

UPTON HALL SCHOOL

FCJ Academy founded 1849



Welcome

As a Catholic community, that welcomes pupils of all faiths, Upton Hall School FCJ seeks to enable each individual to develop her talents for her own sake and so she can help make the world a better place.

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.”

Academic excellence is highly valued and girls are encouraged to become confident independent young women with a zest for life. Development of the whole person is essential to education so a varied programme of extra curricular activities and a strong emphasis on personal development serve to ensure that each pupil reaches her full potential.

The school has grown in size over the years but is small enough to ensure excellent standards of pastoral care and individual attention to each pupil. The Upton site is beautiful and pupils are encouraged to appreciate their environment and enjoy the facilities.

Our community is wider than pupils and staff. The role of parents in their daughter's education is crucial to its success. All parents and former pupils become members of The Parents and Friends of Upton whose committee works to raise funds for the development of the School.

As an academy, belonging to the FCJ Academy Trust, we are a state funded school that values our relationships with the Shrewsbury Diocese and Wirral Local Authority. At Upton, lifelong friendships are formed and our alumnae are regarded as important members of our wider community.

The best way to judge a school is to talk to its pupils. We believe that Upton's best advertisement is an Upton girl so all prospective parents and pupils are welcome to visit the school on our annual Open Evenings or by appointment.

Visit our website www.uptonhallschool.co.uk for more information and follow us on Twitter: @UptonHallFCJ



Patricia Young

Patricia Young
Headmistress



Our History



Founded in 1849 by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, a religious society founded in France by Marie Madeleine, a widow and mother who was passionate about education for young women. At first the school was sited at Lingdale House in Birkenhead. Now all that remains of that site is the sandstone wall you see in Lingdale Road. In the 1860s it moved to its present site at Upton Hall, which was then a small mansion on the hill in Upton Village. The Upton Building was constructed to provide a boarding school known as Birkenhead Convent.


Ofsted
Outstanding

*Outstanding in
all areas*

“ *This is an outstanding school. Standards achieved throughout the school are excellent and well above national averages. Students show joyful enthusiasm for learning and strive to achieve consistently high standards.* ”

OFSTED



Our Heritage

The character of the school is built on its Christian ethos. The Sisters who founded the school live their lives as Companions of Jesus and the school was built to serve the Catholic community with the enduring qualities of love, hope and faith. All the FCJ schools in the UK have identified Companionship, Hope, Gentleness, Dignity, Excellence and Justice as values that underpin the relationships between all the members of our communities.



Our Campus

Upton Hall School has a beautiful site and outstanding facilities. The Holt Building enjoys a spacious reception area to welcome you, a drama studio, technology room, classrooms, art rooms and an ICT suite. Our science laboratories, opened by the Princess Royal, are well equipped and designed to make learning an exciting experience. The original Upton Building houses refurbished staff accommodation and the Sixth Form Common Room as well as RE and Humanities teaching rooms.

Our all-weather playing surface and top class Sports Hall with its fitness suite and dance studio on the first floor provide outstanding amenities for PE and Games. These enable pupils to excel in their chosen sports. Older pupils train to be Sports and Dance Leaders and work with Primary School pupils to help them develop their own sporting talents.

At Upton, great emphasis is placed on learning foreign languages and understanding and appreciating other cultures. The Gerard Building houses language rooms for French, Mandarin and Spanish. As citizens of the world pupils are encouraged to reflect on global issues such as Fair Trade and the movement to eliminate world poverty. At Upton we have many privileges and we recognise our duty to work to benefit others as well as ourselves.



Catholic ethos/FCJ values

“ Upton is driven by FCJ values in a positive way. If we are ever feeling doubtful in any areas of our education, we can turn to Justice, Gentleness, Excellence, Dignity, Companionship and Hope to guide us. We are also encouraged to develop a growth mindset to pursue our goals and stay positive throughout our school years. ”

Charlotte, Year 10





At lunchtime pupils enjoy a wide choice of healthy food that is cooked on site. Our Dining Room staff are essential to the success of our school as they provide varied menus for breakfast, break time as well as lunch. A cashless system is in operation and each pupil has a Dining Room account that can be 'topped up' on line. Parents can see what has been purchased to ensure that pupils are encouraged to maintain a well balanced diet.



