15th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to be able to tell you that Ofsted visited St Joseph’s on 6th and 7th December 2022 and the report is now published. Ofsted noted our much improved curriculum, judging the quality of education as Good, Personal development as Good and Leadership and Management as Good.

The report highlights improvements in behaviour in classrooms and in the way that young people access their learning as evidenced in the best outcomes St Joseph’s has ever seen in 2022. Ofsted pointed out that *“Leaders have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour. Pupils are clear of what is expected. Typically, classrooms are calm and orderly places. Pupils settle to their work and behave well in their lessons.”* They also note that *“Pupils are keen to do well in class. Their concentration in lessons helps them to learn and remember more”* and that *“Staff resolve any bullying incidents quickly.”*

We are glad that Ofsted noticed our ambition for the academic achievement of the pupils that attend our school and that they note young people benefit from the improvements that we have made to the quality of education. We were particularly pleased that our inclusive approach is judged to be helping *“the majority of pupils, including those who are disadvantaged and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to experience and enjoy academic success.”* I thank staff and parent/carers who have worked with us to get to this point.

As you know, we will never be complacent and our drive to further improve our school is as strong as ever. We know that we need to do more to encourage our students to read more and we are taking action to improve the behaviour of the minority of learners who were most profoundly affected by the impact of recent lockdowns.

We shared with the Ofsted team that we are completing a piece of work around building a stronger culture at St Joseph’s so that young people feel such a strong allegiance to our school family and such a strong sense of empathy for each other and the world around them that they show improved attitudes and behaviour to each other. We know that we can’t do this alone. The old proverb states “It takes a village to raise a child” and we are asking for your support. Please click [here](https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Working-Together-Letter-2-1.docx) for more information on how we are responding to this challenge and how you can help.

We are positive about the exciting journey ahead and we look forward to one day seeing our young people take up their place in the world and feeling very proud that we have been partners in their lives. Thanks for all your support.

Our Ofsted report is available on [this link](https://stjosephsbolton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/10244609-St-Josephs-RC-High-105262-Final-Clean-PDF-13.03.2023.pdf):

Kind regards

Mr T McCabe