



From the Chair – Peter Griffin



Dear Parents

Well we didn't see that coming!

Before half-term Governors held a training meeting on OFSTED inspections, led by Julia Kenny from Warwickshire Education Service and, based on her experience, she expected we would have to wait until 2022-2023 before 'getting the call'. So although she got that wrong it was thanks to Julia that we had decided to invite you parents to complete the OFSTED questionnaires. In my last newsletter, following our governors meeting on November 1st, I wrote: *As governors one of our key functions is to ensure the school is striving to improve and provide excellent quality teaching and learning and, just like the staff, we are held to account when OFSTED decide it is time to visit. To this end we are hoping that parents will engage by giving us your views and you will be invited to complete OFSTED parent questionnaires using parent view online or use the paper version (made available at the open afternoon/evening last week).* We are grateful to all parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire and to all who responded to the request from the Chief Inspector, Mr Keay, to give your views on Our Lady's.

Three governors met with Mr Keay on Tuesday to answer his searching questions about our roles and we were also present at the feedback the two inspectors gave to staff and governors late on Tuesday evening. He has assured us that their report will be drafted, completed and made available to parents well before Christmas. Their feedback remains confidential until we receive the completed report but I think I am allowed to reveal that he was massively impressed by the very high % of parents who had responded to their request for views, which was indicative of the extent of parental engagement, and I want to thank all parents for your responses and for your continued support of Our Lady's school.

Regardless of the final report I want to pay tribute to the fantastic response from Mrs Batson and all the staff on Monday and Tuesday. Two reasons for OFSTED giving less than 24 hours notice of their visit is to ensure that staff (and pupils) have no opportunity to change their planned lessons and, hopefully, to limit the amount of stress that their visit causes to one-two days. I'm sure the inspectors got an insight into the wonderful work that goes on at Our Lady's on a typical day; again I'm confident that I'm giving nothing away by saying how impressed they were by your children and their relationships with all the staff.

Stay safe and God bless

Peter Griffin

Chair on behalf of Our Lady's Governing Body