



# **St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy**

## **Information 2015-2016**

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## **I. Introduction**

St. Anthony's is an 11-18 Roman Catholic academy for girls serving the community within the City of Sunderland. There are c. 1340 pupils in the school with a buoyant sixth form of c. 340 pupils. There are c.100 teaching staff (full time and part time) and c. 70 support and administration staff (some full time and many part time).

The vast majority of the students and staff are from the R.C. faith tradition, given the ethos of the school, but applications are invited from girls of other faiths and none. The wide catchment area, which covers the whole of the City of Sunderland, provides a genuinely comprehensive intake. Pupils attending the school come from very varied backgrounds. Many parents in neighbouring authorities seek to have their daughters educated at the academy due to its inclusive nature.

### **OUTSTANDING**

IN

ALL FOUR OFSTED CATEGORIES 2013

- **Achievement**
- **Teaching and Learning**
- **Behaviour and Safety**
- **Leadership and Management**

### **OUTSTANDING**

IN

ALL THREE DIOCESAN CATEGORIES 2013

- **Curriculum RE**
- **Catholic Life of the School**
- **Collective Worship**

## **2. History and ethos**

The school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has a fundamental commitment to high quality education for girls. The academy is supported in its work by three Chaplains. The Chaplaincy Office is situated adjacent to the School Chapel which is often the venue for retreat days, opportunities for reflection and many smaller scale liturgical activities. In 2004 the school celebrated its centenary as a secondary school with sixth form. The school has one hundred years experience as a provider of Sixth Form education for girls. For more information about the Sisters of Mercy please see [www.mercyinternational.ie](http://www.mercyinternational.ie) and [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)

## **3. Location and site**

The school is situated in the centre of Sunderland within walking distance of train, metro and bus stations. It has a garden site consisting of three Victorian villas and a series of more modern buildings. Gabriel House and Somerleyton House have been refurbished as designated Sixth Form areas. A new purpose built Music, Creative Arts and RE facility, McAuley House was opened December 2010 (a total of 6 new spaces) and McAuley phase 2 was completed summer 2013 providing additional classroom and ICT facilities (a total of 8 new spaces) including a high tech. Educare Centre. The remainder of the school site is currently being developed (completion summer 2016), as part of the EFA's N.E. Capital Batch 2 Priority Schools Building Project.

## **4. Inspection/Reports/Awards 2007-2016**

- **2016**  
Awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark for the third consecutive time.
- **2015**  
A top 100 state school for the English Baccalaureate
- **2014**  
Silver School Games Award  
National Teaching School Status  
Expert Centre for Global Learning  
HT became an NLE (National Leader of Education)  
The school became a National Support School  
11 SLE's (Specialist Leaders of Education) and 1 NLE (National Leader) with NCTL (National College for Teaching and Learning)
- **2013**  
The Sunday Times Top 250 State Schools 2013:  
6<sup>th</sup> of only 11 schools named in the NE in the top 250.  
199<sup>th</sup> for the sixth form and 236<sup>th</sup> for the main school.  
Outstanding in all three OfSTED (Section 5) categories:  
Outstanding in all three Diocesan (Section 48):
- **2012**  
Teacher Learner Academy status – recognised as a verifier for teacher training projects within the school and partner schools.
- **2011**  
The school joined the Leading Edge community following the achievement of High performing Specialist School status.

Mr. Darren Cowell was Highly Commended in the Caterer of the Year Award (National Association of School Business Managers)

- **2010**  
Recognised as a Teacher Learner Academy by the GTC (General Teaching Council).  
Recognised as a centre for Newcastle University M.Ed. modules.  
Awarded the Basic Skills quality mark for Literacy and Numeracy provision.  
The School Food Trust School of the Month.
- **2009**  
Awarded a second Language Specialism by the SSAT (Specialist School and Academies Trust) The only school in the city to have two specialisms.  
Awarded High Performing Specialist School status by the SSAT Recognised as a Teaching and Learning Academy by the G.T.C. (General Teaching Council).  
Awarded Outstanding by OfSTED for the SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme run in conjunction with Northumbria University.
- **2008**  
The Financial Times Top 1,000 schools list.  
The school acquired Healthy School status.  
Awarded the Sunderland young people's anti-bullying charter mark.
- **2007**  
The 2007 OfSTED Report remarked,  
"The school's sixth form provision for personal development and well-being, and the care, guidance and support provided for the students are **outstanding**".

