

## **St John Payne Catholic School**

### **Information for applicants for teaching posts**

In making a teaching appointment the governors and staff seek to ensure that the post meets the professional needs of the person appointed and that the person appointed meets the needs of the post.

The successful applicant can be assured of receiving professional help from colleagues at all levels and the opportunity for professional development through in-service training. She/he will be joining an established successful school with a stable staff which is highly professional and experienced.

The success of the school is based on good relationships between all members of the school community and a commitment to life-long learning which recognises the individual worth of each person and for the need for them to become fully human, in the model of Jesus Christ.

### **The Area**

St John Payne School is situated on the outskirts of the Chelmsford, the County Town of Essex. It is conveniently situated close to the A12 with connections to the M25 and London. There are good rail links to London, Colchester and Cambridge.

There are many pleasant residential areas in the town and surroundings. Housing prices range from approximately £130,000 for a 1 bedroomed property to £590,000 for a 5+ bedroomed property. There are many rented properties available.

Chelmsford has good shopping and leisure facilities. There is easy access to East Anglia, the Essex Countryside and to the Essex coast.

### **The School**

St John Payne Catholic School is an oversubscribed 11-19 mixed comprehensive school which was founded in 1959. The school is situated on an extensive site with its own playing fields and Sports Hall. The school has 1160 pupils on roll. It admits 190 pupils each year into six forms of entry.

The school buildings date to the early sixties and have been remodelled and refurbished. There is a continuing remodelling programme to meet the needs of the school in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There are eight science laboratories, seven specialist rooms for technology, a well equipped library, two ICT access areas, six ICT rooms, a learning support suite the 'Discovery Centre', a music suite housing two classrooms and additional practice rooms, a Sports Hall and extensive playing fields.

All subjects have their own suite of specialist rooms with all classrooms having interactive whiteboards. There are good facilities for staff, a well equipped staff room with provision for marking and preparation facilities and a meeting room. The school has a chaplaincy and a quiet, prayerful Chapel.

The school has received national awards recognising its many strengths. It has recognition from International Schools and Healthy schools. The last Ofsted

inspection (January 2016) recognised the school as good. Our Sixth Form provision was judged outstanding. The last Diocesan inspection identifies us as an outstanding Catholic school.

### **The Staff**

The School is led by the Leadership Team consisting of the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteachers, three Assistant Headteachers and the Business Manager who have collective responsibility for the academic, pastoral and administrative work.

There are currently 61 full-time and 13 part-time staff teachers. Academic leadership is provided by Heads of Department and their assistants. Pastoral Leadership is based on a Year system with Heads of Year for each of 7 to 13.

All members of staff have a role within one of the subject departments and in one year team. The responsibilities of each teacher are given in a personal job description, which is revised regularly.

We have a full-time lay chaplain who oversees the school worship. Mass is celebrated weekly by visiting priests from our local parishes. Each form takes part in the Mass rota.

The school is well supported by the office staff, the librarian, laboratory technicians, ICT and DT technicians, site team, catering team and cleaning staff who are all employed by the Governing Body.

### **The Curriculum**

The school operates a 30 period week with each period of 50 minutes duration.

At Key Stage 3 subjects are common to all pupils. At Key Stage 4 pupils study the core subjects and one subject from each Option Block. The latter courses all lead to GCSE or equivalent examinations for the majority of pupils, though a small number may follow an extended work placement or college programme.

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	4	4	3	5	5
Mathematics	3	3	3	4	4
RE	3	3	3	3	3
Science	3	3	3	6	6
PSHE	1	1	1	1	1
PE	3	3	3	2	2
Technology	2	2	2		
Foreign Languages	2	4	4		
Art	2	1	2		
Music	2	1	1		
Geography	2	2	2		
History	2	2	2		
ICT	1	1	1		
Option Subjects x 3				9	9

### **Pupil Development**

The aim of the school is to provide broad and balanced education for all pupils, and to allow them to progress in each of their subjects, to the highest level attainable.

Throughout the school the welfare of each pupil is the responsibility of the form tutor under the direction of the Head of Year. The Form Tutor has a half hour daily registration time (or assembly) in which personal guidance of pupils takes place.

Grouping of pupils for teaching involves setting for some subjects while mixed ability groups are taught in others.

At 16 many pupils go on to continue their studies in the Sixth Form or at other colleges. Several pupils join our Sixth Form from neighbouring schools.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

There is a great variety of extra curricular activities in the school and applicants for teaching posts particularly should indicate any personal interests in this area.

Debating, sports, music and performance are flourishing areas in the school. Many pupils take part in activities during lunchtimes and after school. There is a tradition of public performances. Our sporting teams do well at local, regional and national competition. The school is currently the UK champion for Formula One in Schools.

Retreats and residential experiences are offered to all pupils. There is an active Justice and Peace Group.

### **PTA**

The Parents and Teachers Association exists to promote the interests of the school community and teachers in the school to enhance the education of the pupils. The many events provide a social occasion as well as much fund raising.

### **Catholic Ethos**

The Catholic Ethos is at the heart of the school's mission statement. The school has been established by the Catholic community to enable young people to receive the best education possible based on the Gospel values and the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic church. All people who become members of the school community are expected to support the ethos and to work to develop this important aspect of the school's work. It is important that people are developed as fully as possible and we believe that this involves spiritual growth as Jesus says in John's Gospel. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." The school chapel is used for prayer and the Eucharistic celebrations.