



Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Education Trust



St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

Information about the school 2019 - 2020

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Twitter: @St_Anthonys3 (main School)

Twitter: @AAASixthForm (post-16)

Twitter: @BeaconSch (Teaching School)

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OUTSTANDING

IN

ALL FOUR OFSTED CATEGORIES 2013 to present

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

OUTSTANDING

IN

ALL THREE DIOCESAN CATEGORIES 2007, 2013 and 2018

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

I. Interested in connecting, or re-connecting, with our community?

- **Student Admissions Enquiries Y7-Y11 (age 11-16)** – contact Mrs. J. Donaldson or Mrs. C. Donkin 0191 5658904 or visit www.st-anthonys-academy.com
- **Student Admissions Enquiries Y12-Y13 (age 16-18)** – see St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's Catholic Sixth Form website www.aasixthform.com
- **Teacher Training** – see Beacon Teaching School section of St. Anthony's website www.st-anthonys-academy.com/beaconta
- **Staff Vacancies** – see academy website www.st-anthonys-academy.com and Schools North East Jobs Board www.jobsinschoolsnortheast.com
- **Alumni Network** – contact www.futurefirst.org.uk

2. Introduction.

St. Anthony's is an 11-18 Roman Catholic Academy for girls serving the community within the City of Sunderland. It is part of Our Lady of Mercy Education Trust (a multi-academy trust which includes St. Aidan's Catholic Academy and St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy). There are joint post-16 arrangements across both schools at St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's Catholic Sixth Form.

There are c.97 teaching staff (full-time and part-time) and c. 70 support and administration staff (some full time and some part time) at St. Anthony's.

The majority of the students are from the Roman Catholic faith tradition, given the ethos of the school, but applications are also invited from staff and girls of other faiths who are happy to learn and work within a Christian environment and join in all aspects of life within our community.

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 and often due to family connections. Sometimes three or four generations have been educated at the school since its foundation in 1904.

3. History and ethos.

The school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy during the 19th century and has a fundamental commitment to high quality education for girls. The academy is supported in its work by a Chaplain, Sr. M. Josepha, RE department staff, staff from other departments and a Pupil Chaplaincy Team. The Chaplaincy Office is situated adjacent to the School Chapel which is the venue for weekly Mass, retreat events, opportunities for reflection and many smaller-scale liturgical activities.



Students from St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's attend an audience with Pope Francis

4. Location, site and facilities.

The school is situated in the centre of Sunderland within walking distance of train, metro and bus stations. It is a state of the art school situated within a garden site in a conservation area. The school buildings consist of some listed Victorian buildings and some brand new buildings. All academy buildings have either been rebuilt or refurbished during the last ten years with over £20m being spent in capital investment during this period.

2019

- Major IT network upgrade
- On-going development of the Frog Learning platform
- Further pic-nic tables, pic-nic blankets (summer) and outdoor seating

2018

- New outdoor pic-nic tables and outdoor seating

2017

- Refurbishment of Somerleyton House
- New Drama Studio
- Landscaping and grounds around Somerleyton House due for completion

2016

- New Chapel
- New Chaplaincy Room
- New four court Sports Hall
- New Dance Studio
- New Changing Rooms
- New Multi-games area
- Four new ICT facilities
- Refurbished Student Support Area, "The Cottage"
- New Medical Room
- New admin. areas
- Access, security and car parking arranged to make best use of the site footprint

2015

- New Hall
- Major investment in a new stage lighting and sound system
- New Library/Learning Resource Centre
- Thirty new classrooms with new furniture and new storage facilities
- Interactive touch screen technology in tall new and refurbished teaching areas
- New administrative areas
- New Catering Kitchen
- New Dining Room
- Twelve new Science laboratories and associated prep. rooms
- Ten new Art, Technology/ICT specialist rooms
- New student and staff washrooms/toilet facilities

2012

- The Educare Centre – an immersive environment using edge-blending technology
- Eight new classrooms

2010

- Three new Music/Performance rooms
- Three new classrooms
- Wi-fi across all the new site

5. Key Inspection/Reports/Awards 2009-2019.

2019

- The British Council International School Award
- The Quality in Careers Standard (stage 2)
- The Sunday Times Parent Power (3rd place in the North East)
- SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) State School Award
- Basic Skills Quality Award for Literacy and Numeracy provision (3rd time in succession)
- World Class School nomination

2018

- ISM (Incorporated Soc. of Musicians) Bronze Music Award (3rd time in succession)
- Silver Sainsbury's National School Games Award
- Silver Active Sunderland Award
- Outstanding in all three categories Diocesan Inspection:
 - Curriculum RE;
 - Collective Worship;
 - Catholic Life.

