

St Paul's Catholic College

Providing Education for the Diocese of Westminster



Prospectus



“St Paul's is an Ofsted 'Outstanding' school and has an established reputation for excellence with our GCSE and A Level results placing us consistently in the top 10% of schools nationally each year.”

Welcome to St Paul's Catholic College



Here at St Paul's we understand the importance of choosing the right secondary education for your child, with all parents wanting their children to be happy, safe and successful in a school where they will be looked after both pastorally and academically.

St Paul's is a Catholic secondary school based in the heart of Sunbury educating children from 11-18 years old. Our College provides education on behalf of the Westminster Diocese and is part of the Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT). The Trust was launched in December 2022 and we currently comprise six schools, four primary and two secondary schools.

St Paul's is an Ofsted 'Outstanding' school and has an established reputation for excellence with our GCSE and A Level results placing us consistently in the top 10% of schools nationally each year. Traditional values, seamlessly coupled with innovative teaching, lay the foundations for academic success. Alongside this, we value the importance of developing the whole person. Our high standards of education are complemented by an extensive range of enriching activities where pupils can discover and develop their interests beyond the classroom

We have a happy and thriving community of staff and students, where children are well-cared for, happy, valued and encouraged to develop their unique God-given gifts, whatever they may be. Our aim for all our pupils is 'Achieving Excellence, Learning to Serve' so that each student develops the knowledge and skills required to thrive in an ever-changing world, and not just academically. Our ethos is underpinned by the key elements of St Paul's letter to Timothy where he stresses love, service and doing the best that is possible. This means that our students work hard to be the best they can be, using their talents to serve and support others both in school and beyond.

Thank you for your interest in St Paul's. We are very proud of our school and invite you to visit us at any time.

James Mc Nulty
Headteacher



"Staff are proud of their work. They strive to improve their already excellent teaching skills. As a result, lessons are of high quality and pupils are supported in developing their knowledge and understanding."

Ofsted - January 2024



Vision and Ethos

The vision and values of St Paul's are at the heart of everything we do as a school.

Service to each other: learning to become a self-disciplined leader.

Teaching that inspires me, that challenges me, that gives me a lifelong love of learning.

Partnership is at the heart of our school: a partnership between school, home and community.

Achievement: learn and achieve beyond my expectations within an internationally-enriched curriculum, using world-class technology, with people who care.

Understanding of me as an individual: staff who know me by name and help make my experience of school rich and happy.

Love and respect experienced through our vibrant Catholic Christian community.

Success: academically, spiritually, morally, socially and beyond the classroom.



"St Paul's works closely with parents and carers to develop a shared understanding with them of the mission of the school. The school welcomes participation in school events, regularly asks for parental views and actively seeks ways of fostering partnerships."

Section 48 Ofsted Inspection of Religious Education and Catholic Life - January 2022



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Learning

Lessons at St Paul's are fun and active, but also challenge our students to think hard. We expect them to remember their prior learning and be able to apply it in future lessons. This is known as retrieval practice and is expertly used in all lessons. Teachers work hard to ensure that every pupil makes excellent progress regardless of their starting point. This means that students of all abilities are challenged to learn and improve on all aspects of their education. We know it's important to make sure that pupils experience a wide and balanced curriculum to allow them to make informed choices about what they would like to do later on in life and we aim to do this both through academic learning and educational trips and visits. Students enjoy learning at St Paul's and teachers enjoy teaching them.

We are a Catholic School

St Paul's Catholic College is first and foremost a Roman Catholic school, as such we have a commitment to ensure that our faith underpins all that we do in school. We believe that a successful Catholic education develops students academically, socially and spiritually, giving them the skills to be successful in all they do when they move on from education.

Prayer and worship is an essential part of our students' personal and spiritual development. Here at St Paul's, pupils and staff recite the school prayer and pray daily during tutor time. Mass is celebrated on holy days of obligation and in year groups throughout the academic year, alongside the Sacrament of Reconciliation and other non-sacramental Celebrations of the Word. Students are encouraged to offer their personal skills and gifts in the preparation of all masses, Celebrations of the Word and school assemblies. Further opportunities for spiritual development are offered on an annual year group retreat day which allow pupils to step back and allow time for reflection, prayer and a deeper connection to their spirituality.

