

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS COUNCIL (ISC)

INSPECTION OF

SALESIAN COLLEGE, FARNBOROUGH

20-23 OCTOBER 2008

Overall Conclusions

- 5.1 The college fulfils its aims to develop each student spiritually, academically, culturally, physically and emotionally. It produces well-educated, confident, courteous and kind young men and women who are ready to take on responsibility and to serve. The students demonstrate outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness. The curriculum is broad and complemented by a good range of extra-curricular activities. Students of all abilities achieve well in their academic courses and other activities. The excellent cooperative working in all lessons strongly reflects the college's aims and ethos. The high quality teaching enables students of all abilities to make very good progress while encouraging them to behave responsibly. Committed teachers have excellent relationships with their students, promoting an atmosphere of mutual respect. They know their students well and demonstrate a strong understanding of their aptitudes, interests and abilities. Clear guidelines for the assessment and marking of students' work are in place and a recently introduced whole-college grading scheme is used effectively. The scrutiny of students' work showed some variation in the quality of marking. The quality of pastoral care is outstanding. It is a cornerstone of the college's ethos. The college takes excellent care of its students' well-being and safety together with their personal development. Strong partnerships with parents and community are at the core of the college. Parents are extremely satisfied with the education provided for their children. The college is well governed. The governors are motivated by their very strong belief in the aims and ethos of the college. Outstanding commitment, inspiration and personal example characterise leadership at the highest level within the college. Don Bosco's philosophy of 'walking with the students' is at the heart of the college's leadership and management.
- 5.2 The college has made good progress since the last inspection. Changes have been made to the structure of the timetable and more teaching time is now available. The curriculum has been reviewed and more creative subjects introduced. Support for students with LDD and statements of SEN has been improved. Provision for the most able has been reviewed; good practice has been developed and a renewed effort is being made to ensure that extended learning opportunities are available in all areas. Students have become more competent independent learners, although in some subjects they have less chance to develop these skills. More ICT equipment has been provided throughout the college and it is employed skilfully by teachers. Students use ICT confidently and apply it effectively for independent research. Parents are better informed about their children's progress as the report format and parents' evenings have been revised. Much stronger links have been formed with the local community. Students are more involved in cultural activities both at home and abroad and have developed a greater awareness of their own and other cultures. Additional specialist teaching accommodation has been provided. The college has a very clear understanding of its own strengths and weaknesses and what it needs to do to continue to develop and build on its current success.
- 5.3 The college meets all the regulatory requirements.

A full copy of the report is available on the ISI website at <http://www.isi.net/> from 21 January 2009.