

ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LEYLAND



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



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WELCOME FROM ST MARY'S HEADTEACHER

Thank you for considering St Mary's Catholic High School for your child's education.

We are a school community that continues to thrive and build on the successes of recent years. At St Mary's, we unashamedly set high standards and expect the very best of our pupils. In so doing, every child is given the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

Our school has a calm and purposeful working environment, with a rich extra-curricular provision, allowing pupils the opportunity to excel. They are wonderfully supported by staff who are hard-working, caring and committed. In short, we are a community where all members are valued and respected.

The inspiration for all we do comes from our Catholic faith and is based on the Gospel values of love, honesty, respect and forgiveness. In so doing, we believe our Mission, which is to 'let your light shine', comes alive, allowing pupils to feel safe and have the confidence to develop their talents.

Parents considering St Mary's are more than welcome to book an appointment and visit us at any time, we would be delighted for you to see the school in action.

Many thanks for showing interest in St Mary's. I know that choosing the right secondary school for your child is not always straightforward or easy. However, I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into why we are proud of our school and the work we do here.

PHIL THOMPSON | **HEADTEACHER**



Welcome to St Mary's



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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE...

As a Catholic school, the person of Jesus and the teaching of the Gospel are at the heart of our ethos. We understand the meaning of community and have strong links with parents, with our family of schools and with local parishes. We also appreciate that we have an obligation to challenge pupils to strive for the highest standards, both in their learning and in their lives. Our latest Archdiocesan Section 48 Inspection (2016) affirmed our strong Catholic ethos, noting many outstanding features in our provision of a Christian, faith based, education for all children regardless of their faith heritage. We aim to inspire our pupils to be active in promoting a fairer and more Christian society and to develop within them a sense of compassion, justice and responsibility. We encourage our young people to explore their faith and spirituality so that they can enter the adult world with confidence about who they are and about the values that they hold. Every day begins with prayer and reflection in form time or in assembly. These opportunities help pupils and teachers deal with the realities of life and create a unified purpose relating to our faith. Our School Chaplain, Anthony Cave, guides and supports provision for worship and prayer and receives strong support from all staff as well as a team of pupil chaplains. Opportunities beyond St Mary's for pupils to engage in retreats and pilgrimage visits are many and we very much encourage all pupils to participate in such events to help further strengthen the school community. We offer retreat and pilgrimage opportunities to pupils in both upper and lower school. The school is committed to supporting environmental improvements, and our work for the vulnerable and needy is an experience in which all pupils participate. We aim to develop amongst all pupils a universal view of local, national and world problems, motivating us in support of our Option for the Poor.

Let your light shine...



OUR CURRICULUM

Pupils at St Mary's experience a broad and engaging curriculum in a safe and caring environment. Pupils study with friends whose company they value and teachers they trust and respect. Friendship is the foundation of a happy life. Bullying and unkindness, whilst never absent in any school, are dealt with sensitively, firmly and swiftly. Our Ofsted inspection in 2020 said pupils 'say that they feel safe in school because they know that staff will listen to them if they have a problem'. St Mary's has a very positive learning culture as the systems we use work well and are fully understood by all. Through tolerance and respect, both boys and girls make friendships for life, building confidence and assisting their learning.



School should be a place for work, and we make it clear to pupils that this starts straight away in Year 7. Yet it is also a place for enjoyment; somewhere to learn and somewhere to grow. Our mission is to **Let Your Light Shine**, allowing every child the opportunity to let their God-given gifts develop fully. We see education as a gift and so we must provide our pupils with experiences and memories that engender within them a love of learning that will stay with them long after they have left school.



It is our commitment that all pupils will be provided with the best possible learning opportunities, regardless of ability. We treat all pupils equally and understand that their educational needs differ greatly. All teaching groups and pupils present their own special challenges and range of abilities. As educators, it is our aim to utilise strategies which will enable all pupils to achieve their potential as much as possible. It is easier to achieve this when teaching is linked to specific educational needs. Some pupils have a very high level of ability, understanding and creativity within a particular subject or across the curriculum. These pupils are entitled to extended stimulus and challenges. It is our intention to meet their needs as effectively as possible.



Our curriculum



PASTORAL GUIDANCE

Support for learning is given by all teachers, but there are times when pupils need additional help. Our strong pastoral system means that a member of the highly specialised team is available for support at all times of the day. Year 7 is led always by a very experienced Pastoral Leader, supported by a full time Pastoral Assistant. This model is repeated in almost every other year group with teachers leading and being supported by full time Pastoral Assistants. Pastoral Services, offering suited provision for matters such as behaviour and attendance, is also very strong. Staff and resources are deployed to facilitate care and guidance, thus enabling all pupils to become independent young people. Special Educational Needs and Disability services are designed to ensure that children with different needs are catered for and included in the school curriculum. Should parents have questions about this aspect of school they can be directed to our SENDCO, Mrs Schofield, who offers highly skilled and knowledgeable leadership to this area.

Pastoral guidance





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BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Pupils' physical health and well-being are important and a variety of sporting activities are available. We encourage all of our students to participate in activities they enjoy. We have an extensive range of sports clubs, activities and teams, with students representing the school in local and county competitions. Pupils are also encouraged to be creative in performance and visual arts subjects within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. There are many opportunities to perform before audiences in school and in the community; whether pupils are on stage or responsible for other aspects such as scenery, lighting, or costumes, everyone has a chance to take part and develop their individual talents. There is a busy programme of productions, performances, displays and outings throughout the year. St Mary's has a rich tradition of school productions maintaining very high standards. Historically, many of our pupils have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and outward bounds activities offer challenge to restless young people who benefit greatly from involvement in the scheme. Recent opportunities for international travel include skiing in Austria, a cultural exchange trip to China, food and sporting experiences in Spain, and visiting the concentration camp at Auschwitz. It is safe to say there are many different opportunities for all children. Full details of our offer on trips and visits are available on the school website



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Beyond the classroom

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ROYAL AVENUE | LEYLAND | PR25 1BS

t 01772 421909

e head@lsmchs.com | bursar@lsmchs.com

HEADTEACHER PHIL THOMPSON

www.lsmchs.com

