



Saint Paul's

Catholic High School



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Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the family of Saint Paul's Catholic High School. We look forward to having your children join us and also to working with you.

Saint Paul's serves the local community by working in partnership to provide an education of the highest quality; we celebrate diversity and are committed to the principles of inclusion and equal opportunities. We pride ourselves on our broad, balanced and creative curriculum, which inspires and challenges children of all abilities.

We look forward to building on the good practice taking place around school with regards to the development of pupils' literacy skills which is a key priority for all staff at Saint Paul's. All Key Stage 3 students are now taking part in the highly successful Accelerated Reader programme in order to advance their independent reading, comprehension and vocabulary skills as well as to encourage reading for pleasure.

Getting the basics right is a key part of the formula for success. I believe that there is a clear correlation between attendance, punctuality to school in the morning and attainment. We encourage all parents and carers to ensure that their child is at school every day and on time. This makes a real difference. Ensuring students are dressed in the correct uniform is also important in ensuring the high standards and expectations we have here at Saint Paul's Catholic High School.

I am delighted to be working together with you to help your children reach their full potential spiritually, academically and socially. Working together in partnership with our parishes and communities, we nurture our life-affirming core values, fostering each student's spiritual and academic development. Our professional, experienced team of teaching, pastoral and support staff aim for excellence in everything they do and strive to ensure all children reach their full potential, both in their studies and their own personal growth, so that they are fully prepared to become responsible young citizens of the world.

I look forward to working with you.

Mr Michael Whiteside, Acting Headteacher.

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Our School

What we offer:

- Local fully inclusive Catholic school, open to ALL
- Free school uniform for all new Year 7 students
- Free Breakfast Club
- Guaranteed sixth form places at Loreto and Xaverian Colleges
- A broad and balanced challenging curriculum
- Strong and focussed SEND department
- Student centred Pastoral care
- Innovative Digital Technology
- Nurturing Achievement Centre focused on bespoke needs
- Excellent careers provision including strong links with employers and apprenticeship providers
- Bespoke Literacy Programme

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Transition

At Saint Paul's we work closely with primary schools to ensure our new students experience a smooth and positive transition to high school

Our Transition Team have developed a close relationship with our partner primary schools in order to ensure that we understand the individual needs of our new Year 7 cohort.

During Key Stage 2, our primary school students start a programme of visits to Saint Paul's where they take part in a number of varied activities including: Food Technology sessions, hands on Design and Technology projects; friendly PE games and creative Art activities, giving them a taste of the varied lessons in Year 7 and beyond. Activities such as these, together with our Primary Sports Days, allow our prospective students to experience life at Saint Paul's, meet students from other primary schools and forge new friendships in preparation for their first term.

All Year 6 students who are joining us attend an Induction Day where they are introduced to their form tutors and meet new friends who will be in their form group. Parents are invited to an Induction Evening to hear about how they can be involved with school life to support their child and to discuss any concerns about transition and the start of their child's journey at Saint Paul's.

For further support and reassurance, SEND transition coffee mornings and after school activities will also be accessible and school tours are available on request.





Pastoral Care

Excellent enhanced Pastoral Care

At Saint Paul's we pride ourselves on the care and support we offer all of our students and their families. Pastoral care is a key priority for us and the additional investment in experienced pastoral assistants is a reflection of our commitment.

The improved and extended pastoral team has been introduced to ensure the physical and emotional welfare of all students - meaning that the students are safe, happy, involved and able to perform to their potential. At Saint Paul's, we first ensure that pupils feel they **belong** to our community and **believe** in and respect themselves and those around them so that they aspire and can go on to **achieve** the best possible outcomes, both personal/social and academic. This helps students develop good self-esteem, form valuable friendship groups and feel confident that they can always approach staff for help and support. Due to the investment we have made in additional staffing, any issues can be quickly identified and appropriate interventions and support put in place.



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Sports

Team Saint Paul's, promotes fitness and wellbeing of the body and the mind. Don't spectate, participate!

At Saint Paul's, we pride ourselves on our sporting accolades and achievements.

At Key Stage 3, we offer a wide breadth of sports and activities for all students to enjoy and participate in from traditional sports such as football, basketball, netball and hockey to trampolining. Students will experience a myriad of activities within curriculum time and will also be given the opportunity to hone these vital skills further, or even try something new, by participating in our extensive extra-curricular programme.

At Key Stage 4, we are especially fortunate to be able to offer: GCSE PE; Cambridge National Sports Studies; Health and Social Care and RSL Performing Arts - Dance. The students who opt for these subjects acquire the skills necessary to become young leaders and support events for primary schools and younger students.

All students are given the opportunity to represent Team Saint Paul's at fixtures, tournaments and competitions across Wythenshawe, Manchester and the North West in a wide range of sports and activities including: successful football (we have very active boys' and girls' teams); athletics; cross country running; netball; volleyball; basketball and rounders.





