

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School



Headteacher's Report

December 2017

1. Section 50

The Section 50 visit on 5 and 6 December was a very successful one. The final written report is expected nearer the end of term, but John Wilbraham gave oral feedback at the end of the visit. He concluded 'very good progress has been made since the last inspection in May 2016 in successfully addressing all recommendations. The school has transformed provision, governance and leadership. The school has accepted the challenge and has put in place effective and sustainable systems, which are embedded'.

A full copy of the notes taken during the feedback is attached.

2. Community

During Advent, there have been twice weekly Masses (Monday and Friday). These Masses have been very well attended. All pupils will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation following reconciliation services.

The SVP Mass and Meal was well attended and an event which captures the ethos of St Richard Gwyn. It was also an opportunity to share all the recent good news with our community. Many thanks to Mike O'Regan for organising the event, to Father Fretch for saying Mass, to Paul Rowlands for leading the festivities and to Kathryn Jones for the catering.

The Christmas Fair held in the Sports Hall on 1 December gave Year 10 students the opportunity to develop their business and enterprise skills. The event was well covered by the local press and the 'dragons' who listened to the business plan presentations the following week were full of praise for our 'incredible' students. The event also raised more than £800 for Hope House.

Staff and students have also been active in their support of Operation Christmas Child. 123 shoeboxes and a cheque for £300 were collected.

The Christmas Reflection, on the theme of 'A Promise Fulfilled' will be on Thursday 21 December starting at 6pm.

3. Staffing

Nia Jones is leaving at the end of term to take up a post in a school on the Wirral. Louise Jones is joining us in January as the New Second in English. The Network Manager's post was readvertised with an 8 December closing date. Mark Williams is leaving us to join the staff team at Chester University.

My performance management targets were finalised at a meeting on 22 November with John, Ray, Rita Price and Graham Davies (GwE).

4. Standards

The progress data for Year 11 and Year 10 has been collected and analysed. Year 11 are progressing well at this stage. Year 10 are only in the first term but the early indications are very promising.

Whole School	L2+ %	L2 %	L1 %	5 A*/A %
Year 11 (125)	66.4	76.8	100	20
Year 10 (95)	69.5	84.2	100	29.5
Year 11 Groups				
FSM (12)	66.7	66.7	100	0
EAL (15)	26.7	46.7	100	0
ALN (23)	37.8	47.8	100	4.3
MAT (29)	96.6	100	100	72.4
Boys (71)	59.1	71.8	100	7.1
Girls (54)	76	83.3	100	27.8
Year 10 Groups				
FSM (8)	37.5	62.5	100	0
EAL (8)	37.5	62.5	100	0
ALN (20)	20	55	100	0
MAT (26)	96.2	100	100	0
Boys (47)	61.7	74.5	100	17
Girls (48)	77.1	95.8	100	41.4

A Middle Leaders meeting on 28 November finalised the intervention cohorts in Year 10 and Year 11 and the strategies to be used. We didn't reach this stage until March last year so we are better placed. Any student two or more grades below target in three or more subjects will have a Personal Recovery Plan. This will involve the year head, parents and the student.

The latest Assessment Point for the Sixth Form and Key Stage 3 is this week so I hope to give an update on their progress at the meeting.

5. Safeguarding and Complaints

The school was closed on Friday 8 December and Monday 11 December on health and safety grounds due to the adverse weather.

One historic complaint is currently being dealt with.

6. Attendance

Current attendance is 94.2%, up from 93.7% last year. This represents progress towards our target of 94.7%.

7. School Performance Monitoring Group

The Chair and I attended a meeting of Flintshire's School Performance Management Group at County Hall on 23 November. Ian Roberts (Chair of the Education Committee), Vicky Barlow, Lucy Morris (Finance), Rita Price and Graham Davies were present. A number of issues including the Sixth Form, governance, our budget and transport were discussed. John, Rita and I will provide more detail at the meeting but all present wanted me to pass on to governors their congratulations at the progress the school is making.

In meetings with GwE it has been agreed that the school's support category will change from red to amber. This entitles us to 15 days support per year. I am currently finalising our support plan with Graham Davies.

8. Communications

The good news of our removal from special measures in record time has been shared with parents, parishes and the local community via social media, Gwyn News and the local press. Leaflets for parents in the partner primary schools have been printed. A number of schools and parishes have kindly agreed to display one of our banners.

9. Admissions

The signs are hopeful that we will reach our admissions target of 110 in Year 7 next September. I will provide an update at the meeting.

10. Budget

Our current and projected budget is attached. A £363,000 deficit is projected to carry forward into 2018-2019. The in year projected deficit of £199,000 will result in a negative cumulative balance of £562,000. In 2019-20, if nothing changes, the in year deficit will rise to £300,000 (see attached).

Our budget position is made worse because Flintshire can only offer a 'cash flat' (no increase) settlement next year. Incremental drift will cost potentially £35,000, a 1% pay increase about £36,000 with as yet unknown inflationary costs to be added.

Based on the rapid improvements to the school, this situation is manageable. Flintshire are prepared to be patient so long as we take appropriate action to control our budget costs.

The Chair has agreed that I will finalise a business case for governors and bring it to the meeting as the basis of a part 2 discussion.