



The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School

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A report for the Parish of Horsham – 23rd April 2018

The past year at Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School has been extremely busy. I have just completed my second year as Headteacher and I am very excited both about the progress that has been made and all that lies ahead of us. This is a school that has always had a strong Christian ethos, and one of my immediate aims was to strengthen our links with the Diocese and to ensure that our Christian distinctiveness was explicit to all. The Church of England launched their new 'Vision for Education' soon after I took up the post and this has enabled us to incorporate this as we reviewed our vision. I have been very grateful to the Diocese for the support we have had through this re-visioning especially through our School Improvement Partner.

In September we launched our underpinning elements which mirror the four key themes of the national vision but have been applied very specifically to our school. We represent this with a simple logo showing the ripples that come when a pebble is dropped into the water. We begin with DIGNITY - the fundamental belief that every single human being (in our community every student, member of staff, parent, carer) is special, unique, valued by God and as such must be treated with dignity. When this is in place, and when we afford this dignity to each other, we experience a strong COMMUNITY which is our second underpinning element. It is when we have a strong, effective community where all respect and value each other that we can progress to our third element - WISDOM - which is so much more than knowledge, being about wise judgement, effective application of learning etc. And finally, flowing from all of these, is our fourth element - HOPE - hope for individuals in their own lives, hope for the wider community in whichever we live, hope for the world where we each have the capacity to make a difference.



This was introduced in September and we have been tirelessly working on the incorporation of the vision into all that we do as a school. Most recently our reward and sanction system has been revised so that it directly links to the four elements. Students can now articulate them all and over the coming months we hope that they will be increasingly able to explain what they mean and their relevance to their lives.

I have also sought to build stronger links with the churches locally. During my first year I invited local clergy to an afternoon tea and was very pleased that, following this, a number of local clergy expressed a willingness and desire to be more actively involved in the school. This allowed us, in September, to launch a link between year groups and individual clergy, who come and lead assemblies and offer support in other ways. We are also delighted to have support on a very regular basis from a variety of paid ministers and volunteers with our Christian Union, Lighthouse and others who commit their time to us. Horsham Youth Worker, Judi Cox has served us wonderfully in this capacity for a number of years, drawing upon the much appreciated support of many from Horsham and Crawley churches. We appreciate just how busy clergy are and value highly the time that is committed to supporting the mission of the school.

Of course our core purpose is to enable the young people entrusted to our care to achieve their full potential academically, whilst also growing into fully rounded adults who flourish. As such we continue to work hard to develop the quality of learning and teaching in the school so that students can fulfil this. Since November we have been preparing for Ofsted to visit, as that was the 4 year anniversary of our previous inspection and thus we were due a Section 8 visit. Whilst everything that we do is for the students - to improve their outcomes - there is no escaping the fact that an impending inspection serves to focus thinking even further. At the end of last term the call came and I am delighted to be able to enclose with this brief report the outcome of that short inspection. It was a very positive experience and we are thrilled with the report, which affirms all that has been achieved since the last inspection and the hard work which has underpinned it.

There is so much more I could write about in this report, and really I have only scraped the surface. There is the ongoing sporting success that we enjoy especially with Basketball where the standards achieved are exceptional, especially in a state school. There is the talent of our creative arts with incredibly professional productions including this year's phenomenal performance at the Capitol Theatre of We Will Rock You. There was the fabulous Charities Week led by our head team which raised more money than ever before for the chosen charities. And so much more. In summary this is an amazing school, with fabulous students, committed staff, and a drive and determination to make a difference.

What is even more impressive is all this is achieved despite the low levels of funding committed to schools in West Sussex, and indeed to education in general. I am sure you will be aware of the Worthless campaign and I do want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of this campaign and to ask for your support. As a school, like so many others, we battle with financial difficulties and there is so much that we would like to be able to do for the students but cannot. Our building is 50 years old and is tired. There is much which needs to be done to improve it and it saddens me that these wonderful young people do not learn in an environment which is worthy of them. But nevertheless, despite these challenges, the school continues to go from strength to strength. We are very grateful to you for the financial support you continue to show to us, and for your keeping us in your thoughts and prayers - thank you.

Christine A Millwood

Rev Chrissie Millwood
Headteacher