2017

- Top 100 state school for the English Baccalaureate (top 5% in the country)
- Gold Sainsbury's National School Games Award
- Gold Active Sunderland Award
- ISM (Incorporated Soc. of Musicians) Bronze Music Award
- Licensed Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

2016

- Awarded, for a third time, the Basic Skills Quality Mark for Literacy and Numeracy provision
- ISM (Incorporated Soc. of Musicians) Bronze Music Award
- Silver Sainsbury's National School Games Award

2015

- Top 100 state school for the English Baccalaureate (top 5% in the country)
- ISM (Incorporated Soc. of Musicians) Bronze Music Award
- Gold Sainsbury's National School Games Award

2014

- National Teaching School Status
- Expert Centre for Global Learning
- Headteacher was awarded NLE (National Leader of Education) status
- National Support School status
- 11 SLE's (Specialist Leaders of Education) and 1 NLE (National Leader) with NCTL (National College for Teaching and Learning)
- Silver Sainsbury's National School Games Award

2013

- Outstanding in all three OfSTED (Section 5) categories
- Outstanding in all three Diocesan (Section 48)
- Awarded, for a second time, the Basic Skills Quality Mark for Literacy and Numeracy provision

2012

- Teacher Learner Academy status – recognised as a verifier for teacher training projects within the school and partner schools

2011

- The school was invited to join the Leading Edge community following the achievement of High performing Specialist School status

2010

- Recognised as a Teacher Learner Academy by the GTC (General Teaching Council)
- 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 be awarded two specialisms
- Awarded High Performing Specialist School status by the SSAT (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust). Initial specialism in Technology awarded 1998
- Recognised as a Teaching and Learning Academy by the G.T.C. (General Teaching Council)
- Awarded Outstanding by OfSTED for the Technology SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) programme based at St. Anthony's run in conjunction with Northumbria University

6. 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**”.

Attendance is routinely 95% and punctuality is excellent and highly valued.

7. 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. Over twenty subjects are offered at GCSE and thirty-five at Advanced level.

Routinely a small number of the most able students are offered Oxbridge places and between a fifth and a quarter of students in the last three years have obtained places at either Russell Group universities or the most prestigious Scottish universities (often requiring straight A grades or a number of A*/A grades at A level during the last five years. Entry to Higher Education has been between 80 - 90% during the last decade.

8. 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 sessions linked to examination prep. Many girls and teams perform in sports at local, and sometimes national and international, level. There are very high participation rates in sporting and other extended curricular activities.

Over three hundred educational visits have taken place during the last three years ranging from voluntary work in Swaziland, Ecuador and Cambodia to local and national history or art department visits eg. visits to the Leonardo Exhibition at the Winter Gardens and the National Gallery workshop held at Sacred Heart High School.

A summer school programme, specialising in Technology, for students transferring from Y6 and KS3 pupils takes place during the first week of the summer holidays annually. There is also an Extended Schools programme for primary children which

includes crafts, jewellery making etc. operating during term time.

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 many 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), London (2016), Paris (2017), Amsterdam (2018) and London (2019).

The department has also presented highly successful productions for many decades: "Joseph"(2013) "Oliver" (2014) ,"Into the Woods" (2015), "Calamity Jane" (2016), "Songs from the shows"(2017), "The Sound of Music" (2018), "Guys and Dolls" (2019) and "School of Rock" (in preparation 2020).

The following outdoor pursuits/water sports residential have been undertaken by the PE Department: Tossa De Mar Spain (2019), Argeles Sur Mon France (2018), Ardeche France (2017), Tossa De Mar Spain (2016), Ardeche France (2017), Argeles Sur Mer France (2014), Ardeche France (2013), Les Deux Alps, France (2012), Tossa De Mar Spain (2011), Ardeche France (2010), Embrum Spain (2009), Ardeche Spain (2008), Ardeche Spain, Italy (2007),Ardeche Spain (2006), Ardres France (2005) and Ardres France (2003).

