



CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

LLANDAFF ♦ CARDIFF

Senior





Ambition ⇄ Leadership ⇄ Achievement

A supportive Christian community inspiring young people to do good in the world



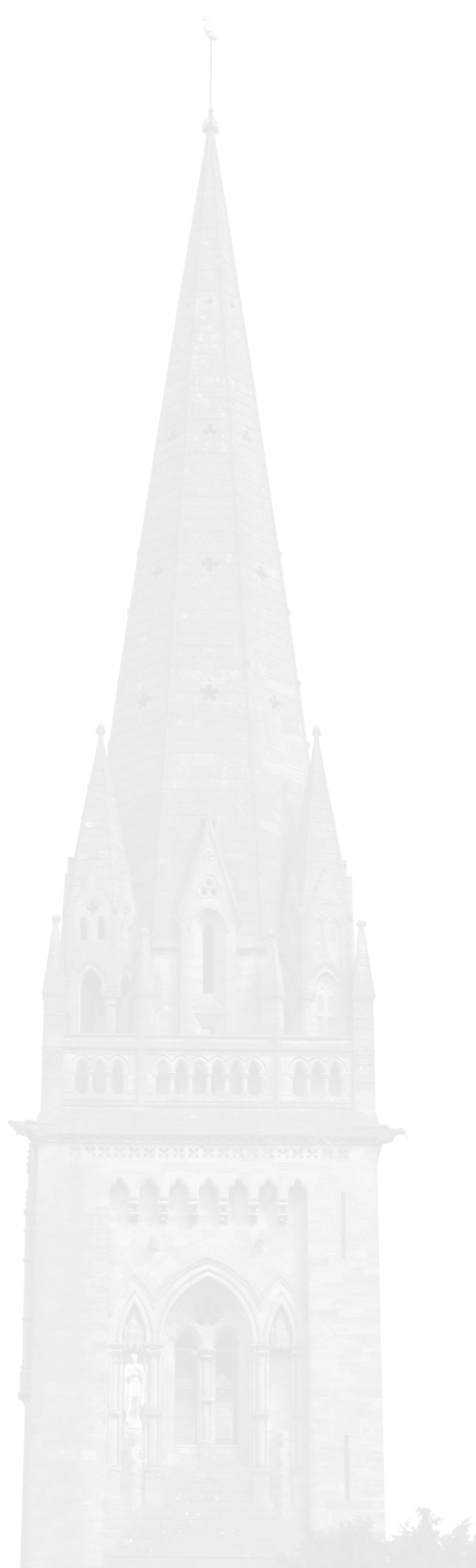
From the Head

The time we spend in secondary education shapes who we are. These are the years that form the mind, the heart and the personality. They carry the child into adulthood. They set a direction and light the pathway for the future.

The pages of this booklet describe something of the ambitious and supportive Christian community which this school is; they explain something of our ethos, our philosophy. But words and pictures can only convey a limited amount. Please regard them simply as an introduction, and indeed as an invitation to visit and experience for yourself something of what makes this school so successful.

Adjectives visitors use for our school include warm, friendly, courteous, confident, energetic, cheery, engaging and industrious. You will find your own way of describing the Cathedral School. Whatever words you choose, I am sure they will be ones which acknowledge the down-to-earth openness and warmth of all members of the Cathedral School family, the appetite for doing things well, the determination to succeed and to help others succeed and, above all, a sense that in this school our approach to the world, present and future, is infused with the gospel virtues of faith, hope and love.

Clare Sherwood





*"The Cathedral School is a school which
motivates you to get a great education!"*

Year 8 pupil

A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing glasses and a dark school blazer over a white shirt and a red tie, is shown in profile, focused on writing in a notebook with a silver pen. The background is blurred, showing a classroom setting with other students and desks.

