



Holy Trinity Joins the Ranks of Top Richmond Schools

This school year got off to a flying start in September with the announcement of our Outstanding judgment by Ofsted. This was the culmination a great deal of hard work by staff, governors, pupils and parents since the judgment of Good in 2010 and Satisfactory in 2006 when there were only 182 pupils in the school. Next term, Holy Trinity will welcome its 500th pupil.

Ofsted, which carried out the inspection just before the end of the summer term, awarded the top grade of Outstanding in all areas of scrutiny of Holy Trinity's effectiveness. These include leadership and management, quality of teaching, behaviour, safety and achievement of pupils.

The report highlighted our pupils' impeccable behaviour around school, their courtesy and friendliness, exemplary attitude and thirst for learning and how well children from different backgrounds get on together. Inspectors said their enjoyment of Holy Trinity was evident.

Teachers and teaching assistants were praised for working effectively as a team to ensure first-class relationships with pupils and for providing a challenging curriculum that is engaging and highly motivating. The school was applauded generally for removing barriers to effective learning and providing effective support to pupils vulnerable to under-achievement. Consequently, all pupils, including disabled and those with special educational needs, make exceptional progress.

Holy Trinity's leadership was praised for being highly ambitious for its pupils, with a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement.

Chair of Governors, Gerry Stride, commented, "We are extremely blessed in having a staff body which is hard working, committed to driving up standards and doing the very best for our children."

To celebrate our achievement, there was a tea party for all parents and pupils, a party for staff and governors and we now proudly display a banner saying "Outstanding" at both school entrances and issued parents with bumper stickers for their cars and pupils with pin badges.

Perhaps as a reflection of our Ofsted judgment and our standing in the local area, we received our highest ever number of applications for places this September, with 347 applications for 60 places, of which 70 ranked us as their first choice school.



Continuing the Vision

In September 2014, we presented a new five-year Vision to parents for the school. Achieving an Outstanding Ofsted inspection was part of this Vision, but it is by no means the whole story.

The Vision outlined four main priorities for achievement and here are some of the ways in which we are progressing towards our objectives.

1 EXCELLENT TEACHING AND LEARNING

Excellent learning

Our community will be aware that the old National Curriculum levels have been discontinued and schools are now responsible for establishing their own means of tracking pupils' progress and attainment.

At the start of the school year, Holy Trinity adopted a new assessment system in English, maths and science that incorporates diagnostic testing at the start of each unit to help identify individual and group strengths and weaknesses. Several Richmond schools are also using this system so we are able to compare and benchmark our data. With this new system, parents will be able to compare their child's results with national, local and school scores.

Last year 90% of Holy Trinity year 6 pupils achieved Level 4B and above in SATs results for Reading, Writing and Maths; the average for Richmond schools was 81% and the national average was 82%. Although results will be reported in a different form now, we continue to set aspirational, yet realistic, targets for the current year 6 cohort.

Excellent teaching

And just as our pupils are being assessed, so are their teachers. Using demanding Ofsted grading, we set a target of having 60% of teaching being of outstanding quality, with 40% being good. Thanks to excellent training, professional development and personnel stability, we now have a remarkable 70% of teachers giving outstanding lessons, with 30% being good.

We also aim to be highly selective when it comes to recruiting new teachers. This year we have an excellent new maths coordinator, Lee Reynolds, on the Senior Leadership Team, whose stated aim is "to make all children fluent and confident mathematicians". We have also been delighted to welcome Hannah Gibbard and Sam Millwood to the teaching staff.

We have bid farewell to some very long-serving members of staff: Sue Fitzpartick retired at Easter after 22 years teaching many year groups in the school; Liz Skivington, our esteemed nursery teacher who has prepared hundreds of pupils for their primary education, retires at the end of this term; and Patricia Wadlow is also retiring after 22 years on our staff. Holy Trinity will miss them all and is so grateful for their dedication and love of our school.



Excellent curriculum

Holy Trinity is proud of being able to offer a wide and rich curriculum, inspiring children beyond the requirements of government tests and expectations.

A busy programme of art/ DT – every child now has their own sketch book - music - that includes choirs, orchestras and a drumming group - and school outings are all part of every Holy Trinity pupil's week. We are always grateful to the many parents who volunteer to help with the school outings and extra-curricular clubs that make these enrichment activities possible and we make your children's safety a priority whatever they are doing.

