

Jesuit Provincial Offices
114 Mount Street
London W1K 3AH
020 7499 0285
www.jesuit.org.uk

JESUITS

IN BRITAIN

Fr Peter Gallagher SJ
Provincial
provincial@jesuit.org.uk
07842 420456

Mrs Karen Keeton, Head
Barlborough Hall School
Barlborough
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S43 4TJ

21st March, 2025

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your warm welcome to Barlborough Hall when we visited recently. It was clear from the apostolic report you kindly prepared beforehand that the school does a huge amount to live out its mission as a Jesuit School, and what we saw in practice amply confirmed this view.

The strength of the community, underpinned by your own evidently very strong leadership, shone through in the Assembly we attended, and in the celebration of the Mass. The children are happy and willing participants in worship, and they sing beautifully as well.

We attended an Elements Religious Education lesson, where the children were asked to consider 'sin' and 'temptation', and the role of their conscience. I was struck by two things. The first was the enthusiasm with which the children responded to the teacher's questions and took part in discussions of various moral dilemmas. Secondly, the moral dilemmas these 10 year olds were asked to consider were impressively demanding for children of their age.

We also observed the daily examen, prayed by pre-prep children.

In discussion with staff we learned that much progress has been made in implementing the new RE Directory, partly thanks to collaboration with other schools in Hallam diocese, and with other Jesuit schools.

The children whom we met over lunch were very keen to tell us how much they love their school, and clearly identified that the Jesuit Mission and Identity is at the centre of school life. They referred to the Jesuit Pupil Profile, including the leaves which are awarded to those who live out the different virtues, and also to the various charitable endeavours they undertake through their 'houses'. Several said they thought the place was characterised above all by kindness, and said their teachers were always kind and fair with them.

I congratulate and thank you that, despite the challenging times all independent schools are experiencing, you are leading such a happy school which is so clearly underpinned by its mission as a Jesuit school.

Yours sincerely
Peter

Peter Gallagher SJ

