



# St Paul's

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible



A Specialist Science & Language College and Training School



Parents agree that their children are safe, happy and well looked after at school.

*Ofsted*

# 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 extra-curricular activities and their relationships with others. 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 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 taste 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.



#### 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 Assistant.

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.

*Ofsted Section 48 Inspection Report*





“ Teaching is good across all key stages because staff are committed to continually improving their practice. *Ofsted* ”

# 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 Learning Resource Base provides a separate area for specific support, whilst Learning Support 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.



# Enriching pupils' experiences

“ Pupils are well prepared for life in Britain through a rich mix of experiences of assemblies, religious education and enrichment activities.

*Ofsted*



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 and Germany, History pupils travelling to Flanders and Dublin and those studying Art visiting Kew Gardens and Oxford.



The school also participates in the World Challenge programme with pupils having explored far away destinations such as Mozambique, Peru and Borneo.

In Music there are regular concerts where individuals and groups can perform to audiences. Musicians are very well catered for through curriculum lessons and expert tuition. The Music Department enjoys the contributions of various ensembles as well as a choir. Pupils have become enthusiastically involved in the new music technologies we are able to offer, and these have generated a whole new level of interest.

**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, soccer, 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. Our U15s Girls' rugby team is ranked in the top three in the country.

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**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.

Drama is very popular at St Paul's and recent productions have included Cabaret, Little Shop of Horrors and Les Miserables. These productions always involve a large number of pupils from all year groups. The Drama Department offers ample opportunity for pupils who either study the subject, or who have an interest to display their talent and to perform in front of an audience or provide backstage support.



# 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.

“ Pupils are extremely supportive and caring of each other. They are fiercely proud of their school and live up to their school’s inspiring values and ethos.

*Ofsted*

**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 435.

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.

**Specialist College Status**

Today’s young people live in an increasingly complex and scientific and technological age, but also one where global communication has grown progressively more important. St Paul’s Specialist Science College and Specialist Language College aims to develop the potential of every pupil so that they are able to become fulfilled and responsible citizens, ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

An understanding of, a confidence with, and an ability to use, mathematical and technological skills are fundamental requirements if our young people are to be successful in their future lives...

Our specialist status reflects the experience of our facilities and teaching, as well as our commitment to the development of Science, Languages and their skills at each Key Stage.

As the notion of a ‘global community’ increasingly becomes a reality and our young people experience new environments, their need for good linguistic skills will become essential for them to become effective contributors locally, nationally and internationally. As a result we have invested substantially to ensure that our pupils have the opportunity to meet these challenges.

# 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 pacy 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 post-16. In addition to academic A-Level courses, we offer a variety of BTEC National Qualifications, thereby providing for a wide range of learner needs.

It is possible to combine academic and BTEC 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, Young Enterprise, DofE Gold, World Challenge 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 post-16 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.



“ The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.

*Ofsted*

# Providing quality



St Paul's has been a Specialist Training School since 2003 and 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 500 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.



As a training school, we are also 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 training 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.



**St Paul's Catholic School**  
Phoenix Drive, Leadenhall, Milton Keynes MK6 5EN