PSHE

We have a strong school community with tolerance, respect and the wellbeing of everyone at its heart. Our curriculum provides students with essential life-long skills to be healthy, happy and successful

The curriculum is underpinned by sessions focused on:

- British Values
- Relationships/Sex Education and Wellbeing
- Careers, Aspirations and Financial Capability/working with partners in the community

After achieving High School of the Year, we now have strong links with Businesses in Wythenshawe. BW3 is a local business network which delivers innovative careers programmes and provides insight into careers to inspire pupils. The school benefits from a series of initiatives and valuable support from local businesses including the provision of advice on job applications and the mentoring of pupils as well as inviting our pupils into their businesses to further their educational experiences in a real-world context and give them a head-start in developing their future careers.

Students have the opportunity to consider their own individual identity and aspirations and understand how to thrive within society whilst learning how to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.

We deliver our PSHE curriculum within a timetabled lesson each fortnight and also dedicate one additional form time period each week to support this. Each lesson is delivered by form tutors combining pastoral care with the development of new skills and knowledge.

Social Action & Citizenship

Our Active Citizenship programme builds life skills such as empathy, confidence, oracy, organisation, planning and teamwork

The school council is passionate about tackling issues that affect the student community and we hold events to support this including:

- Keeping Safe and Making the Right Choices
- Tolerance and Acceptance Fortnight
- Supporting National Anti-Hate Crime Week
- Anti-Bullying Week

We are proud to work with many key and influential agencies and are passionate about educating our school community about the acceptance of all and above all keeping themselves safe.

There is also a big focus on aspirations including our Futures Fortnight during which some events include:

- Careers Fairs
- Careers assemblies
- Lunch with apprenticeship providers
- Mock interviews hosted by local businesses
- Speed conversation events
- Visits to colleges and universities

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Educational Visits

Activities designed to broaden and develop mind and body

Curricular and extra-curricular trips and visits add to the students' wider learning and offer exciting opportunities for personal development.

Alongside their academic studies, students at Saint Paul's are given a huge range of opportunities to participate in activities beyond the classroom. The trips at Saint Paul's directly relate to work which the students are taught in the classroom. By exposing pupils to the diverse and richly inspiring world outside the classroom, we are able to constantly re-energise the learning taking place within the school setting. School trips are a vital tool in enabling pupils to connect the theory and practices taught in the classroom with the real world, thereby enhancing their own understanding and fostering aspirations for the future.

Here at Saint Paul's, we take great pride in the vast array of additional opportunities we are able to provide to students; beyond the classroom, students enjoy an extensive range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. In addition to trips outside of school, we also receive visits for students in school including from local MPs, official dignitaries, authors, employers, apprenticeship providers and colleges and universities. We are proud to welcome such a wide variety of interesting and informative guests into school to talk to the students and hold interactive educational workshops. Visits like these provide a very valuable experience for our students, enhancing the learning curriculum, and are greatly appreciated by both the staff and the students.

Students also have regular opportunities to visit museums, exhibitions and theatres as well as undertake longer residential trips both within the UK and abroad, examples of which include the ski trip, Lille Christmas markets trip and the Savio House retreat. Fascinating curricular and extra-curricular excursions and visits form an extremely important and unique contribution to a student's academic, cultural and social education, encouraging them to aspire for success both in school and beyond.

At Saint Paul's we encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities as we believe these broaden and strengthen the students' interests and talents, as well as increasing their enjoyment of the high school experience.



SEND

KS3 New Horizons

This is a foundation curriculum space where students in Year 7, 8 and 9 with SEND may be allocated a bespoke timetable. In Year 7, students are identified as part of the transition process and a professional decision is made in partnership with the student and their parents regarding how much time they will spend in New Horizons and out of mainstream lessons. This may start off as full-time and phase into part-time or full-time mainstream as the year continues. This decision is based on a continual monitoring of students' academic ability and social and emotional factors. Some students may continue in New Horizons into Year 8 and 9 in place of specific mainstream lessons.

KS4 New Horizons

For those students with SEND who are not able to access GCSE/BTEC level 2 courses, there will be an offer of a foundation alternative. This is likely to be BTEC level 1 courses and VCERTs in a variety of subjects. Most students will access GCSE English, maths, science and R.E. in addition to this foundation offer. These decisions are made based on individual needs and in partnership with the students and their parents.

An array of specific, targeted intervention programmes are available to further support students. These are identified and implemented in direct response to the specific needs of individual students but offers include:

- Dyslexia support
- Reading and Comprehension support
- Maths and English 'Catch Up' support
- Behaviour for my Future
- Therapeutic Interventions
- Healthy mind, healthy body

Quality of Education

We track progress and ensure that all students achieve their potential

At Saint Paul's we pride ourselves on our approach to supporting reading for pleasure. Each student in Year 7 is provided with a free reading book as a gift to enjoy and inspire their love of reading. Our students appreciate the chance to read different books throughout the year from our expansive in-house and online libraries, as well as enjoying exciting class reads with friends in their form groups.