St. Anthony's Ski Club meets every Friday evening at Silksworth Ski Centre, during term time, and large numbers of girls ski weekly. A number of Ski Club members have completed Ski Instructor qualifications and occasionally individuals, or teams, have competed in the English Schools' National Finals (team 4th place in 2006). Ski Club staff have organized the following ski tours: Vermont USA and city visit to New York (2018), Oetz-Solden Austria and city visit to Innsbruck (2017), Oetz-Solden Austria and city visit to Innsbruck (2015), Civetta Italy and city visit to Venice (2013), Jungfrau Switzerland and city visit to Lucerne (2012), Sierra at Tahoe USA and city visit to San Francisco (2011), Imst Austria and city visit to Innsbruck (2010), Civetta Italy and city visit to Venice (2009), Zell am See Austria and city visit to Salzburg (2008), Civetta Italy and city visit to Venice (2007), Civetta Italy and city visit to Venice (2006), Itter Austria and city visit to Salzburg (Easter 2005), Worgl Austria and city visit to Salzburg (Feb. 2005), Heavenly at Tahoe USA and city visit to San Francisco (2004), Passo Tonale Italy and city visit to Milan (Easter 2003), Cesana Italy and city visit to Milan (Feb. 2003), Sugarloaf USA and city visits to New York and Boston (2002), Grindelwald Switzerland and city visit to Lucerne (Easter 2001), Grindelwald Switzerland and city visit to Lucerne (Feb. 2001), Mont St Anne Canada and city visit to Quebec and Niagara (2000), Scheffau Austria and city visit to Salzburg (1999), Sugarloaf USA and city visit to Boston (1998), Folgaria Italy and city visit to Venice (1997), Bellamonte Italy and city visit to Verona (1996) and Zell am See Austria (1995).

Visits to Derwenthill (Outdoor Activity Centre), situated on the shores of Lake Derwentwater, are arranged during May half term. Students from all year groups have the opportunity to participate in an activity week at Derwent Hill. The activities

available are hill walking, kayaking, canoeing, climbing, abseiling, orienteering, gorge walking, a high ropes challenge and other team building activities. This is an annual visit which has taken place since 2006.

Students also have the opportunity to attend Wimbledon. As well as watching the action courtside they also join the crowds on 'Henman Hill' and watch play on Centre Court on the huge TV screen. This is coupled with a sightseeing tour of London. This visit has been running annually since 2013.

Selected girls from Y9-10 attend a challenge weekend where they are awarded points for their teamwork and leadership skills. "The Lakeside Challenge" competition is held over four weekends in the Lake District (Outward Bound Centre). This has been an annual visit since 2016. Large numbers of girls are also annually involved in preparing for Bronze, Silver and Gold John Paul II Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Arts Awards involving much community work, volunteering and service.



Ski Club

10. Partnership working to enhance opportunities for girls and staff:

- the school is a British Council International School;
- 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 National Professional Qualification training for school leaders;
- the school is a member of Monkwearmouth Catholic Partnership;
- the school is also a member of the Together for Children Education Partnership, local networking groups at all levels;
- the school is a Partner School of Schools North East and the Headteacher sits on the Board of Trustees of Schools North East;
- The school has many international partnerships (see below).

a) City-wide partnership:

i) Monkwearmouth Catholic 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 Headteachers'** and other local authority meetings, forums etc.

b) Regional partnership:

i) Beacon Teaching School Alliance and North East Schools Teaching Alliance – St. Anthony's was awarded Teaching School status from September 2014. This involves the academy in leading Beacon Teaching School Alliance @BeaconSch. We are part of a network of North East Schools Teaching Alliance @NEschoolsTA and provides:

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

ii) Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle:

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle web site: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Education Service Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle; www.edursdhn.org.uk

Diocesan Director: Mrs. Deborah Fox.

iii) Diocesan Youth Village/Diocesan YMT (Youth Ministry Team):

www.ymt.org

iv) Schools North East:

info@schoolsnortheast.com

A forum consisting of schools of all types across the North East of England. The Headteacher is a Board member of Schools North East and the school is a Partner School.

v) Local, national and international universities:

The school has connections with universities across the country and in particular very strong links with our five local universities:

- University of Sunderland;
- Durham University;



- University of Newcastle;
- University of Northumbria and
- University of Teesside.

