26th June 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

On Monday, together with Justin Madders MP and Mr Heely, Headteacher of The Whitby High School, I travelled to Ofsted Headquarters in Manchester to meet with Ofsted’s Regional Director for the North West, Andrew Cook. The meeting was facilitated through a letter to Damien Hinds, Secretary for Education by Justin Madders MP outlining our grave concerns about the Ofsted Inspection judgements on both schools. At the meeting we discussed at length issues that we have based around the following:

* Judgements made following the inspection
* Conflict of Interest of members of the inspection teams
* Conduct of Inspectors throughout the inspections and particular concerns about individual HMIs
* The process of the inspection including what appear to be predetermined outcomes
* Wider concerns based on specific issues that have arisen from the individual inspections

The meeting was extremely cordial with Mr Cook listening to our concerns and questioning us for clarification, with the meeting lasting approximately 90 minutes. It was clear that Mr Cook had already completed some research into the inspections and he will now consolidate all the evidence and investigate our concerns.

Mr Cook advised that this meeting will not reverse the judgements made at both schools as those inspections are now closed, but may inform the planning of when best to re-inspect the schools in the future. It is also important to note that he acknowledged our concerns around conduct of certain inspectors and the anxiety the inspections caused to staff, students and parents/guardians. This will be investigated.

I do not expect to hear anything from Mr Cook until he has completed his investigation however, I will inform you of his decisions as soon as I have them. In the meantime, please be assured the staff and I at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School will continue to pursue the best for our students providing the very best opportunity for success at all levels.

Thank you for your continued support



Mrs C Vile

Headteacher