



JOHN F KENNEDY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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6th January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and the start of the new term has gone smoothly for your children.

2015 Exam Performance

During the holidays I had a chance to look through the recently published school performance analyses for summer 2015, produced by the Department for Education and Ofsted. The news from these documents is extremely pleasing.

At **A level** the information confirms our own in-house analysis that the year on year improvement in results has continued. In particular, the overall value added score shows that we have hit the challenging targets expected of our students, regardless of their prior attainment at GCSE. However, it is even more pleasing to note that the AS performance of last year's Year 13 cohort is judged to be significantly above the national average.

At **GCSE** the very detailed annual summary report, known as RAISEonline, is extremely pleasing. In a great many areas of analysis, JFK's performance is judged to be significantly high compared with national figures and in every area it is at least in line with national performance. Attainment is significantly higher than national figures in:

- 14 subjects when analysing those students who obtained a grade C or better
- 9 subjects when analysing those students who obtained a grade A or better

As a Catholic school it is pleasing to see the continued success of religious studies: significantly high in both of the above measures. One particularly important section summarises the value added progress measures. This takes into account the prior attainment of all students in the cohort and so represents a 'level playing field' in terms of school by school comparisons. The analysis reports on the performance in:

- the key measure of students' best 8 results
- English
- mathematics
- science

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*The Mayor of Dacorum's Chosen School 2015-16,
supporting the Mayor's Charity of the Year
'Rennie Grove Hospice Care'*



- languages
- humanities (geography and history).

In every one of these categories the JFK performance is judged to be significantly high.

I am delighted with these results; they are a testament to the expertise and commitment of our staff, the hard work of our students and the support that you have provided at home.

Year of Mercy

Starting next week we will be holding special assemblies with all year groups, introducing the Year of Mercy. This will enable all in our community to reflect on the gift of God's mercy and how we might replicate that in our own daily lives.

New Parish Room

I am pleased to report the completion of the building work that was taking place last term in the area adjoining St Mark's church. This provides a lovely new room for use by the parish but also available for the JFK community during the school term.

Summer term dates

It has been brought to my attention that, having chosen to have our Easter holidays at a different time to the official county dates, the summer term is too long by one day – this is because of Easter Monday being an extra day's holiday in the county model. The summer term will, therefore, finish on Thursday 21st July.

With best wishes for the new term,



Mr P Neves
Headteacher