The grounds provide an educational resource as well as a wonderful leisure space. Rosary Walk links the whole campus providing a walking area for break and lunchtime.



The outdoor classroom provides inspiration for a range of lessons in the grounds. The Solar Dome and Eco Garden are used to grow vegetables and encourage pupils to appreciate the environment. Pupils harvest the apples from the Pemberton Orchard to produce Upton Apple Juice, while learning the science, geography and economics that underpin this process.



Environment

“ Our grounds are beautiful, calm and inspiring. It is a pleasure to have such magic nature on our doorstep and to be able to make good use of it. As well as the natural environment, the school environment is unique and positive. ”

Pal, Year 9

The Peace Garden, at the heart of the campus, reminds us that each day we can bring peace and harmony to our community by the way in which we live our lives and the Mary Garden provides a quiet oasis that enables staff and pupils to appreciate tranquility in a world that is often fast moving and noisy. The use we make of our grounds and our commitment to the environment led to the Green Flag Award.





What to Expect

As a Catholic School, our fundamental aim is the education of the 'whole person', spiritually and morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and artistically. We seek to cater for each pupil's needs as they arise during her school life and to encourage each individual to develop her talents for her own sake and so that she can help to make the world a better place, according to the values embodied in the Gospels. In practical terms this means that we:

- Forge links between school and home that will support the school's aims and so benefit each pupil;
- Offer a broad and balanced curriculum, in line with statutory requirements, which is intellectually challenging, stimulates creativity and leads to academic success and ensures that pupils are effective learners;
- Encourage pupils to consider their sense of self and to develop a spiritual dimension to their lives;
- Promote Christian moral values;
- Support pupils in the development of a sense of self discipline based on the values of self respect and respect for others;
- Ensure that pupils have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills by participating in extra curricular activities;
- Offer pupils opportunities for community involvement and international links, so that they can develop an appreciation of the world in which they live and an understanding of their role in its development and improvement;
- Ensure that pupils are aware of the range of career opportunities, are encouraged to be enterprising and have the skills that will enable them to handle personal finances with confidence and integrity;
- Educate our pupils in matters of healthy lifestyles, personal safety and emotional and physical well-being;
- Offer an environment that is safe, secure, welcoming and stimulating.



How you felt when you started school

“ Earlier this year, I made the transition from Year 6 to Year 7. Although this can be an overwhelming experience, Upton makes it easy. Staff and older pupils are so welcoming and I settled in comfortably in a short time. I have developed and learned so much in the past year and I hope to continue to do so. ”

Charlotte, Year 7





Personal Development

An outstanding school offers pupils and Sixth Form students academic success and much more. At Upton we place a high value on the development of the individual. This means that we create an atmosphere of mutual support, ‘*companionship*’, in which we expect pupils to be a positive influence on each other, show each other respect and encourage each other to nurture their particular talents. Each individual is valued and any form of bullying will not be tolerated. The pupils participate in revising the Anti-bullying policy on a regular basis and it is displayed in each classroom.

‘Our hope and expectation is that, through God’s grace working in us all, each young person will grow into their best self with a zest for life and generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.’

From FCJ Schools’ Vision Statement

The School Council chaired by the Head Girl is a “voice” for all pupils. It provides a forum for year group representatives to discuss and act upon important issues. Members are elected to stand for the year and they speak on behalf of their peers at the Council meeting. The School Council meets twice per term with staff representatives and all members of the School community are actively encouraged to put their ideas forward for consideration.

A Wellbeing Group also meets regularly to explore opportunities for improving the health and welfare of our pupils. A Pupil Pedagogy Group meets to discuss styles of teaching and learning that they find helpful so these can be shared with the teaching staff.



Pastoral Care

“As a member of a form, I have enjoyed participating in many fun activities which offer us guidance about topics not covered in other lessons. For example bullying, social media, treating others well and study skills. We also have a caring Form Teacher who is there whenever we need her, for advice or just somebody to talk to.”

