



# St Paul's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Ministerium Tuum Imple Love Serve Do the best that is possible



“

The school community is very strong. Staff take time to get to know pupils and families and nurture strong bonds of respect and trust between them. This is appreciated by pupils and parents alike.

*Ofsted*

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# Welcome

Dear Parent

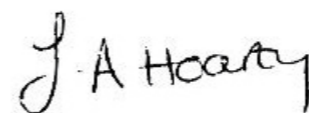
Thank you for considering St Paul's Catholic School for your child's education. The words of St Paul, on which the mission of the school is based, mean that we are committed to the care of pupils, and the success of every pupil, in a way that is rooted in the values of the gospel.

We expect pupils to set themselves high standards in their work, their relationships with others and their extra-curricular activities. We challenge them to do the best that is possible, and support them so that they will achieve academic excellence. We do this to enable them to make the most of the opportunities offered by St Paul's, and to lay the foundations of success and personal development.

Whilst here, your child will be in the fortunate position of having a well-equipped, modern school and we are determined that St Paul's will be second to none in the quality of its staff, its curriculum and teaching and learning. St Paul's serves the Catholic community in the area, and is also strengthened by the support of the wider Christian community in Milton Keynes.

We aim to be a school in which faith is caught as well as taught so that the work done in parishes and families can be built upon.

We will work with you in developing the gifts and talents possessed by your child, whatever they may be, so that he or she is well prepared to play an active part in the adult world. This prospectus and our website [www.st-pauls.org.uk](http://www.st-pauls.org.uk) will give you a flavour of life at St Paul's. We also look forward to welcoming you at one of our Opening Evenings or Open Mornings. If you have any questions about the school or would like to visit us please feel free to contact me.



**Jo-Anne Hoarty**  
Headteacher

## Ministerium Tuum Imple (2TIM 4:5)

St Paul wrote these words to his disciple, Timothy, when he was in prison at the end of his life. In using them he passed on a mission as a follower of Jesus Christ to Timothy and to us.

Its meaning gives us two words and a phrase that are the basis of life and work at St Paul's:

**Love. Serve. Do the best that is possible.**



**We are a Catholic school in which we all love, serve and do the best that is possible. We strive for academic excellence in all that we do.**

# A Worshipping community



As a worshipping community, St Paul’s lives its mission through its witness, care and expectation of excellence. All members are valued and encouraged to grow together. Love of God and the example of Christ are at the forefront of our policies and practice.

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**What do our parents have to say:**  
We felt that the school provided a holistic education for our child and was the best school in our area. In the three and a half years she has been there we are sure we made the right choice.

I am confident in the school, its teachers and particularly the Leadership Group. We haven’t hesitated in applying for a place for our next child.

**St Paul’s seeks to guide each pupil on his/her own individual faith journey. Prayer is part of daily practice, and pupils are encouraged to lead class prayers.**  
  
Pupils attend Mass within school on several occasions during the school year. Each tutor group takes part in a Day of Recollection in years 7, 8 and 9.  
  
Pupils are also given the opportunity to attend spiritual retreats throughout their time with us.

**Partnership and support**  
  
Every member of our community is recognised as unique, and equally worthy of praise and support. Each pupil has a Mentor and a Form Tutor, supported by a Year Leader and Chaplaincy and Pastoral Lead.  
  
The Form Tutor provides an important contact for parents and carers as their role within school allows them to develop an all-round knowledge and understanding of the pupils in their daily care.  
  
All pupils are set specific targets and are encouraged to reach these through a structured mentoring process. Regular meetings with parents and pupils ensure that this process is supportive as well as challenging.  
  
We genuinely seek to work in partnership with parents to enable each child to do the best that is possible.



“ Students are offered wide and varied opportunities to participate in collective worship.  
  
*Catholic Schools Inspectorate*





# Learning is a journey of discovery

Learning at St Paul's is an exciting journey of discovery, brought to life with innovative teaching and imaginative use of resources.