The School Chaplain has a key role at St Paul's, central to all aspects of our Catholic life; helping the school to develop as a community of faith, supporting our pupils pastorally, guiding our students and staff in living out our values and mission and leading a thriving pupil-led Chaplaincy Team in supporting liturgy, prayer and the spiritual life of the school.

Fundraising is also an important element of school life and the charity work that pupils undertake is an active and visible way of 'Learning to Serve' and we are proud to have raised many thousands of pounds for charitable causes over the years every Advent and Lent.



"Teachers' subject knowledge is a strength of the school."

Ofsted - January 2024

"Pupils talk of 'love' and 'service' as being central to the school's ethos and culture."

Ofsted - January 2024

"The worship and prayer life of the school is firmly rooted in the liturgical year and reflects the richness of the Catholic tradition with a focus on Pauline theology. Pupils' spiritual development is enriched through the regular opportunities they have for prayer, quiet reflection, sharing and discussion."

Section 48 Ofsted Inspection of Religious Education and Catholic Life - January 2022





Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a significant strength of our school and every member of staff plays a role in the safeguarding of the students in our care. We have a fantastic team of staff who are dedicated to helping our pupils achieve, supported by a strong tutor system. The Heads of Year work alongside each tutor to ensure every child's experience at St Paul's is as rich and happy as possible.

Good relationships and mutual respect are the cornerstone of St Paul's education and these help our students settle, find their feet and their voice to participate in all aspects of school life.

We support pupils throughout their time here and help them to navigate the emotional and physical complexities of teenage life. The School Chaplain plays an active role in the school and is always ready to give support and a listening ear, and the care our Pastoral Team provide allows us to be confident that our students feel safe and that there is always someone for them to turn to when they have concerns or need someone to talk to.



"Pupils talk of 'love' and 'service' as being central to the school's ethos and culture. The school's compassionate ethos helps pupils develop a strong sense of belonging. They say that everyone is enabled to perform at their very best. Both staff and pupils are very proud to be part of the school."

Ofsted - January 2024



"St Paul's is a really nice school because everyone is your friend and there is always someone to talk to."

Year 8 Pupil

Beyond the Classroom

Pupils' education is not just restricted to the classroom at St Paul's and we recognise that young people need a breadth of experience to develop their talents and skills. We offer an extensive range of activities in our Enrichment Programme which is available to all students. These include sports, drama, music, mindfulness and meditation and creative writing along with many others. Alongside these activities:

- There are opportunities to experience different cultures through foreign language, geography and history trips. We also organise an annual skiing trip to Italy.
- Students in Year 10 and upwards can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme which provides an excellent introduction to challenging activities and volunteering.
- There are opportunities to represent the school and community at music events, competitions, sporting activities and other occasions. Many pupils are part of county and professional teams.
- We also run a number of excursions throughout the year which include Theatre trips, Art Gallery visits, Science and Geography fieldwork and Success Bus Trips to Thorpe Park, Chessington World of Adventures and Brighton.



"Pupils' wider development is planned in detail. Leaders are alert to any specific issues that may be affecting their pupils. These are deftly incorporated into the school's 'Life Skills' programme. Pupils benefit from the balance of advice and information they receive."

Ofsted - January 2024

"Extra activities, such as museum and pantomime trips, broaden pupils' experiences. Many take on a rich selection of pupil leadership roles. They are proud of their work as peer mentors, ambassadors and representatives of the school."

Ofsted - January 2024



Ready for the future

We have developed an extensive careers programme where students benefit from a wealth of activities and experiences. From the start of Year 7 we prepare our pupils for the future. Regular assemblies are organised with guest speakers from business and education sectors invited to give presentations and seminars. Alongside this, independent meetings with our School Careers Advisor are available to all students. In later years, we offer many opportunities to explore further education with trips to higher educational institutions which include Russell Group Universities as well as Cambridge and Oxford. In Sixth Form, pupils have the opportunity to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is recognised by the higher education establishments and enhances an applicant's chance of securing a place at the best universities. We also hold an annual Careers Fair for Years 10 and 12 where many companies and further/higher education providers attend to offer their advice.