Georgia, Year 8



A wide range of extra curricular activities is available. The school has several orchestras and choirs that meet each week and there are many sporting activities available at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends.

Upton is strongly committed to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with many girls participating in Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Public Speaking and Debating are also popular. Clubs and activities take place in the Departments at lunchtimes and all of these activities provide opportunities for personal growth and development. We ask that all pupils involve themselves in at least two extra curricular activities each week.

Educational visits take place throughout the year. Departments organise visits to universities, theatres, museums, galleries and places of geographic and historical interest. We are proud of our International School Status. Language trips to China, France, and Spain take place on a regular basis. Recently, pupils have also visited the USA, Italy and Iceland. Although pupils from the FCJ school in Melbourne, Australia visit Upton, as yet we have not been to visit them!

We all try to live according to our motto 'Age Quod Agis' which means, 'Do what you do well' For us this implies whatever we are doing should be done with our whole mind, heart and spirit, for our own sake, for that of the wider community and to give glory to God.



Friendships

“ All pupils strive to be the best people that they can be. This is reflected in the strong, lifelong friendships that they naturally develop at Upton. Everyone feels part of a loving community. ”

Olivia, Head Girl





The Curriculum

A broad and balanced curriculum is provided. Details of the curriculum at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and post-16 are detailed in the Information Booklets and shared with parents each year. Copies of these booklets can be downloaded from the web-site.

Upton Hall is a selective school so the curriculum is designed to ensure that academically able girls receive encouragement to reach high levels of attainment. Most of our pupils go to university when they leave Upton, however, some move on to hugely competitive Higher Level Apprenticeships as they prefer to learn in the workplace.

Ten or more GCSE subjects are studied at Key Stage 4. However this might be reduced if it is in the pupil's interest. Such decisions are at the discretion of the Headteacher and made after consultation with parents.

Pupils excel at GCSE and are ready to meet the demands of Advanced Level.

Ofsted
Outstanding
*Outstanding in
all areas*

“ Teachers have excellent subject knowledge. They plan interesting and varied learning activities and they monitor students progress rigorously and accurately. They ensure they get the support and guidance they need on how to improve.”

OFSTED



Homework is compulsory for all pupils. At Key Stage 3 pupils are expected to spend approximately one and a half hours on homework. By Key Stage 4 this will increase to two hours each night. Pupils receive Planners to record the homework set and to use as a means of communication between home and school. A VLE enables pupils to access materials from home and the Learning Gateway enables parents to track their daughter's homework.

Upton seeks to meet the needs of each pupil. In that sense every pupil is regarded as having special needs. However there is a school policy and procedure for assisting those pupils with specific learning difficulties and special needs arising from illness or physical disability. The buildings are accessible to those with physical impairment.



Teaching and Learning

“ Our teachers are supportive and respect each individual pupil and her learning journey. I enjoy learning and look forward to school every day.”

Hannah Year 9





Sport and Physical Education

A full size Sports Hall, all-weather tennis and netball courts, an artificial turf hockey pitch and extensive playing fields provide Upton with excellent sports facilities. A wide range of games and activities are available both within lessons and as extra curricular events. These include:

- Tennis • Badminton • Hockey • Netball • Football
- Gymnastics • Dance • Trampolining • Volleyball
- Basketball • Cross-country running • Athletics.

The Sports Hall is a busy place with many pupils performing at a high level. However all pupils are encouraged to enjoy sport and there is a strong emphasis on participation and inclusion clearly in evidence on Inter House Days! Each Year at Easter a Celebration of Success takes place to honour those who have made a strong contribution to sport.

PE for all pupils in Years 7-11 is compulsory and pupils in Year 11 enjoy undertaking the Sports Leaders qualification which enables them to work with Primary School pupils and develop their own leadership capacity. Physical Education is also a popular choice for GCSE as it combines the opportunity for practical work as well as a theoretical component.





Music

Music has always made a significant contribution to all school events since the school was founded. There are several choirs, orchestras, ensembles, a woodwind group and brass band. A large proportion of our pupils are involved in the musical life of the school.

