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23 April 2015

Mr Paul Hughes  
Principal  
St Joseph's Catholic College  
Ocotal Way  
Swindon  
SN3 3LR

**Sir Michael Wilshaw**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear Mr Hughes

### **Removal from Special Measures**

I am writing to congratulate you, your staff, the governing body, parents, carers and students on the decision made last year that St Joseph's Catholic College no longer requires special measures.

I know that recent improvements are the result of hard work and commitment on the part of many people, especially the staff. Your inspirational and effective leadership, along with strong support from your senior leadership team, has led to swift and significant improvements within the college.

I am particularly pleased to see that since the previous inspection, the quality of teaching and learning have improved significantly and are now of a consistently good standard. Teachers are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their subject areas and have high expectations for their students and what they can achieve.

It is good to know that there has been substantial improvement in students' achievement and good progress can be seen in the majority of subjects across all year groups. Students are now set challenging targets. They are well motivated and determined to succeed.

I hope you, your staff and governors are celebrating the success of all the efforts made on the journey out of special measures, which may well have included some difficult times. I trust you agree that the progress noted by the lead inspector has been to the benefit of the students in your care.

I wish you every success in your continuing drive for further improvement in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wilshaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

**Sir Michael Wilshaw**