*To Be at the
Cathedral School*



To Study

To study is a joy and a privilege. New discoveries unfold; the best which has been celebrated and understood by the writers, artists, scientists and philosophers of previous generations is passed on afresh to our pupils. We teach young people to approach every day expecting to be surprised and excited at the new things they will learn. Top grades depend upon establishing the best work habits early on. We instil in pupils a strong work ethic; everyone is expected to complete daily prep to the best of their ability and encouraged to engage with and enjoy their learning. Young people are guided by experts through the complexities and challenges of academic life, university entrance and insight into the professional workplace.

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*I cannot teach anybody anything.
I can only make them think*

Socrates

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*No man is an island***John Donne**

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We pride ourselves upon being a strong learning community. It is important that everyone in school feels valued and that they have a meaningful part to play. We seek to ensure that every person is known and valued; from the initial Year 7 ‘bonding weekend’ creating new friendships, to the competitive house system in which everyone plays a role in helping their house fight for the glory of the annual inter-house cup. The Senior Section is small enough to ensure that everyone is known and cared for, yet large enough to offer a real breadth of challenge and opportunity. A mutually supportive environment means that every young person’s skills, interests, talents and potential are nurtured.

To Belong





To Mature

Young people do not become mature adults simply as time passes.

At the Cathedral School we place great emphasis upon the 'co-curricular', the learning which goes on outside the classroom, widening horizons and helping young people develop interests and enthusiasms which will enrich their adult lives. Years 10-13 undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (D of E) which is hugely popular and delivered not by external providers but by our own dedicated staff who love sharing this developmental journey with their students. Years 7-9 follow the Head's Award, an anticipatory version of D of E. The co-educational environment encourages social confidence for both boys and girls, and the academic results generally surpass those gained by teenagers in single-sex schools. Space and time for finding the things each student is good at enables each to grow in confidence and leadership potential.

The sixth form phase of schooling is about growing in maturity, learning to be responsible, independent, exercising good judgement and making wise choices, to work productively with people of various ages and backgrounds. Adopting a different status within the school community, the students are regarded as fellow adults. As a small but important symbol of this, they have the same dress code as the academic staff.

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*Growing up is a terribly hard thing to do.
It is much easier to skip it and go from
one childhood to another*

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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*Action is eloquence***William Shakespeare**

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We pursue very high standards, not just in the classroom but also beyond it. The co-curricular programme is central to what education here is all about, the 'other half'. We help pupils to master the basic skills necessary to reach high levels of performance, both as individuals and team-players. As in most cathedral schools, the quality of music here is outstanding. It is our boys and girls who sing Llandaff Cathedral's choral services day by day, and the same excellence of musicianship rubs off in school within a wide range of genres, from classical to rock and pop, chamber music to jazz. With an enviable record of success in national competitions and plenty of opportunities to make music on some of the most prestigious stages in Wales, musicians here have unparalleled opportunities to develop their skills.

To Perform

On the sports field a similar appetite for excellence pervades all we do; this is the most sports-centric independent day school in Wales, with a very high coach:player ratio and a busy, competitive fixture list. Rugby, football, sevens, cricket, hockey, netball, rounders, rowing, kayaking, climbing and gym all thrive here. Equally, ambitious participation in public speaking and debating competitions, challenging drama productions and various genres of fine art all add to the opportunities for all students to achieve standards which help them grow in confidence. Termly 'socials' in the sixth form, and attendance at high level events beyond school, help sixth formers develop vital networking skills.

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To Be a part



"There is a sense of community at the Cathedral School: we can be friends with everybody in a welcoming environment"

Year 10 pupil



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*Teach me my God and King, in all things
thee to see, And what I do in anything,
to do it as for thee*

George Herbert

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To Reflect

We encourage all pupils and students to reflect deeply upon the meaning of life and to examine critically, rather than automatically accept, the values of the secular culture in which we live. As a Christian community we believe that life is a beautiful gift, every person is uniquely valuable, that our talents are given to us to be nurtured not only for our own enrichment but for the common good. There are many opportunities through the week to encounter the Christian call to faith, hope and love, not least in our weekly gathering in the Cathedral in which we contemplate the Bible and hear a homily applying its message to today. Pupils of all denominations and faiths are welcomed; everyone benefits from being part of a school with a strong set of values which can help form young people's own world views as they venture forth into adulthood. We want them to find, through a sense of awe and wonder at the world they study, through an attitude of thankfulness and appreciation, a strong sense of self-worth and of respect for others. We want each to discover their unique calling, in order to make a positive difference to the world they live in.