We have invested in private tuition for some of our KS3 students to develop and strengthen vital reading skills in order to support their access to curricula across the school. This year the avid readers within school have been rewarded with book vouchers to spend on books of their choice.

We assess and analyse the reading progress of our students three times each year and act upon this data to ensure that we continually improve.

Reading lists for every subject have been composed and are available on our website and displayed around school. These reading lists have formed our new and exciting "Reading Challenge" competition, for which pupils can achieve Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards.

Smart TVs in classrooms add more excitement to classes and are perfect for teaching groups of students. When using the Smart TVs, interaction between students and staff is high and leads to improved socialisation, student engagement, performance and learning experiences.

Our highly experienced, committed staff are encouraged to be innovative and creative in their preparation and delivery in order to fully engage pupils, immersing them in exciting lessons and nurturing a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning. We are also striving to ensure our pupils take ownership of their own progress and become proactive, independent and resilient learners.

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Multi-Media Suite

State of the art Multi-Media Suite for lessons and extra-curricular

Saint Paul's is proud of its new state of the art Multi-Media Suite which is used by teachers as an integral part of their lessons and is also available to students as an extra-curricular activity.

The investment the school has made means that students have access to the latest tools and technology, giving them the best possible chance to learn the skills that will be essential in the future, especially in the world of work.

Students have a natural affinity for technology as they integrate it into many aspects of their daily lives - the new computers, with their expensive fast processor and graphics card, provide the opportunity for them to nurture that ability.

Here are a few examples of how the Multi-Media Suite can support our students:

- a student who aspires to be an engineer can access CAD tools for whatever design they want to produce
- a student who aspires to be a film maker can now work with 4K video without it taking hours to edit
- a student who is interested in coding and aspires to be a programmer can use the latest 3D engines such as Unity

The Multi-Media Suite is proving to be a hugely beneficial and exciting experience for pupils; students can experience working on state-of-the-art equipment and help prepare themselves for the next part of their journey through life and the challenges and rewards it will bring.

School Trips & Events

We take great pride in the vast array of additional opportunities we are able to provide to students

The activities on our educational visits and trips are designed to broaden and develop mind and body. Learning inside the classroom is the key success in GCSEs, but we also believe that so much more knowledge and skills can be developed beyond the classroom.

Some examples of the trips enjoyed by our students include: geography field trips in both urban and rural settings; history trip to the Jewish Museum; Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; John Rylands Library; debate at the Lord Mayor's office; Peoples' History Museum and Cambridge University.

Furthermore, at Saint Paul's we believe that reward trips inspire our students to achieve the best they can. As a reward for all their excellent attendance and good behaviour during the school year, our students are able to enjoy a number of trips which can include ice skating, cinema and Ninja obstacle adventure.

As a school, we want to reward positive behaviour and good attendance and celebrate the success of our students. We believe that praising the students and recognising success has a very positive effect upon their behaviour and performance.

We want all of our students to have the highest levels of motivation and aspiration to achieve the best possible outcomes during their time here at Saint Paul's.





Extra-Curricular Activities

At Saint Paul's we place great importance on the development of the whole person

To achieve this aim, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities that enhance and enrich the lives of our students.

Alongside their academic studies, students are given a huge range of opportunities to participate in activities beyond the classroom. From clubs and societies, to

teams, casts and musical ensembles, there is something to interest and motivate every student.

Students are encouraged to contribute actively to the school and the wider community and take on leadership roles.

Highly committed and hard-working staff give freely of their time to ensure that students can benefit from events including: sport, music and drama; taking part in, and even running, charity events; community work or enterprise challenges; social activities; playing and having fun together.

Being able to offer our students a wide range of diverse extra-curricular activities is very important as it encourages them to become independent, confident and successful members of the community.

Chaplaincy

The love of Christ animates everything we do at Saint Paul's from our charity work to our academic work

Most of all it encompasses the way we treat one another, ensuring each member of our school is met with love and respect.

Our faith and mission and our core values of love, compassion, respect, service and stewardship are something we live out each day, extending into the community and beyond. Throughout the year we work with care and compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves by supporting many charities and appeals including: Wythenshawe Foodbank; Hits Radio Mission Christmas; SVP Christmas Hampers; Write for Rights campaign and Cornerstone. Students and staff are always thinking of new ways to support those in our local area, with recent initiatives including placing an emphasis on supporting the homeless and 'being a voice for the voiceless.'

At Saint Paul's we foster personal and spiritual growth through daily acts of collective worship. These times of worship allow us to meditate and reflect deeply on the Gospel Values and carefully consider how these will impact on our lives and the lives of others.





Saint Paul's Catholic High School is a school with a bright future - a place where students flourish together in a caring environment with excellent teachers and high academic standards.

The school is a true reflection of our local community, welcoming students from a wide range of backgrounds. The richness of our cultural diversity and our passion for learning ensures that all of our students are happy and excel. We are proud to be a truly comprehensive school.

We look forward to hearing from you or meeting you soon.

www.st-paulshigh.net

Saint Paul's Catholic High School

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