

ETI Inspection Report December 2017

Statement from the Board of Governors

The Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh has received a hugely positive report following a recent inspection by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

At the time of the inspection four of the teaching unions had taken industrial action, short of strike, which was noted in the inspectorate's report. The ETI were therefore unable to complete a full evaluation in order to award a performance level. However key findings were reported in areas such as outcomes for learners, the quality of learning provision, leadership and management and safeguarding pupils.

Key highlights in the report included parents' written comments which '*affirmed, in particular, the supportive learning environment provided for the pupils and the effective transition from primary school.'*

Regarding staff responses, the report noted the '*positive learning environment enabling pupils to progress, well prepared for the future. Their written comments highlighted, in particular, the school's collegial working environment and the staff's pride in supporting pupils to achieve their potential.'*

A key part of the inspection included talking to pupils directly about their experiences within the school. The inspectors commented that '*there was a clear sense of order and calm*' as they walked around the school. They commented that all the pupils they met were '*articulate and confident; they have positive dispositions to their school and spoke respectfully about their teachers and the help they receive with their learning.'*

Principal, Mr Foncy McConnell said "*I am delighted that parents, staff and pupils should so positively reflect our school community clearly to the inspectorate. Our staff are hardworking, dedicated and inspirational in how they are continually responsive to pupil needs. The support and feedback we receive from parents is invaluable in ensuring we maintain a highly effective and successful school and they will always be valued as a voice within our school. We are proud of our students; they are a credit to our community and their families. They shine out in their energy, enthusiastic volunteerism and their ambitious pursuit of excellence."*"

The school was commended in the report for its wide range of provision for the development of mature students, noting significant levels of participation and achievement in a wide range of sporting and charitable activities and how pupils '*make a positive contribution to their school, the local community and beyond.'*

The ETI report complimented the school in its wide-ranging intake and its consistency in high achievement in GCSE and A Level results.

The Inspectorate Report praised the Christian Brothers' Grammar School's '*broad and well balanced*' curriculum, especially noting the '*extensive offer of vocational and academic subjects.*' The Inspectorate recognised that students are supported and engaged in their holistic progress with a varied programme of talks, career seminars and events throughout the year.

Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Patrick McMahon, said that while the school has always maintained the highest educational standards, he was keen to extol the ethos of the Christian Brothers Charter, working in tandem with curricular studies. He commented "*Christian Brothers' students, whilst always successful in exams, still enact Blessed Edmund Rice values; both in their living of gospel-based values and their evidenced social conscience through active charity and volunteer work. We are always proud of our young men. They are the heartbeat of our school body and add vibrancy to the wider community.*"

Reflecting on their findings on the leadership and management of the school, the Inspectorate Report noted that there was a '*well-conceived interim school improvement plan*'. Additionally the report noted that '*the continuing professional development of staff is afforded a high priority*' and forty percent of teaching staff are engaged in professional development in leadership and management.

The CBS was further congratulated by the Inspectorate for its '*clear focus on disseminating and sharing good practice*' and in its progress within eLearning. Parents can therefore be assured of the Christian Brothers' School's ongoing provision of innovative educational opportunities for their sons.

The Inspectorate finally expressed deep confidence in the Governorship of the school and referenced the necessary priorities being addressed by the govenors which include the preparation for moving away from academic selection for entry to the school and the move to the Strule Shared Campus.

The Christian Brothers' Grammar School in Omagh is well equipped for the challenges and opportunities facing it and its continuing provision of excellent education for the wider Omagh community.