**Our curriculum is broad and well-balanced and includes a large range of academic and vocational courses to suit every pupil's needs and aspirations.**

In aiming for success, our lessons are stimulating and interactive, encouraging our pupils to become independent thinkers and learners. We use a variety of teaching approaches to meet the different ways in which our pupils learn. Our expert teachers are enthusiastic and dedicated, working closely together to provide a consistently high standard across the whole curriculum, and backed up by impressive resources and facilities.

#### **Opportunity For All**

The curriculum is broad and a wide range of subjects are offered to all pupils to give a solid foundation in the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for future examination courses.

The curriculum is balanced in that arts, science, aesthetic and practical subjects are studied throughout, so each pupil has the opportunity to develop his or her potential to the full in all areas.

#### **Specialist Support**

St Paul's prides itself on providing unique opportunities for all pupils. A specially-equipped Emmaus Student Support Base provides a separate area for specific support, whilst Emmaus Student Support Base staff are a welcome addition to lessons in all areas of the curriculum.

We have developed excellent facilities for a number of visually impaired, hearing impaired and pupils with social communication needs including those on the autistic spectrum.

Our aim is to enable all pupils to access the whole curriculum, and we are always looking for ways to improve and build on what we have done in the past.

St Paul's is also home to the Emmanuel Centre. This is a centre for EHCP pupils with ASC as their primary need who are unable to attend mainstream school. All places are determined by the Special School Panel.

**“** The school offers a very broad curriculum. Staff have reviewed the curriculum in all years to ensure that pupils' experience of learning is even richer and more aspirational.

**Ofsted**



“ The school’s varied extra-curricular and pupil leadership activities enable pupils to discover or develop interests, talents and character.

*Ofsted*



## Enriching pupils’ experiences



St Paul’s values the opportunity to broaden and enrich the experiences of all pupils. Recent visits have included Modern Foreign Language excursions to Spain, France and Germany, History pupils travelling to Flanders and Dublin and those studying Art visiting Kew Gardens, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Oxford.



**Students in Year 9 and above are offered the chance to get involved in the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh scheme.**

We offer all three levels of the award in house, and aspire for every member of Year 9 to achieve their Bronze Award. Students who get involved develop their physical fitness, learn new skills and volunteer their time for others in a host of inventive ways. They also take part in expeditions both locally and to the Lake District, Peak District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

Students in the Sixth Form are offered the opportunity to take part in trips abroad. This is a chance for students to develop their independence before they go to university or into the world of work.

Our joint Music and Drama productions, which have included *Les Miserables*, *We Will Rock You*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Matilda*, always involve a large number of pupils from all year groups. There is also ample opportunity for pupils to provide backstage support.

### Participation

St Paul’s enjoys a programme of ‘Sports For All’, whilst also promoting excellence. For many pupils Sports Day is an annual highlight with participation the key feature.

Events like tug-of-war and obstacle courses, alongside more traditional events, allow all pupils to enjoy and take part. Throughout the year, all forms in Years 8 to 11 participate in the Burditt Cup, with teams in badminton, rounders and 5-a-side football frequently battling it out at lunchtime and after school, with vigorous involvement from Form Tutors.

The school has teams in cricket, football, athletics, rugby, netball, tennis and basketball. A team is also fielded in County Athletics and Cross Country competitions. Some pupils have been able to develop to county and even national standard while at St Paul’s.



**What do our parents have to say:**

The education is of a very high standard. Thank you St Paul’s for moulding a bright, courteous and positive pupil and for making her ready to face her future.



# Encouragement



Within a Christian environment we believe that all pupils can be encouraged to achieve the maximum according to their potential. Our annual Awards Evenings reward effort, commitment and contribution, as well as achievement.

**The school offers an imaginative and broad range of courses with considerable choice and flexibility.**

Current provision gives pupils an appropriate level of challenge, providing them every opportunity to succeed and to develop their skills and talents. Pupils make excellent progress in their time at St Paul's and grow as individuals in a caring and supportive environment.

The number of students in the Sixth Form has increased rapidly, and now stands at over 400.

While the vast majority of pupils at St Paul's choose to continue their education with us after Year 11, the Sixth Form also receives a healthy number of external applicants from across Milton Keynes. This is testimony to the success that is being encouraged.