The 2007 OfSTED Section 48 RE Report remarked,

"St. Anthony's is an **outstanding** Catholic girls' school".

The school became a Training School for the License to Cook Project.

## **5. Behaviour and attendance**

Expectations with regard to pupil behaviour are high and the pastoral care of pupils is a strength. In the 2013 OfSTED rated behaviour as **Outstanding** and the 2007 OfSTED stated the behaviour of students was described as "**Exemplary**". One of only two schools in the North East to achieve **outstanding** for behaviour in 2007. Attendance is routinely 95% and punctuality is excellent and highly valued.

## **6. Curriculum, examinations and entrance into the world of work or higher education**

The school sets high academic standards and has a strong commitment to the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum. Twenty seven subjects are offered at GCSE and thirty six at Advanced level.

Routinely a small number of the most able students are offered Oxbridge places and between a quarter and a third of students in the last three years have obtained places at either either Russell Group or the most prestigious Scottish Universities requiring straight A grades and a large number of A\*/A grades at A level.

Retention rates are usually c.90% and entry to Higher Education has been between 80-90% routinely during the last decade.



## **Results Day**

### **7. Extended/extra-curricular activities**

Pupils also enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities (there are over one hundred and fifty groups and individual meetings each week ranging from Ski Club with an attendance of up to eighty to small one to one groups). Many girls and teams perform in sports at national and international level. There are very high participation rates in sporting and other extended curricular activities.

Over 500 educational visits have taken place during the last three years ranging from voluntary work in Swaziland, to Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to local and national History visits.

An extensive summer school programme, specialising in Technology, for students transferring from Y6 and KS3 pupils which takes place during the first week of the summer holidays each year.

Pupils are encouraged to be active citizens and take part in local events, charitable fund raising and volunteering as well as competing in local and national competitions.

The thriving Music department has undertaken Music tours (Prague 2007, Dublin 2008, Cracow 2009, Rome 2010, Paris 2011, Oxford, Blenheim, Highclere and Magdalen College 2012, Venice and Verona 2013, Salzburg (2014) and Paris (2015). In 2013 the department presented a highly successful production of, “Joseph”(2013) “Oliver” (2014) ,“Into the Woods” (2015) and “Calamity Jane” planned for 2016.

## **8. Some recent and/or current initiatives:**

- **2014 – 2016**
  - Basic Skills Quality Mark – awarded for the third successive time
  - Expert Centre for Global Learning
  - National Teaching School
  - Lead School for SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training)
  - Recruitment of 8 SLE's and 1 NLE:
  - SLE's:
    - Science – Dr. G. Emery
    - Technology – Mr. S. Jordan
    - Technology – Ms. K. Brown
    - Technology and Behaviour and Attendance – Mrs. R. Abbs
    - Modern Foreign Languages – Mrs. S. Ward
    - Modern Foreign Languages and Behaviour/Attendance – Mrs. F. Collins
    - History – Ms. J. Wallis
    - Music – Mrs. L. Dudley
    - English – Mrs. J. Adamson
    - Music – Mrs. L. Dudley
    - Modern Foreign Languages – Mrs. S. Marshall
  - NLE:  
Mrs. M. Shepherd – Head Teacher
- **2013**
  - The Sunday Times Top 250 State Schools 2013:  
6<sup>th</sup> of only 11 schools named in the NE in the top 250.  
199<sup>th</sup> for the sixth form and 236<sup>th</sup> for the main school.
  - Outstanding in all three OfSTED (Section 5) categories:
    - Achievement
    - The quality of teaching
    - Behaviour and safety
    - Leadership and management
  - Outstanding for overall effectiveness
  - Outstanding in all three Diocesan (Section 48):
    - The Catholic Life of the School
    - Collective Worship
    - Religious Education
  - Outstanding for overall effectiveness
- **2012**
  - Teacher Learner Academy status – recognised as a verifier for teacher reasearch and development projects within the school and partner schools.
- **2011**
  - The school joined the Leading Edge community following the achievement of High performing Specialist School status.
  - Mr. Darren Cowell was Highly Commended in the Caterer of the Year Award (National Association of School Business Managers)
- **2010**
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Council).

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- **2009**

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Awarded Outstanding by OfSTED for the SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training programme run in conjunction with Northumbria University).

