

ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Specialist School in the Humanities

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VERITAS ET SAPIENTIA

Headteacher
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humanities

3 April 2009

Dear Parents

Inspection Outcomes 2009-04-02

You will know that we have had two inspections within the last three weeks. The first of these was a lighter touch inspection from a team provided by the Office for Standards in Education, OfSTED, and the second was through a team from the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

We have two inspections because that for OfSTED may not inspect RE teaching and certain other aspects of provision here that relate to the Catholic life and ethos of our school. The Church authorities provide their own teams to inspect those aspects of the school's provision.

The reports have been drafted and finalised and that from OfSTED will be available on the internet from 7 March. We will make available full copies of the reports on the school VLE from 20 April at www.epchs.co.uk (Follow the link) In addition I am required to send all parents/carers printed copies of both reports. We shall distribute those to you from 21 April.

OfSTED

"Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is well respected by students and parents alike. It has some notable strengths, particularly its caring Catholic ethos, the prowess of its students on the sporting field and its emerging humanities specialism. There are, however, areas which need further development. As a result, overall effectiveness is judged to be satisfactory."

Diocese of Shrewsbury

"Ellesmere Port Catholic High is an outstanding school. The living out of its mission statement is evident in all aspects of school life. The collective worship and the prayer life of the school are outstanding. The teaching, learning and leadership in Religious Education are of the highest quality and attainment is good and improving."

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full" John 10. 10

We are, as you might expect, disappointed with the judgment of OfSTED. Three years ago, when we were last inspected, both teams shared the judgment that our school was

“...a good school with some outstanding features.”

We feel that we demonstrated that our school has moved on further from 2005/6. We certainly don't feel that those features judged to be outstanding have deteriorated. Indeed the talk of “notable strengths” says as much. The Diocesan inspectors agreed with us. We felt that the OfSTED team were consistent and professional but restricted by a required interpretation of external measures of progress which did not reflect the improvements made.

Those things said, we accept the judgments of both groups and we shall take their guidance about areas of improvement and work with that.

After the last inspection we unofficially adopted a slogan. This was

“ From ‘Good’ to ‘Great’ ”

We shall modify that in our own minds to

via ‘Satisfactory’
“ From ‘Good’ [^] to ‘Great’ ”

The goal remains both unchanged and attainable.

Yours sincerely

P Lee
Headteacher