## Exceptional Careers Offer

The provision of high quality CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance) throughout the pupil journey at St Paul's is a strong feature, not just because of statutory responsibility, but because we firmly believe it is part of our mission to provide pupils with a broad and holistic education.

All pupils at St Paul's will be prepared for the roles they can play in the community and for the challenges that the wider world will present in their adult lives, including in the world of work. We aim for pupils to be able to make informed decisions for their life beyond school that will allow them to realise their aspirational vision for their future.

Activities such as educational trips and visits to workplaces, outside speakers, work experience, university trips and visits, impartial careers advice, and a focus on developing routes into STEM careers, all feature heavily in the careers curriculum. As part of our vision for pupils to love, serve, and do the best that is possible, many leadership and service opportunities are presented to pupils throughout their journey with us, including ambassadorship, the student council, year group and form group leadership.

All of these experiences will raise aspirations and future employability.

**“** Pupils are very happy and welcoming here. They live and breathe the school's inclusive ethos and are extremely kind and respectful to others.  
**Ofsted**

# Sixth form



Continuing education beyond 16 is a key part of our school community, and at St Paul's we are committed to providing an educational experience in Years 12 and 13 that develops the whole person in preparation for leading a successful and fulfilled life beyond school.



Lessons are  
paced and well  
organised  
and pupils  
work hard.  
*Ofsted*

We encourage all students to do the best that is possible. The overwhelming majority of our students go on to secure a place at the university of their choice.

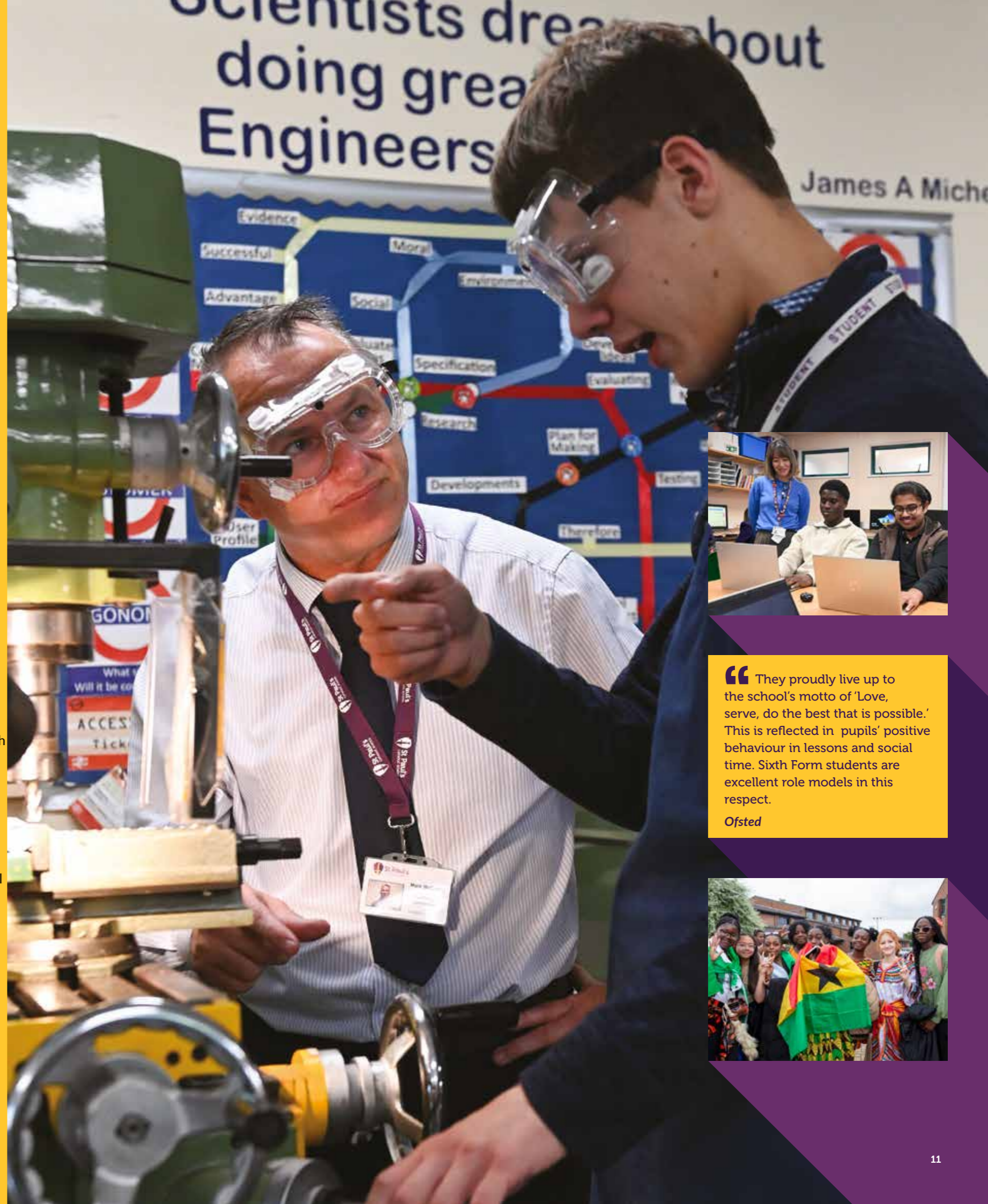
Whilst we are delighted to have students at Oxford or Cambridge, all students are valued, whatever their destination. Careers, apprenticeship and Higher Education advice is always freely available. We offer an extensive range of courses and pathways for learning in Sixth Form. In addition to academic A-Level courses, we offer a variety of vocational qualifications, thereby providing for a wide range of learner needs.

