



**ST JOHN PAYNE**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



# WELCOME TO ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I am blessed and honoured to serve and lead as Headteacher of St John Payne Catholic School. **We have long enjoyed a glowing reputation as a community of learning and faith**, both in the local community and beyond. It is a reputation that owes much to the wonderful formation students are afforded by our feeder schools, and has been forged by generations of students, teachers, parents and carers, and clergy whose association with the school continues to yield great warmth, affection, and the highest regard.

We are acutely aware of the guiding purpose that sustains **our long standing record of academic success and pastoral care**. Such success is attributed to the Gospel values that underpin all that we do, witnessed by the words above the entrance to our Chapel corridor: Be it known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.

Jesus' words to those disciples who would deny the children access to him are prominent in our minds and hearts at St John Payne, where children are known and loved as individuals created in Christ's image, and where we feel privileged to play a part in their education. We practise discipline with dignity whilst remaining resolute in the pursuit of high expectations to support students' spiritual, social, moral and academic growth. **We recognise parents and carers as a child's first teachers**, and are hugely appreciative of the support of the three way partnership between home, school and parish.

Throughout all that we do, students are supported and encouraged to fulfil their God given potential and to become the best versions of themselves: the people God created them to be. **Visitors frequently comment upon our distinctive identity and sense of community**. This is established by students' positive attitude to learning, by their sense of belonging, and by their witness of our faith. Should you wish to visit they would love to show you around. They truly are our very best ambassadors.

We look forward to welcoming you.



**Pupils feel part of a welcoming and inclusive family. They are valued, whatever their faith, sexuality, or home language. Pupils are taught in a caring, supportive environment. Pupils and staff describe it as being part of a community, and some a 'big family'.**

—Ofsted





# CATHOLIC LIFE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The strong sense of community ensures that all students feel valued, supported and loved. Prayer and worship, skilfully orchestrated by the leaders and the chaplain, are a fundamental part of daily life at the school.

—Catholic Schools Inspectorate

Our Catholic identity permeates all aspects of our life as a school. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum, with all students studying the subject to GCSE level, but education in the faith is a wider phenomenon than achievement in an academic subject. **In their time at St John Payne School a student will know what it is to live out their faith**, part of a wider community that does so.

Throughout the year there will be **opportunities for prayer, reflection, spiritual retreat and renewal**, charitable work and celebration of the Eucharist. We welcome one of the parish priests from our deanery each Friday lunchtime when Mass is celebrated in our Chapel for each Form in turn. On one day each term we arrange Masses to allow everyone in the school to be able to attend and receive the Blessed sacrament.

As well as the celebration of our faith, all those who know the school will recognise the importance with which we view each person. **It is our belief that we should love one another, putting the needs of others beyond those of ourselves.** Our students know that they are cared for and our students care about others. They will take these core values with them wherever they go.





# PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care is of a nurturing and guiding nature.

**We recognise the importance of good pastoral care to academic success and to personal and spiritual wellbeing.**

This informs all that we do. All our teachers, as well as being experts in their subject area, take a real interest in the wellbeing of the whole child as an individual.

Our pastoral system enables our school to respond to the needs of each person, with good communication between teachers, the child and home being given high priority. Upon joining our community students are allocated a tutor group in which they remain throughout their time with us.

**Ours is a welcoming school.**

The Year System is supported by six Houses, each relating to a Religious Order. This allows a further sense of community whilst engendering a degree of healthy competition between the members of each of the houses in areas ranging from football and netball tournaments, to inter house debating. Embracing all of this is a commitment to offering students opportunities to come towards greater knowledge of themselves and of God's love of each of us as individuals.

**All staff want the very best for pupils. This means teaching them well, to get good examination results and preparing them to be well informed, active citizens. The school ethos encourages pupils to be thoughtful, kind and respectful.**

—Ofsted







A photograph of two young men in school uniforms sitting at a desk, focused on writing in their notebooks. The image has a blue tint. The text 'ACADEMIC SUCCESS' is overlaid in large white letters.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Pupils enjoy attending the school. They appreciate the exemplary support and encouragement that staff give them.

Parents and carers value the education provided for their children. They praise the high standards achieved and the caring, community ethos promoted by the staff.

—Ofsted

Learning opportunities here are broad and varied, exciting and engaging, stimulating and challenging. A walk down the corridor will see a variety of activities taking place inside the classroom. **We believe that there is not one type of learner, nor that one type of lesson is best.** We endeavour to build on our knowledge of each individual and set them work that stretches them to not only meet, but exceed those targets set of them.

We enjoy continued and sustained success and are **consistently among the top performing schools at both GCSE and A level.** We see academic success as important, together with the achievement of a genuine inquisitive outlook and an interest in the world and the people around us.

Individual, paired or group work is used to actively engage students in their learning. Those **skills much required throughout future careers, of teamwork, planning, communication and cooperation are given real situations** in which to be developed.

Our students benefit from the dedication, expertise and creativity of their teachers, who are committed to the ideals of our school and who display **a life long passion for learning.**



# ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

**Learning cannot be confined within the walls of a classroom**, or even the school, and we are forever keen to embrace opportunities that exist further afield.

A typical school year might see **students experience a range of cultures and climates**, including visits to Singapore, Spain, Germany, Poland and France; as well as field trips to Dorset and Wales, visits to museums and art galleries, retreats to Aylesford Priory and Walsingham House at Abbotswick and sporting fixtures the whole length and breadth of the country.

Then there's debating and public speaking, in which our students achieve great success. If a child has an interest in drama, singing or music, many opportunities to use these talents exist within the school. The dance squad, choir, orchestra, bands and actors are all active with their performances being very popular and well appreciated.

Our commitment to a range of charity initiatives sees **students live out their faith in the service of others**. Just as significant is the time generously given in supporting others as mentors, buddies or coaches; be they younger students in our own school or students attending Columbus School and College.

**Students take every opportunity to serve their own and the wider community, flourishing as a result. The school's focus on servant leadership ensures that all are received in a spirit of generous hospitality, especially those who are most vulnerable.**

—Catholic Schools Inspectorate





# SIXTH FORM AND BEYOND

Sixth form students receive excellent provision. They are proud of their school and take an active role in supporting younger pupils, for example, acting as mentors for Key Stage 3 pupils.

A Level results are consistently very high.

—Ofsted

Sixth Form students follow programmes that give them the required subject skills and knowledge to perform at the highest levels. Teachers have high expectations, setting aspirational targets for each student and, through close monitoring and high quality, expert teaching, the students are well prepared to meet or exceed these. **Students leave our Sixth Form to take up places at the top universities including Oxbridge and Russell Group**, with often more than the minimum grades required of them.

In addition to academic excellence, the Sixth Form is well regarded for its sense of community. Our students say that they have really enjoyed their time in the Sixth Form. It is a welcoming and friendly place to study with much support from both teachers and fellow students. Students are able to join our Sixth Form from neighbouring schools if places on courses are available. **Several of our senior students take on additional leadership roles in our school within the House Councils, Chaplaincy Team or in the House System.** They do so much to give the whole school its tremendous feeling of community and demonstrate excellent role models for the younger students. The leadership training they receive and the experiences available to them give our Sixth Formers an excellent foundation for future responsibilities in their chosen careers.





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PRO FIDE

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