



**Prospectus**  
2020-21



**St Mary's Catholic College**  
Wallasey



## Welcome to St Mary's

**On behalf of the Governors, staff and students of our College community, we would like to welcome you to St Mary's Catholic College.**

In November 2016 St Mary's became an academy and is now part of a family of schools within the Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Through our work with the Trust we have access to cutting edge practice and professional development for all our staff.

It is a very exciting time to join our College. We have embraced the chance of working in partnership with other schools within the Trust and are embarking on many exciting projects that will give our young people world class opportunities.

**Anthony Boyle**  
Headteacher



**“The guidance and support I received during my time at St Mary’s was crucial to developing my thinking and understanding of my chosen field. Allowing me to go on to Central Saint Martins and launch my own global fashion brand”**

Patrick McDowell

## Aiming Higher

At St Mary’s we do everything we can to help students find their passion and realise their dreams.

### The highest ambitions

At St Mary’s, we strive for the highest standards for all our students. Many of our students have gone on to study at Cambridge and Oxford Universities to realise their dreams. We pride ourselves on a wide curriculum offer to inspire our young people and guide them towards their future careers. Each year we make sure that students can access study that will inspire them and give them the platform to achieve throughout their lives.

At St Mary’s our students come first and nothing will take away from giving them the best future.

Our teaching staff are incredible and our academic offer provides the best curriculum for all students.

Talented staff provide exciting learning opportunities for our young people. Our students tell us that their love for learning comes from these opportunities.

### Where dreams begin

At St Mary’s we are committed to making the inventors, politicians, artists, innovators, doctors, nurses, architects and musicians of the future. We are passionate about creating opportunities to give all our young people the path to realise their dreams.

St Mary’s is a place where passion for learning is ignited. Learning is a journey for everyone and we believe that everyone’s interests should be catered for. Teachers are passionate about their own subjects and we get the best people into school to inspire our staff and students.

We look beyond the curriculum experiences that we offer and try to capture the interests of all our students.

**Whatever your path in life - we can guide you on your way.**

# Student Focused

The students are at the heart of the college. Relationships matter and drive everything we do.



## Knowing each child as an individual

It's important to us at St Mary's that we know each child and family individually. Our pastoral care is second to none, with staff going the extra mile to support our young people. We invest heavily in staff supporting our children and know that positive relationships are at the core of everything we do.

Past students and staff call St Mary's a family and that is exactly what we aim for. To look after each other in good times and bad to make sure we get the best from every day.

## Meeting the needs of all children

St Mary's is an inclusive school and welcomes students of all abilities. We believe in the potential of every child and will do everything in our power to unlock learning.

Our SENDCO team & pastoral teams are experienced in supporting pupils and work with a highly skilled team of learning assistants.

Whatever the needs of our students, staff are relentless in unlocking the barriers to their success. We want to achieve success by any means possible.

We work with leading practitioners nationally to ensure children get the very best in order to become successful during their time with us.



"What stood out for me was just how well St Mary's supported people. Whatever your path, wherever you had come from, they were on your side. They would support with enthusiasm and they'd help you get to where you wanted to go. It was true for me, it was true for my brothers and I know it'll be true for countless more students whose families trusted their futures to SMCC."

Samantha Walters



## Student Services

We have a central 'hub' where students can come and access support for any needs they may have. We work closely with therapeutic support teams and external agencies to get the best for each child.

Our SEND and pastoral support teams play a central role in what we do here so every need of our students is known and acted upon. The physical and mental health of all our students and staff is our highest priority. That's why we work with leading professionals to get the very best for all.

We want happy, successful students who love coming to school. Our support hub will make sure that any worries or barriers to learning are dealt with so that children can be back in class learning from the brilliant teaching staff that we have.

# A wide curriculum

At St Mary's we have a broad and exciting curriculum so that all children can find their passion.

From English, Maths, Science, Art, PE, DT, Media, social sciences, computing and MFL, we have something for everyone.

Our talented teachers work to create the highest quality experiences for every student.