To Achieve

A regular and rigorous reporting system is in place in the Senior Section. Each student has personalised, ambitious targets in all subjects which are assessed every six weeks, and a brief report is sent home. This ensures that problems don't go unnoticed or unaddressed, and that parents always know how things are progressing. Classes are taught by well-qualified specialists, enthusiasts for their subjects, who ensure a brisk, orderly and purposeful atmosphere for learning. The style of teaching in the sixth form is 'pre-university', more tutorial and discussion-led than GCSE lessons. We are regularly recognised, whether by the schools inspectorate Estyn, or in newspaper 'league tables', as one of the highest achieving schools in Wales academically, and young people have gone on from here to secure places at the most prestigious universities in the UK, and beyond.

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*Without continual growth and progress,
such words as improvement, achievement
and success have no meaning*

Benjamin Franklin

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To Lead

Leadership is simply the art of being able to make good things happen. People with this ability are always in demand, whether in society or in the workplace, because of their ability to bring about transformational change. We place great emphasis upon developing leadership skills in young people; the competitive House system offers pupils various avenues for developing leadership ability, as do our team sports, music groups, the Prefecture, pupil forum and both the Head's Award (Years 7-9) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Years 10-13). Every sixth former is invited to engage in our professional mentoring programme, which pairs students with leading professionals in the areas of working life which most appeal to them, for direct contact and guidance. By exercising leadership within the wider school community, sixth form students in turn inspire others. We encourage pupils and students to develop confidence without arrogance and to use their leadership skills in the service of other people.

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Leadership is this: the capacity and the will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence

General Montgomery

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What is our vision for your child at 18 years old, leaving the Cathedral School? Our aim is that students will leave with the best possible set of qualifications, in respected academic subjects, and enthusiastic about learning. They will leave with strength of character based upon a strong set of values, the ability to be an influence for the good, articulate, confident and well-presented, yet with humility and humanity. They will leave with a clear pathway for their future at university and beyond, with the resilience to work hard and to be successful, and yet to be adaptable and positive when life deals a setback. They will leave with wide interests formed by the many opportunities and experiences life in a school community such as this offers, able to work professionally and effectively with people who are different from themselves. They will leave with the foundations laid to be an engaged citizen, a caring member of society, a good husband/ wife and parent, a hard worker; a cheerful, well-balanced adult. Finally, as an Old Llandavian, they will be invited to stay in touch with the School as their professional and personal life develops, to be part of the 'living network' which vibrantly supports the work of the Cathedral School in all kinds of ways.

To Become

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Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day

Heraclitus

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“The Professional Mentor Programme is unique – we are all very fortunate to have such wonderful opportunities at the Cathedral School”

A Year 13 student



*To
Join us*

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As R leaves the Cathedral School we would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the support and encouragement that he has been given during his time at the school. He has benefited enormously from the help and guidance he has received from all of the teaching and support staff throughout his years at the school. We have always believed that education should not just be about academic success and at the Cathedral School, R has been encouraged to develop into a confident, inquisitive and sociable young man. Most importantly to us, R has been happy at school. This would not have been possible without the commitment and enthusiasm of teachers who have provided engaging educational experiences, co-curricular opportunities and a genuine interest in their subjects and students

A parent

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*To arrange a visit, please contact
the Registrar on 029 2083 8504 or
email registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk*

*For Open Days, please visit
www.cathedral-school.co.uk*

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