Concerts take place regularly and music groups go out into the community on various occasions to perform, they attend concerts and enter competitions.

In Year 7 free instrumental music lessons take place within the curriculum for ALL pupils and in Year 8 for those with a particular aptitude. This means that, from the outset, pupils are given the opportunity to explore their aptitude and enjoyment of making music. All Year 7 pupils are encouraged to join Junior Choir to experience the joy of entertaining others with a wide repertoire of songs.

In addition to curriculum music that is compulsory for all pupils in Years 7 and 8, private instrumental and singing lessons are on offer to all pupils. Upton has excellent instrumental music teachers who offer tuition in a wide range of instruments. Many pupils take Associated Board Examinations and the standard of their achievement is very high.



Extra-curricular activities and memorable experiences

“ At Upton there are a wide variety of extra curricular activities and amazing trips. These can be sporting activities, arts and crafts or Eco club. Last year, I travelled to America on a skiing trip including a stop in New York City. I not only learned how to ski but also to make friends.”

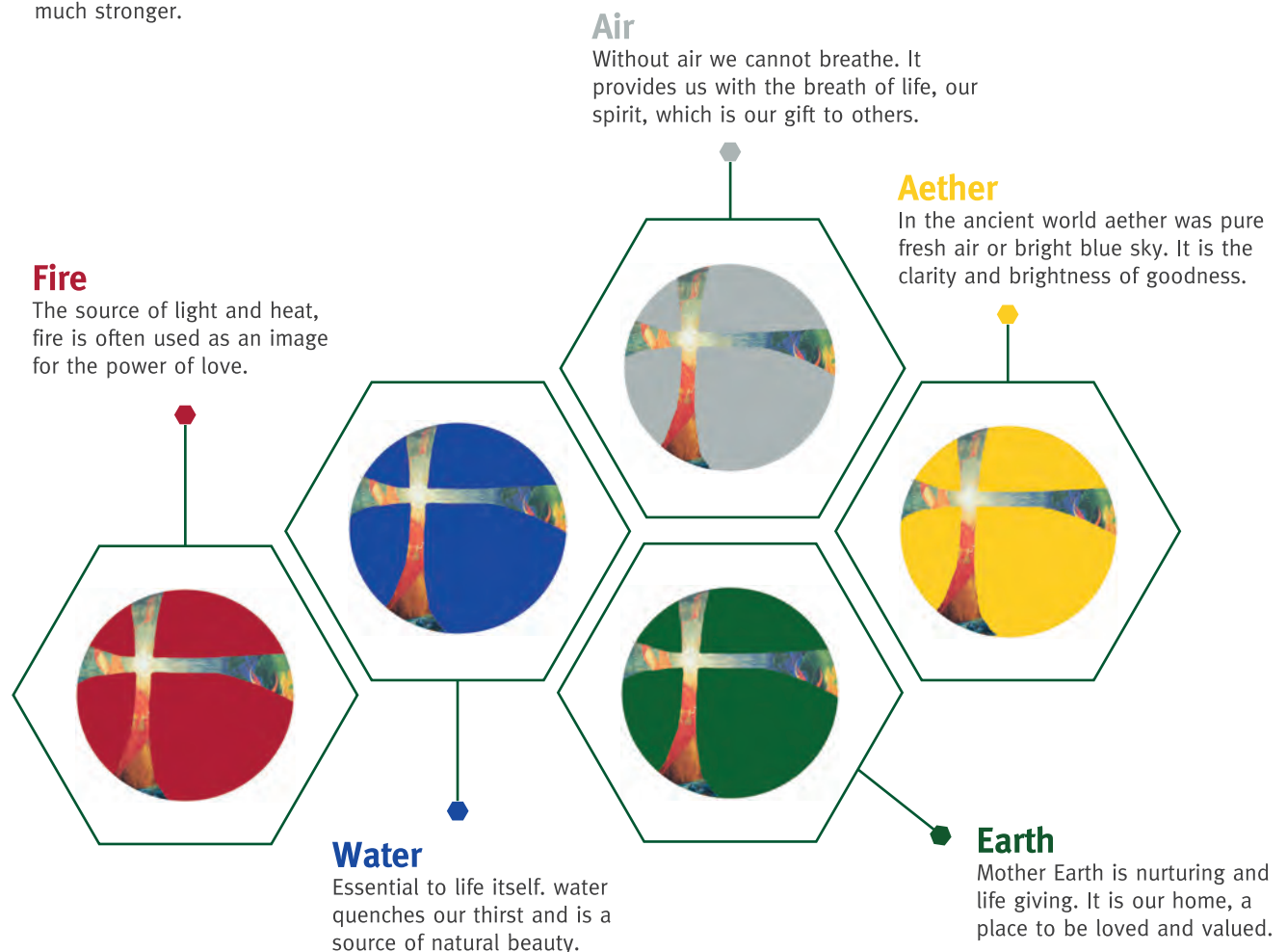
Amelia, Year 10



The House System

Each Form is part of a House so that pupils have the opportunity to get to know pupils in the years above them. There are five Houses: Fire, Water, Air, Earth and Aether. These names remind us of the classical elements that were believed to make up all of creation. For us they illustrate how we are all part of creation, each with our unique part to play and when we work collaboratively with each other we are so much stronger.

Each House has its own Head and Deputy Head of House and it has its own qualities that inspire creativity that are an important part of the House system. Each day a House takes responsibility for looking after the welfare of the school.





Sixth Form

Upton has a dynamic Sixth Form offering a wide choice of subjects and excellent student support to ensure each individual achieves the best possible grades in their public examinations.

The Sixth Form courses begin with an Induction Programme designed to help students make that important transition from Key Stage 4 to Advanced Level. This is the first step in a co-ordinated programme designed to offer advice about Higher Education, the UCAS process and how to maximise chances of success. Students interested in Oxbridge entrance are offered specialist advice and support. Just as important is the advice for those students who wish to access Higher Level Apprenticeships in order to learn and progress in the workplace rather than in Higher Education.

