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17 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Chair of Governors Easter Update 2023

I hope you all had a very happy and Holy Easter break and are looking forward to the new summer term with warmer weather and longer daylight ahead to blow away those winter blues.

On 7 and 8 February the school had an Ofsted ungraded inspection. There has been a great deal of controversy in recent weeks about Ofsted inspections and I am pleased to announce that we had a very successful and positive outcome from our inspection. I would like to thank all the staff, pupils and parents who have contributed over many years to support the school in our journey. Some of the comments made in their report (noted below) are worthy of a mention and reflect highly on staff, parents and pupils:

**Ofsted- This is a Happy School. Pupils take pleasure in attending.**  
***Pupils enjoy their learning. Teachers support pupils in classrooms to do their best. They help pupils to achieve their learning goals. Pupils feel safe and well-looked after in this school. The Catholic Character and virtues of the school have a strong influence on everything the school does. There are high expectations of all pupils. They are encouraged to be kind, follow rules, and try their hardest. Pupils meet these expectations and behave well around the school. Pupils are respectful towards each other and adults. Pupils say bullying is rare. When it does occur, leaders deal with it appropriately. Leaders have planned an ambitious curriculum for all pupils. This includes disadvantaged pupils, and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).***

A copy of the full Ofsted report is on our website for your information. Please read it carefully.

I am also pleased to report that Cardinal Heenan received from the Department for Education the National Schools Attendance Award for the 2022/23 Autumn term putting the school in the top 10% of all secondary schools in England. This again is a good reflection of teachers, parents and pupils working together.

We are now in a period of change and uncertainty with more teachers strikes planned and unfunded government pay awards announced. The school leaders are committed to minimising the disruption in the school and on the education of pupils and I ask all parents and pupils to work with the school during this difficult period.

On funding we are about to agree the budget for the new financial year with uncertainty on the final pay award, the government position on funding the final pay award agreed, and unprecedented increase in fuel and other commodity increases. Once all these uncertainties have been finalised then we can plan appropriately to maintain the high standards in teaching and curriculum that we have achieved in recent years.



On a positive note we have received planning permission for the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and we hope to place the contract and start the work in the summer term.

The current PFI contract will come to an end on 2 August 2025 and we are working closely with Bellrock (PFI Provider) the council, the diocese and the DfE to ensure a successful handover of the school. We have identified all the major refurbishment items that need to be completed in the next two years by Easter 2025 to achieve this handover. Most of the work will be undertaken during school holidays to minimise disruption to the school.

I am also pleased that the school had won the PE & Sport championships for the city in the autumn term. This covers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, boys and girls football, running, badminton, table tennis, basketball and much more. This is a great achievement and should be recognised and celebrated. Well done to all those pupils who participated and thanks to teachers and parents for their support.

The school website has the names and roles of all the governors for your information.

I hope to meet up with many of you again in the summer term.

God Bless.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Gardner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr M Gardner  
Chair of Governors