

22 January 2013

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Dear Cassandra,

Thurton Church of England Primary School: Praise and Appreciation

May I write to thank you very much for my visit to your wonderful school on January 14th and for all the time you gave me in showing me around and chatting to me. I loved it.

And I love your school! You and your loyal team have made it look spectacular. It's smart, clean and so obviously looked after by people who care. I love all the displays around the place and, especially, the motivational and thought-provoking texts and quotations. I felt inspired just by being in the place for a few hours. No wonder your colleagues, pupils and parents feel that way too! And you know how I was drawn in particular to Jonathan's class's work on 'The Island'.

That school has been transformed under your accomplished leadership, building on the foundations which Sonia left. It is so worthy of its stylish new premises and I can quite see – and feel – how it is outstanding in all but the formality of Ofsted. Like you, I can't believe it will be long before it is, officially; I'll be amongst the first and loudest to celebrate, rejoice and acclaim.

The place is festooned with accolades and awards, which speaks volumes and does it justice; and it's a long time since I have had the privilege of being so uplifted by the distinctiveness of one of our church schools – yet one which has managed that delicate balancing act of remaining inclusive, welcoming to all and focused on serving its whole community. That's what the best Church of England schools are made of – and you know you're amongst them.

The Norwich DBE and I can't thank or praise you enough; likewise, your colleagues and all their endeavours. Your curriculum results and consistently high performance in the league tables say it all – and yet, your school is plainly so much more than just another set of data and statistics. Thank God. It's a gem of a church school, and one which we are enormously proud to count amongst our friends and hold warmly in the Diocesan family.

I wish you all nothing but further success as you continue to blossom and flourish as only the best blooms do.

As ever –

Yours,
Andy

Andy Mash
Diocesan Director of Education