Science has been a particular focus in and out of the classrooms this year and our science coordinator, Mandie Lambert, has energetically enthused staff and pupils to help apply for the Primary Science Quality Mark at Gold level. Pupils have been engaged in stimulating experiments around the theme of Transportation such as using balloons for propulsion and using magnets or elastic bands as sources of energy. Outreach work included hosting an event in school one Saturday for local cub packs to undertake their Science Badge. Mandie has also given a talk on primary science at a teachers' delegation in Belfast. Meanwhile, pupils have been taking photos of wildlife on their way to or from school to submit for a competition. We eagerly await the outcome of the application.

2 EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION

The school website received considerable praise in our Ofsted report, which commented on our strong communication and consultation between the school and parents. Updated regularly, it also acts as an important method of communication between the PTA and the school community and governors and parents.

In addition, the school has a twitter page dedicated to sport, @HolyTSport, which bills itself as "The place to find out about all things sport at Holy Trinity including fixtures, results, sports clubs, upcoming events and local sporting opportunities." There is also a sports noticeboard in the reception area with news and photographs.

More recently a twitter page has been set up to champion Eco activity in school @HolyT_Eco.

Pupils in Year 6 continue to produce a Christmas and Easter issue of the popular school newspaper, Kingfisher Frenzy which has expanded to eight pages in full colour.



3 EXCELLENT USE OF SPACE

There has been some reorganisation of internal space this year to create an office for the Inclusion Manager and the Computer Suite was redesigned to make a group room.

Exterior space is also used to great effect for sports lessons, lunchtime and after-school clubs and team practice. Sport has grown enormously in both popularity and success this year.

Holy Trinity was awarded Gold in the School Games Kite mark, an Ofsted approved award that judges the provision of sport in primary and secondary schools. The termly sports days and the sheer number of pupils taking part in clubs and sports teams particularly impressed the external adjudicator who wished he could have awarded more than just Gold!

4. EXCELLENT CITIZENS OF TOMORROW

The Head Teachers' Award was relaunched this year for pupils in the Juniors. There are three levels of award, Gold, Silver and Bronze, with the criteria set to underline Holy Trinity's values and ethos: Behaviour for Learning, Good Citizenship and Be the Best you can Be. Awards will be announced at the end of term.

Pupils manifest their concern for the environment and the wider world through the activities of the Eco committee and the Eco club. This year they collected over 45kg of old and new stationery items from the Holy Trinity community to send to two schools in South Africa. They are also involved the Cleaner Air 4 Schools project to raise awareness of local air quality and how to reduce the risk to health.

Charity fundraising continues to be a key part of forming our children's' social conscience. Particularly imaginative efforts have included filling empty Smarties tubes with 20p pieces raising over £3,000 for pupils in Sierra Leone, affected by civil war and the Ebola outbreak. Over £500 was raised for the NSPCC in a cumulative marathon where pupils and staff ran 422 100m laps of the sports field.

The best test, of course, of whether Holy Trinity has succeeded in creating Excellent Citizens of Tomorrow is the pupils themselves. This year most of our 51 Year 6 leavers will go on to their secondary school of choice, including 6 pupils going into the private sector.



Here, some year 6 pupils tell us what 7 years at Holy Trinity CE Primary School has meant to them as they prepare for life beyond.

“People say that your childhood is the most important part of your life and Holy Trinity has proved that. If it weren’t for this school and all those teachers who have supported me with care and kindness, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.”

“Holy Trinity has offered me amazing opportunities and a happy environment to work in. When I think about leaving, I feel both confident and melancholy. Confident because I can make a new start, try new things and make new friends at secondary school; melancholy because I will miss everyone and everything at HT with all my heart.”

“Holy Trinity has helped me to become a better person as whenever my confidence was dropping they would help me build it back up and I have learnt many different ways of improving.”

“The greatest thing I have learnt outside of lessons is friendship; if I’m hurt, my friends are always there for me and if they’re hurt, I’m always there for them. The most important thing for me is making sure that my work is the best it can be so that I can achieve greater things.”

“Holy Trinity has helped me to become myself in many extraordinary ways. The teachers play a huge part in this – they don’t hammer the facts into you like in other schools; they have never-ending patience and gently but firmly help you to learn. This doesn’t mean they are so easy-going that they let you run wild and muck about in class, they can be stern and brisk and never miss anything but we respect and listen to them.”

“Lessons aren’t only about maths and algebra and chemistry but also about learning to be kind, generous and respectful.”

“I am filled with joyful memories of this amazing school, my eyes blur with tears at the thought of transferring schools but Holy Trinity has helped me begin my life and I finally feel ready for a new one.”

“What I will take from HT to my secondary school is no matter the obstacle, you must still plough on in order to achieve your dreams.”

We wish our school community a happy and restful summer break.