It is possible to combine academic and vocational courses. All students are encouraged to take the Extended Project Qualification which is prized highly by universities. Every student has the opportunity to enhance their learning by following a range of enrichment courses. These include Creative Writing, DofE Gold, trips abroad and a range of coaching qualifications to name but a few.

We offer a range of 16-19 Level 2 qualifications for students who need an additional year to bridge the gap between GCSE and Level 3 study.

Programmes of study in Sixth Form are enriched at St Paul's through a range of other opportunities. Students are able to use their talents by providing service to the school community through participation in the school council; supporting in lower school lessons; assisting in the paired reading scheme or by taking a leadership role as a Sixth Form Ambassador.

We offer several trips to universities, the theatre, lectures, retreats, residential trips and field study weeks, and there is a whole programme of visiting speakers introducing young people to areas of interest and concern that will affect them on their journey into adulthood.



They proudly live up to the school's motto of 'Love, serve, do the best that is possible.' This is reflected in pupils' positive behaviour in lessons and social time. Sixth Form students are excellent role models in this respect.

*Ofsted*



# Providing quality



St Paul's is committed to providing exceptional professional development within and beyond our school. Providing well-qualified and highly-trained teachers is at the heart of our work.



We have been identified as a centre of excellence for providing training and development and recognise the importance of training the next generation of teachers for Milton Keynes.

Over 600 teachers have completed successful teacher training and the vast majority of these are employed in secondary schools across Milton Keynes.



St Paul's and Denbigh School partnered their Initial Teacher Training Partnership (ITT) provision several years ago and have now developed a government accredited SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), the Tommy Flowers SCITT, and St Paul's is pleased to be the lead partner in this exciting teacher training initiative. The SCITT was graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in June 2023.

In September 2021 St Paul's partnered with Denbigh School and University College London to provide the Early Career Framework to new teachers in primary and secondary schools

across MK, and now works with Oakgrove and University College London to provide the full suite of NPQs.