The social life in the Sixth Form is stimulating and varied with a variety of activities organised for lunchtime and after school. Trips abroad, community service, debating, participating in the Sports Leaders Award Scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, orchestra and choir are just some of the activities currently undertaken by our Sixth Form students.



Student Leadership

“ At Upton I have really developed my leadership roles, making me a more confident student and helping me to work well in group activities. Past student leadership teams have always inspired me as strong, independent, young women who have really lived out our school motto of ‘Age Quod Agis’ – ‘Whatever you do, do well’. ”

Olivia, Head Girl





A Head Girl and her team, together with the Cabinet Prefects, are the leaders of the school. We look to them to develop a programme each year aimed at enhancing life at Upton. The Sixth Form make a major contribution to the school. The Head Girl chairs the School Council and her team are the most senior Council members.

Life in the Sixth Form concludes with two popular events, the "Going-Down Mass" and the "Leavers' Ball". An excellent service is provided on results day to ensure that our students obtain places at appropriate universities.

We welcome enquiries from pupils from other schools who are interested in joining our Sixth Form.

For further details please see our Sixth Form Prospectus, website or contact the Director of Sixth Form.



Here I am

“ Upton is a school that focuses not only on your academic abilities but also on the development of you as a person. During my time at Upton, I have always felt valued and this has helped me to grow and develop into the confident person that I am today. ”

Bonnie, Year 13



Extra Curricular Activities

Here are just a few of the Extra Curricular Activities we've got up to in the past!

Activities Week

June 2016 -

Upton pupils
being creative



African Drumming Workshop -

Pupils learning new musical skills



2017

Pupils learning
the art of
Chinese Dancing



2016

Apple Day -
September 2016
Upton's own apple
juice makers



2016

Taking a well earned
break on the Wirral Way
Annual Sponsored
Walk 2016



Upton Hall School Community

Gathering for the
Annual School Mass
at the Metropolitan
Cathedral of Christ the
King, Liverpool

