



St Mary's Catholic School



Love
Respect
Flourish



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



Our Vision

We are a community dedicated to achieving excellence for all, producing young people formed by Gospel values to become responsible, compassionate and caring members of society whilst fulfilling their potential in all aspects of the curriculum.

Love, Respect, Flourish

Love for Christ and for one another, as peacemakers, made in the image of God. Demonstrated by kindness, forgiveness and care.

Respect as demonstrated by being calm, smart, polite, purposeful and prayerful – having high expectations and caring for our community and all creation.

Flourish academically, artistically, physically, culturally and spiritually. Demonstrated by active engagement and pride in all that we do.

Welcome to St Mary's Catholic School

As the Headteacher, I am proud to introduce St. Mary's Catholic School. Founded in 1896, we have a long tradition of exceptional education, inspired by our founders, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. We became a founding member of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust in 2021 and, as family of eight schools, have embraced the collaboration and benefits this brings, ensuring the very best Catholic education now and for generations to come. I truly believe that our focus on excellent academic performance, balanced by an approach that develops the 'whole' child through our Gospel values is a compelling proposition, and I hope that through the information you see here in this brochure, on our website, and when you visit, makes St. Mary's a natural choice for your child's education and development.



Faith is a distinguishing factor at St. Mary's and this underpins the daily experience at school – we consider each child to be the unique thumbprint of God. Whatever particular faith you follow, or none, your child will experience excellent pastoral care, support and the opportunity to explore their spirituality. Our purpose is to help young people to develop and reach their full potential, to make a positive contribution to society and prepare them to lead rich and interesting futures.

There has been significant investment in the school in recent years, with new classrooms, Design Technology workshops, Refectory, sports facilities and other areas that have enhanced the learning environment for our students. This, coupled with a strong emphasis on high quality teaching, and an enriching wider curriculum, means that there really has been no better time to join St. Mary's Catholic School. I look forward to welcoming you into our family.

Mr Tom Johnston, Headteacher





‘Flourish academic

‘St Mary’s is such a vibrant community, the students are full of enthusiasm and have a great passion for learning. It is a pleasure to teach within a dynamic innovative school!’

Dr. Laura Bentley, Lead Teacher – Chemistry



ally...'

Academic Excellence

We offer a broad academic curriculum at St. Mary's, which fosters a love of learning in the students enabling them to flourish in their studies. We set ourselves ambitious targets and consistently find our academic results to be comparable to those top performing UK schools.

As students move up through the school, our teachers expertly guide them to become more independent and to think deeply; developing rich knowledge and skills. Teachers challenge students to extend their learning and development, expecting them to take the lead – to ask questions, make connections and expand their studies. In this way, we foster enquiring and agile thinking in preparation for life in an ever changing world.

The majority of students choose to continue their seven-year St. Mary's journey in our Sixth Form where we have an extensive range of A Level and vocational qualifications. Our students are regularly accepted into the very best universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Students also move into Higher Level Apprenticeship and excellent employment opportunities.

Whatever the starting point for each child, we encourage them to set aspirational goals. This is supported by our focus on the very highest standards in the classroom with devoted, well-trained specialist teachers. Strong, respectful, relationships between the staff and students are also a pivotal ingredient in getting the very best out of each individual. As a result, the progress the students make during their time with us is well above the national average.

'Teaching at St. Mary's is a delight – our students are engaged, keen to learn and ready for the challenge that the teachers set for them.' Mr. James Diggory, Assistant Headteacher





A Complete Education – Enriching and Fulfilling

As a part of the St. Mary's family means that students will not only flourish academically, but also artistically, physically, culturally and spiritually. There are a lot of new things to experience including signing up to all kinds of clubs ranging from sports, music, library clubs and drama in our fully equipped Hume theatre.



Regular trips, visits and residential opportunities, including overseas are established in the calendar each year. These include the PE annual ski trip to the Italian Alps, the Iceland adventure led by the Geography department to experience the volcanoes, geysers and waterfalls and even a Maths trip to New York, to name only a few! Other trips support the curriculum more closely to home, such as an Art trip to the galleries in Cambridge, Warner Brothers Studios to see behind the scenes of Harry Potter and numerous trips into London to visit the theatres (including the Globe and West End) and museums.



Each student is assigned a 'House' before they arrive at St. Mary's and the competitions calendar is packed with events to take part in and earn House Points! This starts in the Autumn term with the 'House Talents Festival' and culminates with the 'House Sports Day' in July - will your House be the winner of the House Cup?



'At St. Mary's we have a house system that is diverse; reflecting our student and staff body. It also encourages healthy competition. Students and Staff may belong to a particular House, but we are still all part of one learning family.' Mr Steve Eddleston, House System Coordinator

'Flourish artistically...'





'Flourish physically...'

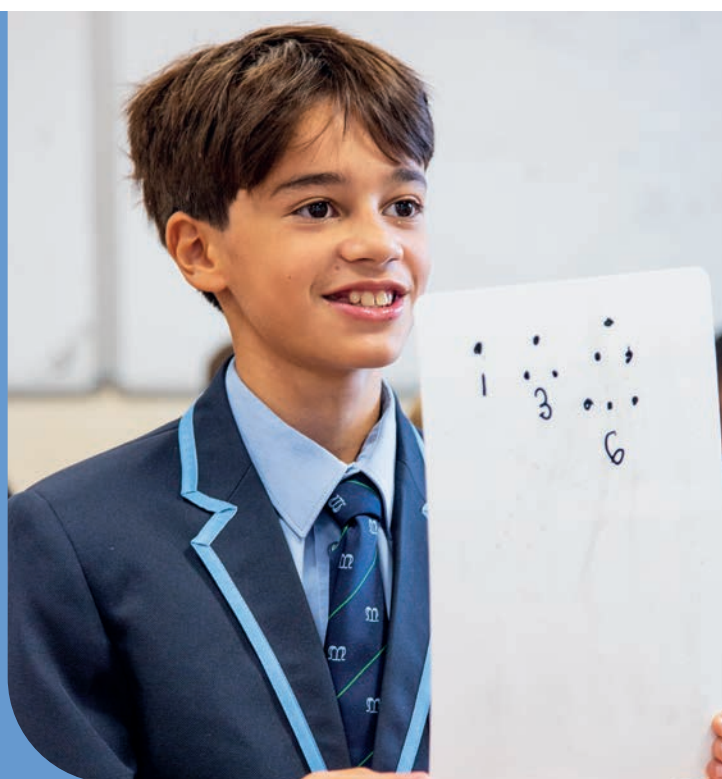
'You are part of a community, a member of the St. Mary's team. No one expects you to be perfect, just as long as you try your best. Everyone wants you to succeed and is cheering you on. Come and join in!'

Year 7 Student, Week One.

'Flourish culturally...'



A Catholic Community dedicated
to achieving excellence for all.



Love, Respect, Flourish



The St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust is a family of eight Catholic schools in the Roman Catholic Deanery of the Lea Valley. Our Trust came into being on 1st September 2021, and whilst each school retains its own distinctive ethos and mission, we share one overarching vision:

To deliver a Catholic education excelling in the academic, pastoral and spiritual life, and which produces fully flourishing pupils who are inspired by the charism of St. Francis -

- To be caring towards everyone in the community;
- Being compassionate - standing up especially for the poor and oppressed;
- Acting with reverence towards all creation;
- Being peacemakers, reconcilers, and healers to all those in need.



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