

# Archbishop Sancroft High School

## Report to Councils to highlight events over the last year

We are proud to report that, Archbishop Sancroft High School (*ASHS for short*) has been rated as OUTSTANDING by the Church Schools Inspection.

The latest OFSTED inspection rated the School as 'GOOD'

The school was awarded 'GOLD' from a new National Accreditation – The RE Quality Mark (REQM) and currently only 7 schools in the Country have received the 'Gold REQM Award'

These positive external inspections or reviews help to support the school's mission statement, which is:

Archbishop Sancroft High School, is a successful and progressive Church of England High School where everyone thrives. It is a distinctive learning community where students are at the centre of everything we do. The school's emphasis is on educating the whole person. It provides an exciting and broad curriculum with dedicated support to enable students to identify and develop their skills and talents. The school provides high quality and inspirational teaching in an environment where everyone is challenged to achieve ambitious goals. Outstanding pastoral care ensures that every student is known individually and nurtured within our caring Christian community.

The school uses this over-arching statement to influence and guide everything it does for the development and education of its students.

Whilst there have been many highlights over this last year some of the more notable are:

**GCSE Results:** A record breaking year with some outstanding results across the curriculum, when compared to the National picture – ASHS achieved higher than the national average for %A\* - C in ELEVEN different subjects, including:

Maths, English Language and English Literature plus Music, Art and Drama.

These outstanding GCSE results have translated into 99% of students leaving the school last year either continuing in education or starting work, whereas the average across England is 94%.

**The Curriculum:** The government's current directive is to promote a narrow core of subjects and continues to focus everyone's attention on 'league tables'. In response to this many schools have reduced the curriculum, concentrating on just the subjects which contribute towards leagues results. However, ASHS continues to take a different path and despite huge budgetary pressure it continues to offer a wide curriculum, re-enforcing its ethos of educating the 'whole person' and to equip them for '*ASHS to anywhere*' as they progress on to the next stage in their lives'.

In addition to a wide and varied curriculum the school has taken many students out of the classroom on a number of trips including: Auschwitz, France, London in addition to inviting a number of organisations to the school so students received an enriched learning experience to inspire them and help them look beyond Harleston.

ASHS is a Church School, but it is also a Community school and traditionally, has received the majority of its students from the immediate Primary catchment area of three schools. Following the introduction of an extended Student Transition programme, where year 5 and 6 students have an

opportunity to experience the school before joining, along with a growing positive reputation, last year it accepted students from TWELVE schools. If this trend continues (as the school sincerely hopes it does) next year it will over-subscribed for the first time in its history.

The headteacher, Mr Cranmer, his senior leadership team, all members of staff and Governors have worked tirelessly to adapt, change and maximise all of the school's resources to deliver successful outcomes for students, **but** the continued pressure on tightening budgets can't be ignored. Despite government rhetoric the school is currently undergoing the biggest, real-term, reduction in funding along with an unprecedented reduction in Local Authority support, in its history. As one of the smallest High-Schools in the County this problem can't be ignored, and in addition to restructuring the school's Senior Leadership Team, the Governors are actively investigating becoming an Academy within a new Multi-Academy Trust. They are also investigating many other avenues of sharing resources, whilst improving the provision of education in the Harleston area by federating with other schools.

Overall ASHS is a 'GREAT' school and it is proud to offer, what it believes to be, an outstanding education for students in Harleston and the surrounding area.

Thank you.

Report prepared by **Steve Potter**,  
Chair of Governors