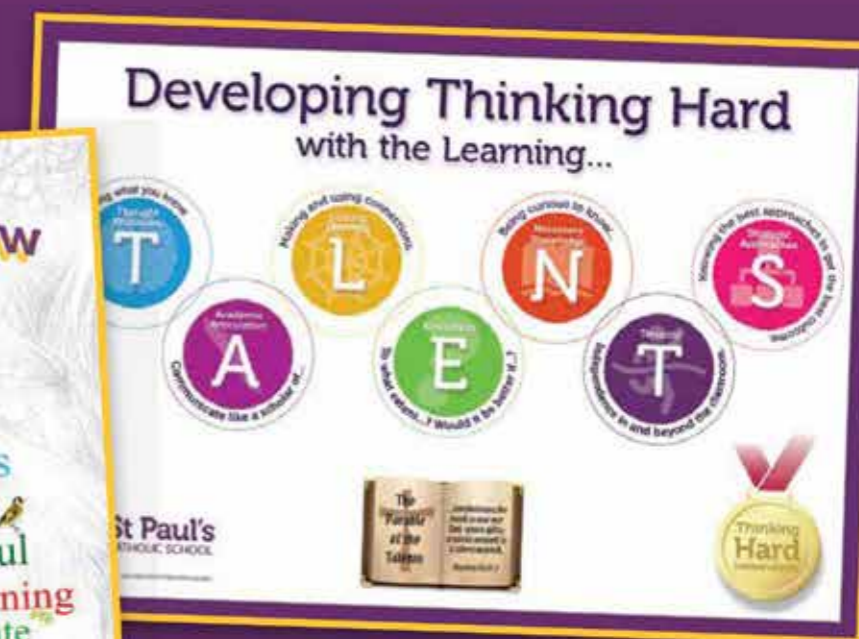
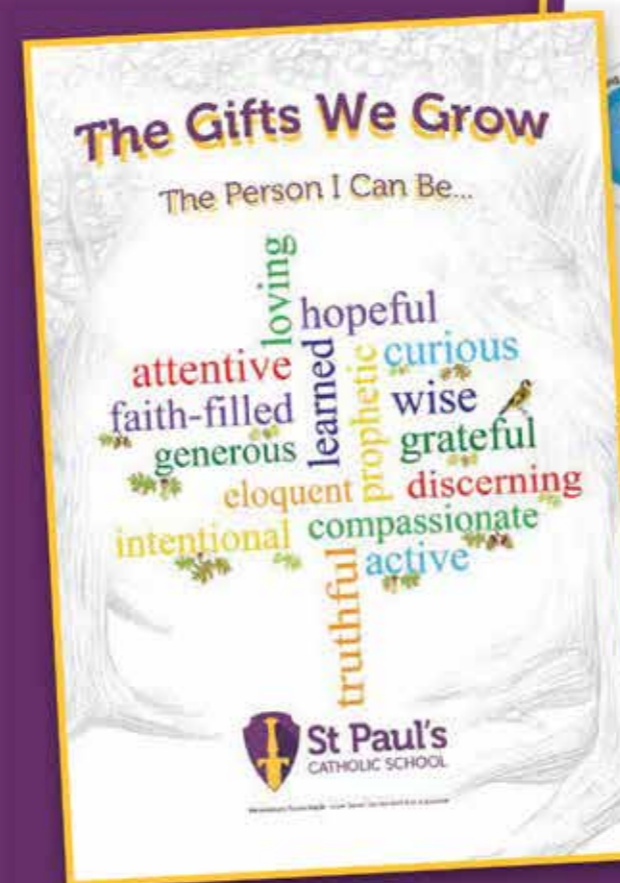
We are committed to sustaining a culture and ethos of continuing professional development for all members of the school community, and the work of the training school is integral to St Paul's being an outstanding place to work and learn.

Extensive programmes for professional development are provided for all staff within school, ranging from supporting those who are in the very early stages of their careers to providing continuing professional development for established members of staff, all of whom are still very committed to life-long learning and enhancing their skills.

The work of the school is underpinned by a consistent commitment to enhancing the quality of pupil learning at St Paul's.



We are fully committed to providing a holistic education where the whole child is developed and where we provide opportunities for them to flourish within and beyond the classroom.



We build chances for pupils to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring they are well-known as individuals and their unique personality, talents and gifts are nurtured and developed to the full. We use the frameworks of 'The Learning Talents' and 'The Gifts We Grow' to support us in this.

“ The school's integrated pastoral and safeguarding hub, alongside the school's chaplaincy provision, is highly effective in supporting pupils who find school challenging. Because staff know pupils extremely well, they can target support with significantly positive impact.

Ofsted

