils engage with and actively participate in these times of worship. I was particularly struck by how well the Sacred Heart way of Espacio has been incorporated into the prayer life of the school.

Please pass on my thanks and gratitude to everyone at Beechwood for their dedication and commitment in ensuring that the school is such a wonderful example of Catholic education. I look forward to hearing of your continued success and I wish you well in all your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Dr Simon Hughes
Director of Education

Cc: Mrs Constance Williams, Chair of Governors
Canon John O'Toole, Episcopal Vicar for Kent