## **9. Partnership working to enhance opportunities for girls and staff**

- The school is an Expert Centre for Global Learning.
- The school is a member of the Leading Edge community.
- The school is a member of the Diocesan Secondary HT's Partnership.
- The school is involved in a NCSL/Diocesan project for school leaders.
- It is a member of the Hexham and Newcastle Catholic Partnership and consequently has links with a wide network of RC schools in the region.
- The school is a member of St. Bede's Deanery Partnership
- The school is also a member of the Sunderland Education Partnership, LA networking groups at all levels and Schools North East.

### **a) City wide partnership:**

#### **i) St. Bede's Deanery Partnership Partnership**

2 secondary schools:

- St. Aidan's
- St. Anthony's

9 primary schools:

- St. Mary's - Meadowside
- St. Joseph's - Millfield
- St. Leonard's - Silksworth
- St. Patrick's - Ryhope
- St. Cuthbert's - Grindon
- St. Anne's - Pennywell
- St. Benet's - Fulwell
- English Martyrs - Red House
- St. John Bosco - Town End Farm

ii) **City of Sunderland Secondary HT's** and other local LA meetings, forums etc.

### **b) Regional partnership:**

i) **Beacon Teaching School Alliance** – St. Anthony's was awarded Teaching School status from September 2014. This involves the academy in leading Beacon



Teaching School Alliance. We are part of a network of North East Teaching schools who provide:

- Initial Teacher Training
- Continuing Professional Development
- School to School Support
- Research and Development

i) **Hexham and Newcastle RC Partnership** - Hexham and Newcastle R.C. Partnership consists of 12 secondary schools within the diocese:

- Carmel College Darlington
- English Martyrs Hartlepool
- Our Lady and St. Bede Stockton
- St. Anthony's Sunderland
- St. Aidan's Sunderland
- St. Bede's Lanchester
- St. Bede's Peterlee
- St. Joseph's Hebburn
- St. John's Bishop Auckland
- St. Leonard's Durham
- St. Michael's Billingham
- St. Thomas More North Shields

This partnership involves staff and students in a range of activities, music events, art exhibitions, sporting competitions, liturgical events, CPD opportunities etc. across twelve large secondary schools from seven different local authorities.

Web site: [www.catholicpartnership.org](http://www.catholicpartnership.org) Partnership Director: Mrs.Sara Crawshaw

ii) **Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle:**

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle web site: [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

Education Service Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle; [www.edursdhn.org.uk](http://www.edursdhn.org.uk)

Diocesan Director: Mr. Joe Hughes.

iii) **Diocesan Youth Village/Diocesan YMT** (Youth Mission Team):

[www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org) - Fr. Dermot Donnelly

iv) **Schools North East:**

[info@schoolsnortheast.com](mailto:info@schoolsnortheast.com)

A forum consisting of schools of all types across the North East of England. Mrs. Shepherd (Head Teacher) is a Trustee of Schools North East.

**c) National partnership:**

- **CATSC** (Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges) : [www.catsc.org.uk](http://www.catsc.org.uk)
- CESEW (Catholic Education Service England and Wales): [www.cesew.org.uk](http://www.cesew.org.uk)
- Links via the Diocesan YMT (Youth Ministry Team) to CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation): [www.cymfed.org.uk](http://www.cymfed.org.uk)

- Association of Maintained Girls' Schools
- **SSAT** (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust): [www.ssat.org.uk](http://www.ssat.org.uk)
- **Leading Edge** (A Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Partnership programme: [www.ssat.org.uk](http://www.ssat.org.uk)

**d) International partnership:**

- Sweden (2003-present) University of Linnaeus ITT - English Language, training ITT students, lecturing at the University of Linnaeus.
- Swaziland (2007-present) Manzini Youth Care - Child centred practice, literacy, PHSE, charitable fundraising and project delivery
- India (2010-present) British Council funded project KVKV School and Panshil School Rajkot - girls' education, empowerment, Technology, annual Exchange
- China (2011 - present) – languages, Mandarin Club, Confucius classroom development, Daquin Language School Exchange, City of Sunderland Harbin Exchange
- South Korea (2013) - technology, girls' education - Whitburn, Sandhill View, Guwol Girls' Middle, Bupyeong Girls' High.

**Interested in joining our community?**

- **Student Admissions Enquiries Y7-Y11 – Contact Mrs. K. Morgan 0191 5537700**
- **Student Admissions Enquiries Y12-Y13 – Contact Mrs. A. Wilkinson 0191 5537700**
- **Staff Vacancies – see website**
- **Teacher Training – see Teaching School section of the website**