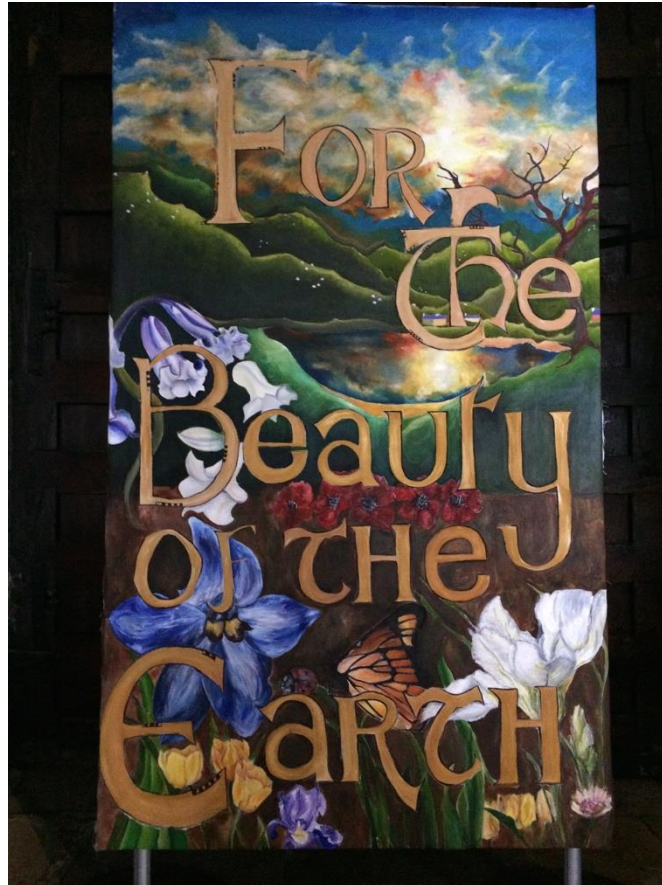
Girls annually travel to over thirty universities to study over thirty different subjects. Girls have occasionally undertaken academic and sporting scholarships to the USA eg. Bryn Mawr to study languages. A small number of particularly able students will also annually apply to Oxbridge and very prestigious courses in a whole host of other universities which require the highest grades.

c) National partnership:

- **CATSC** (Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges) : www.catsc.org.uk
- **CESEW** (Catholic Education Service England and Wales): www.cesew.org.uk
- Links via the Diocesan YMT (Youth Ministry Team) to **CYMFED** (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation): www.cymfed.org.uk
- **SSAT** (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust): www.ssat.org.uk
- **Leading Edge** (A Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) Partnership programme: www.ssat.org.uk

d) International partnerships:

- **Sweden** (2003 - present) University of Linnaeus ITT - training for Swedish ITT students, lecturing in Vaxjo and Kalmar, staff training for staff from schools in southern Sweden etc.
- **Swaziland** (2007 - present) Manzini Youth Care - Child centred practice, literacy, PHSE, charitable fundraising and project delivery for the Salesians in Swaziland (Southern African Province).
- **India** (2010 - present) British Council funded project KVKV School Rajkot and Panshil School Rajkot - education, annual staff and student exchanges and cultural links.
- **China** (2011 - present) – languages, Mandarin Club, Daquin Language School Exchange and No.69 Middle School Harbin link.
- **France and Spain** - the school also has established links, and has undertaken exchange visits, with schools for many years.



St. Anthony's exhibit - Catholic Partnership Art Exhibition

Blessing of St. Anthony's Academy – 14th July 2017

Bless this school,
and those who built it,
for the education
of our young people.

Bless our students, staff,
parents, governors,
parishioners and all who promote
education in our community.

May this school always be
a home of mercy and goodwill,
so that together we can build
your kingdom of mercy,
justice and peace.
Amen.