



31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Dear Parent/ Carers,

I am pleased to inform you that Ofsted have published the outcome of our recent inspection. The headline outcome is that St Aidan's Catholic Academy is a 'Good' School. The 'Good' judgement has been awarded in areas across the Lower School and the Sixth Form.

The full report is available on our website ( [www.staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk](http://www.staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)) and a hard copy can be requested from School by contacting reception on 553 6073.

I have included some statements from the report that highlight the excellent work of staff and students:

**Effectiveness of leadership and management: Good**

*The headteacher and deputy headteacher are committed and relentless in their work for continuous improvement.*

*Senior leaders have established high expectations of staff and pupils and lead by example.*

*Governors and senior leaders have developed a strong culture of accountability.*

*Middle leaders know the strengths and weaknesses of their departments well and take appropriate and effective actions to support individual pupils.*

**Quality of teaching, learning and assessment: Good**

*Since the last inspection, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment has significantly improved and is now good.*

*Relationships between teachers and pupils are very positive*

*There are detailed and thorough systems in place for checking the quality of teaching and learning.*



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Headteacher Mr Kevin Shepherd | Chair of Governors Dr C Emmerson B.Sc. MBBS FRCOG

**Personal development, behaviour and welfare: Good**

*Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted effectively through the school's taught curriculum. The religious education curriculum makes a particularly strong contribution to this.*

*The school promotes strong values of respect and equality*

*Pupils display respectful and tolerant attitudes towards each other and are keen to get involved in fundraising activities for charities.*

*The behaviour of pupils is good.*

*Pupils are happy at school and proud to be members of its community. They report that the school has improved significantly in the last couple of years. Pupils wear their uniform with pride, respect the well-kept environment for learning and are rarely late for lessons.*

*Staff deal with any incidents quickly and efficiently. Pupils are clear about the consequences and sanctions associated with specific actions.*

**Outcomes for pupils: Good**

*Over the last two years, the school has seen a year-on-year improvement in the overall attainment and progress of pupils.*

*Since the last inspection, the progress of disadvantaged pupils has significantly improved.*

*Overall, the school prepares pupils well for their next steps in education, training or employment.*

**16 to 19 study programmes: Good**

*Since the last inspection, sixth form provision has improved and is now good.*

*Students achieve well. This is as a result of good teaching and effective leadership.*

*The sixth form leader has high expectations and a very strong understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of this area.*

To further highlight the quality of our education, the validated GCSE outcomes for last summer were recently published. We are proud to confirm that our GCSE English & Maths 9-4 ( old GCSE A\*-C) was 76%, meaning we were the highest performing School in our Local Authority (Sunderland & Washington) on this measure. When the performance of boys is compared with other boys our results look even more impressive.

I would like to thank parents/carers for the continued support that you give to the school and our pupils. Our improvement journey will continue, this will ensure that your son receives the very best education possible.

Yours sincerely,

*K. Shepherd.*