



## Dear Parents / Guardians

Following a visit by her majesty's inspectors of schools on 14th, 15th and 16th September 2016, I am very proud to inform you that St. Martin's School has been removed from the category of 'requiring significant improvement' that it was placed in when the inspectors visited the school in 2014.

This is testimony to the dedication and sustained hard work of staff at every level within the school, who work tirelessly to sustain improvements and ensure that every child is supported to achieve their very best in a caring school community.

Since being appointed as headteacher to lead the school improvement programme at St. Martin's I have been proud every single day of our children, their teachers and the extensive support staff who clearly take pride in their work and never settle for second best in any aspect of their work.

St. Martin's School staff are unique. This was clear to the three experienced school inspectors who formed the team that judged us as making strong progress in every area of school life.



## They commented:

### Since the core inspection key stage 4 performance in all indicators has improved well.

- In lessons many pupils make strong progress.
- Pupils are attentive, concentrate well and focus conscientiously on their work.
- Many work well in pairs and in groups, listening carefully to others and building on their responses.
- Pupils behave very well and treat each other and the teachers respectfully.
- Most pupils use a suitable range of vocabulary in their writing.
- They write eloquently and to good effect.
- Many pupils write in well-organised sentences and paragraphs.
- They understand and apply well the conventions for answering key questions by making a point, explaining it and then supporting that point with evidence.
- Pupils demonstrate good reading skills.
- Many pupils are confident when reading aloud.
- A majority of pupils are able to summarise and categorise information from texts well.
- They use inference and deduction successfully when examining a range of sources.
- Many pupils are confident in discussion and speak articulately.
- The majority of pupils give extended and thoughtful responses to teachers' questions.

### Significant improvement has been made in the quality of teaching and assessment.

- Teachers have strong subject knowledge, establish effective relationships, and implement clear routines that have a positive impact on the ethos in the classroom and behaviour of the pupils.
- In outstanding lessons the planning and execution of the lesson is highly successful in making sure that pupils make substantial progress. In these lessons questioning is highly skilled with the teachers challenging pupils to explain, explore and expand their responses.
- In many lessons teachers set clear objectives and explain activities well. They make effective use of starter tasks to spark discussion and engage pupils' interest. These teachers plan and structure their lessons well to ensure pupils provide high quality responses and make good progress.
- The school has improved well the quality and consistency of marking and assessment. Many teachers give feedback that is focused on developing the quality of written work as well as improving subject knowledge and understanding.



I would like to thank parents and guardians for their continued support and the extensive work that they do with us as educational partners.

In 2016 the school also achieved its highest ever GCSE results in all measures and exceeded the targets set by Welsh government.

The GCSE results at St. Martin's broke all school records and by significant margins in all areas.

136 students completed their GCSE examinations this year at St. Martin's and all of the students achieved the level 1 threshold which equates to 5 GCSE grades.

This surpasses previous years' results in this area and more importantly means that students leaving St. Martin's have better life chances and opportunities to secure employment and further education placements.

This was 5% above the school target and 13% higher than the previous year.



64% of students gained 5A\*-C grades including English and Mathematics 11% higher than the previous year and once again the highest the school has ever achieved.

35% of students eligible for free school meals achieved 5 A\*-C grades surpassing the Welsh target of 30% set down by the previous minister for education.

The number of students achieving the top grades of A and A\* rose higher than any previous year and bucked national trends which saw a decrease in top grades being achieved.

St. Martin's increased A and A\* grades by 8%

10 students achieved straight As or A\* grades.

The all-important core subjects, of English, Mathematics and Science all attained their highest ever set of results, ensuring that those students graduating from the school are better prepared to move onto the Sixth Form, employment and further education.

English increased its pass rate to 69% of students achieving a C grade or above, this exceeded the target set by the school for the first time.

Mathematics students also performed above expectations with 73% of students achieving a C grade or above.

Science students bucked national trends with 91% of students achieving a C grade or above. This figure is the highest the department has ever secured.



This year's results are testament to the dedication and commitment from both teaching and support staff. The trust that students have shown in each of us when we have expected above and beyond from them all has led to outstanding performance. Parents have also given us their support and it is this partnership work that we want to maintain as we move to the next stage of our school improvement journey.

I look forward to working with you all once again this year as we strive for even greater school improvement.

Yours sincerely

*Mr L Jarvis* - Headteacher