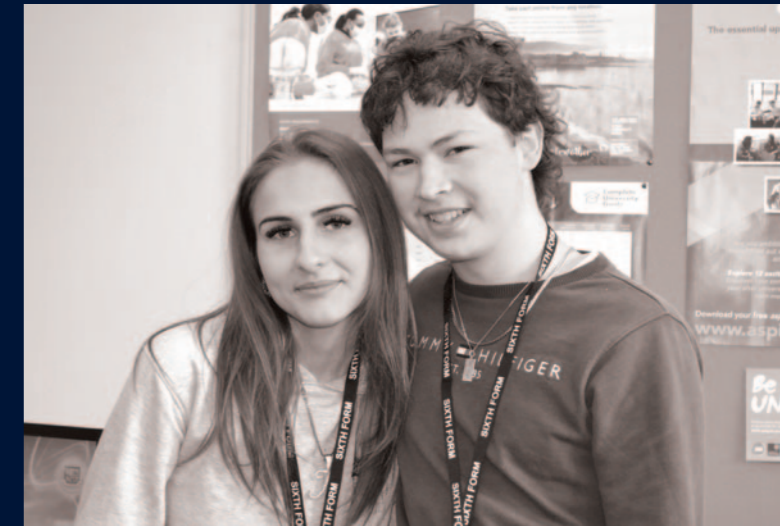
"In preparation for the exams there is plenty of support from the teachers. They give up their free time after school and during the holidays to support us in our revision as much as possible".

Sixth Form Student

Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT)

St Paul's Catholic College provides education on behalf of the Westminster Diocese and is part of the Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT). The Trust was launched in December 2022 and we currently comprise six schools, four primary and two secondaries spanning the local area of Sunbury, Ashford, Staines and Twickenham.

It is an exciting time for the Trust. We are fortunate to have a committed and talented group of Headteachers leading committed and talented colleagues across each of our schools. As a result we are developing a strong and supportive collaborative culture that will only further improve the quality of Catholic education available for the young people that we serve.



"Careers provision in the Sixth Form is purposeful and individualised. This helps many Sixth Form students go on to study at top universities and other highly competitive employment programmes." Ofsted - January 2024

Sixth Form

At St Paul's we have a well-established and thriving Sixth Form where the majority of our students decide to stay with us, as they know that we support them well and will help to ensure that they gain entry to the universities, apprenticeships and employment of their choice.

Excellent relationships between staff and pupils coupled with superb teaching is at the very core of our Sixth Form. "Achieving Excellence, Learning to Serve" epitomises our approach to education. We aim to focus on developing the moral, spiritual and social values of our students, challenging them to achieve academically as well as developing their moral compass, their spiritual life and social values.

We offer a full range of traditional academic subjects alongside modern creative and applied courses as well as a unique enrichment programme that helps students develop the skills that studying alone cannot teach. Pupils will get the opportunity to complete additional courses to support their learning, such as the EPQ, fundraise, plan events, play sports, learn new skills and develop friendships. We encourage our students to take ownership of their Sixth Form by creating leadership opportunities which encourages the student voice to continually help to shape and improve the Sixth Form experience. Our Sixth Form leaders enjoy the opportunity to develop a "legacy project" where they can develop a project for future students to benefit from in years to come.

Ofsted have recently identified our "Outstanding" Sixth Form provision. A Level and BTEC outcomes are consistently high which has resulted in many pupils being accepted at their first choice university, with many moving to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. We also support our pupils with the apprenticeship pathway which has seen a number of our pupils securing competitive degree apprenticeship places with multinational companies.

Our aim is that all of our Sixth Form students leave us as well-rounded young adults who are confident, ready to take on new challenges whilst retaining the core values of St Paul's in everything they do.



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