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IN BRITAIN

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Mr Jack Murphy, Head
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Dear Jack

Thank you for the generously warm welcome I received at The Mount. Despite the various challenges facing the College, and no doubt many other independent schools as well at the moment, I was hugely impressed by the dedication of the staff, the irrepressible enthusiasm of the pupils, and the way in which the 'Mount spirit' shone through. Thank you for taking on recently the responsibility of Head, and for your own strong leadership of the College.

The commitment to the College's Jesuit Mission and Identity of every single adult to whom we spoke is beyond question. Many people referred, in different ways, to the education of the heart and soul, as well as of the head, which pupils experience at the College. I was pleased to join a Grammar class for their lunchtime examen. I also enjoyed observing Religious Studies A level classes for Poetry and Rhetoric.

Senior pupils were fulsome in their praise of the opportunities they have for spiritual development, in the well-established daily examen, in school Masses, in compline and in adoration of the blessed sacrament, to name but a few things. They pointed out that, if they felt in any kind of difficulty, there would be a wide range of adults to whom they would be comfortable to turn, and they emphasised the very supportive nature of the close-knit community of pupils at the Mount.

Pupils spoke about how the Jesuit Pupil Profile is widely referenced at the College, and one boy spoke at length about the impact the daily examen has upon him. He explained that "it helps us to reflect on what God has done for us". A number of pupils whom we met explained how being at Mount St Mary's has helped them grow in their faith in God, and I note that nine young people have been received into the Church at the College in the last three years alone.

It was very good to meet the Head of RE, whose work to revise the RE curriculum in line with the new RE Directory, and to reintroduce core RE in the sixth form, is greatly adding value to pupils'



experience. It would also be difficult to overstate the huge impact which the Lay Chaplain is having on the (faith) life of the pupils, as they themselves acknowledged, and I am very grateful indeed to her for her dedication. Fr Peter Scally SJ too is also clearly contributing greatly to pupils' spiritual development, and to their response to Catholic Social teaching.

Yours sincerely
Peter

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