



# St Andrew the Apostle



## Greek Orthodox School

Headteacher:

Robert Ahearn BA (HONS) NPQH

16 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **St Andrew the Apostle School Ofsted Inspection**

As you know, St Andrew received a two day, Section 5, Ofsted inspection on Thursday 29th and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

I am sending you a copy of the inspection report which, as you can see, concludes that the school is good in all areas. Inspectors were particularly impressed by our new sixth form and noted the high expectations leaders have of their students; and also the fact that teachers know students well and track their progress carefully. They note that students really enjoy their learning in the sixth form; teaching is robust; and evidence from sixth-form lesson observations and students' folders indicates strong progress *"because of the effective teaching they receive"*.

Our students should be exceptionally proud of themselves as the report praises their behaviour and their attitude to learning. Inspectors observed that they are self-confident and very articulate and that they like their school and want to do well. Students told them that there was a 'family atmosphere' in the school and that there is a warmth in the relationships between students. Inspectors judged behaviour to be very good *"Pupils' behaviour around the school is very good. They manage their own behaviour well on very narrow corridors without adults' supervision. Pupils respond to adults in a polite and mature manner around the school. Despite having to move between the two sites, pupils are rarely late for lessons."*

In view of all this, we remain surprised and saddened by the Lead Inspector's decision to define St Andrew as 'Good' overall rather than 'Outstanding'; despite the fact that our 2018 GCSE results place us in the top 12% of schools nationally, and for most subjects the top 5% of schools nationally. We argued during the inspection, that to fail to acknowledge the exceptional nature of our GCSE results is misleading for parents. Aside from this puzzling decision, we continue to appreciate the report overall.

The report judges that St Andrew is continuing to provide the education and Christian ethos that the founding governors and RET envisaged when we opened the school in 2013. The report notes that students' outcomes in 2018 GCSE examinations were *"strong and above average"* [results were in fact *well-above average* using the government's own published data]. Inspectors noted that disadvantaged pupils and pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are making very good progress across all year groups. Similarly, the report acknowledges our broad and balanced curriculum and the very strong progress of our most able students. They describe the school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare as outstanding.

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The report recognises that governors and senior leaders have high expectations for pupils and that they set challenging targets; and provide support so that pupils can achieve them. It also comments that our staff are highly motivated and that they value the coaching and training provided by the Trust and the school. Inspectors correctly judged that staff are proud of their school and feel supported and valued by senior leaders.

Parents will be aware that last term we experienced some ill-health and absence in the mathematics department. The effect of this led Inspectors to agree with our judgement that some improvements were needed in mathematics. Nevertheless, parents should still be clear that despite temporary mathematics staffing issues in the lower school last term, mathematics results at GCSE in 2018 were above national average and above that of many other Outstanding schools. Mathematics is well led (at school and Trust level) and Year 11 mock GCSE results in December 2018 were excellent. Similarly, new maths staff are settling in well with their classes.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for putting your trust in the staff of St Andrew and in RET; and sending your child to us for secondary education. We look forward to our continued partnership and to another year of outstanding test and public examination outcomes for your children.

May you all enjoy a blessed 2019.

Rob Ahearn, Headteacher

Karen Lynch, CEO RET

Yiannis Pareas, Chair of Governors