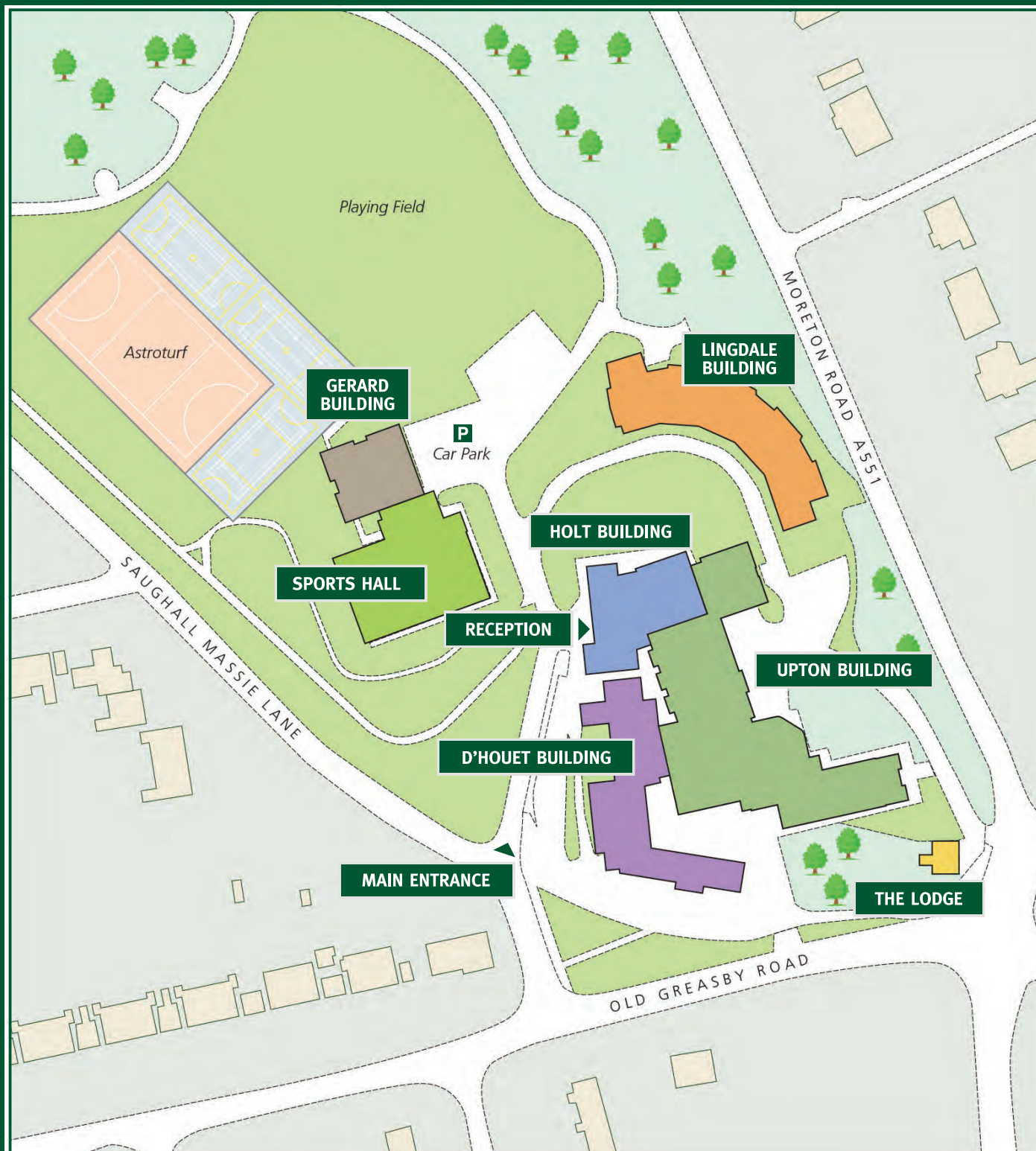


Mission Statement

Upton Hall School strives to provide educational experiences which will enable individuals to achieve their full potential in every aspect of their development.

Inspired by the vision of the Foundress of the FCJ society, we aim to promote a Christian ethos that encourages students to value the pursuit of excellence, and allows them to attain personal fulfilment by making a purposeful contribution to society.

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.”



UPTON HALL SCHOOL FCJ

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