## Passion for learning

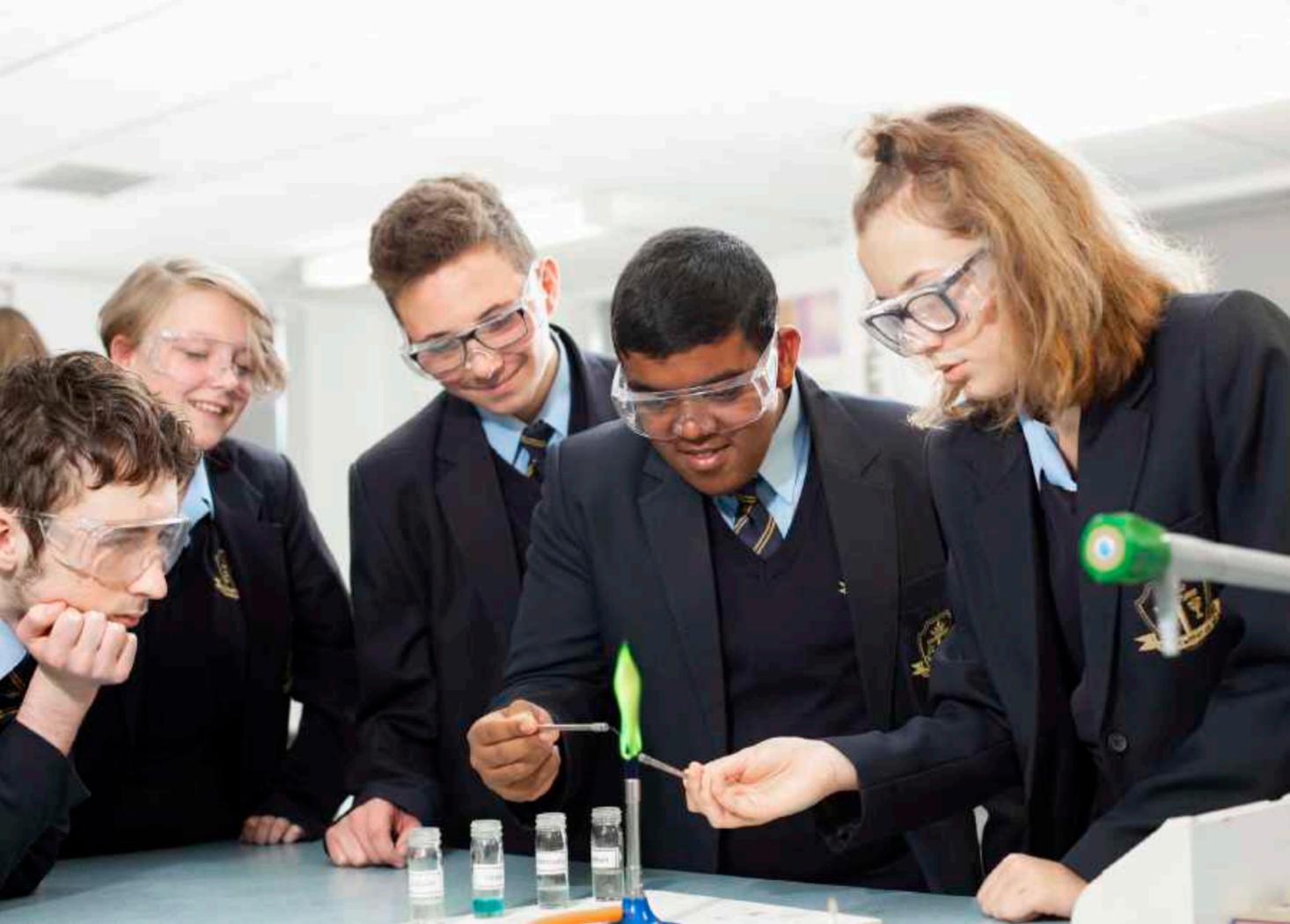
Our staff in all departments are passionate about learning and getting the best for all students. They work across the Trust and throughout the region to share best practice.

Many past pupils have gone on to further their studies to doctoral level and beyond after starting at St Mary's.

“I will be forever grateful for the inspirational teachers I had during Sixth Form who opened my eyes to the exciting world of Physics and inspired me to believe there was a place for me in scientific research”.

**Hannah Brown**

PHD student Liverpool University



# The Inspire curriculum

The Inspire curriculum at KS3 is part of the St Mary's experience and allows pupils to develop a range of skills through the subjects of Drama, Music, Conservation and Social Justice.

Each subject is delivered through a variety of thematic approaches in order to allow pupils to develop their self-awareness, grow in self-esteem, challenge the world they live in and to inspire them to believe that they can change the world around them. This is a curriculum to create 'change makers'.

We want to encourage confident performers, speakers, listeners and debaters. We encourage pupils to understand and celebrate what it means to be a young person growing up in the twenty-first century in a supportive, creative and dynamic atmosphere. We have developed lessons to focus on the diversity of each experience, pupil engagement and enjoyment, and to encourage them to be "inspired to make a difference".

# Where Creativity Matters

The Performing Arts is a passion at St Mary's. We have many alumni who have gone on to have huge success in theatre, dance and drama.

**Students perform each year at the Floral Pavilion Theatre for a variety of events. This is the first platform of many for our talented students. We are passionate about the arts and the way that they can energise lives and communities.**

We believe in finding the 'element'. Those things that help us lose time when we take part in them.

The various activities are in themselves a celebration of how the Arts and our students have made a significant and positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

This Faculty believes in enhancing the Arts Curriculum by giving each student access to the work of professional artists and venues.

As part of our Arts programme we organise as many performance opportunities as possible to share and celebrate our achievements in the Arts. These include: Key Stage 3 performance evening, musical celebrations, assemblies, dance shows, college show, carol concert, and many more, to which parents, teachers, governors and the community are all invited. We also take many of our performances "on tour" to share with our feeder primaries and also invite them to a matinee performance of our school production.

**If your child has a love of performing or a talent for singing, dancing and acting - then look no further than St Mary's. Their future career on stage awaits...**

## Performing Arts

At St Mary's Catholic College, we aim to provide every student with a high quality and inclusive Arts education.

The Arts will both complement and develop the Catholic Christian ethos of our College community. The Arts are a means through which every student can realise their potential. The Arts in education provide safe environments, in which our students can debate, understand and celebrate what it means to be a young person growing up in the twenty-first century.

The Arts enable students to develop their self awareness and grow in self esteem. The Arts foster qualities of empathy with others, sensitivity and tolerance - qualities central to the ethos of St Mary's Catholic Arts College.



## Drama

Students get the opportunity to explore the wonderful world of drama both in and out of the classroom. Lessons are filled with creative opportunities to explore, develop and apply skills and techniques. Students are taken on a journey from the amphitheatres in Greece to the ever-evolving contemporary theatre stages of the modern world. Passions and talents are nurtured and the department provides many opportunities for our students to share and showcase their work.

The drama department offers excellent extra-curricular clubs and opportunities such as: specialist clubs for each key stage, performance opportunities at whole school and community events, professional workshops and local and national theatre trips.

Each year the department puts on a whole school musical to great acclaim. The quality of performances are noted across the region with students going on to perform nationally and internationally.

## Dance

Members of our dance department regularly perform in and out of school and are highly acclaimed in their field. Our specialist dance teachers have trained students to the highest level with past pupils performing around the world.

## Music

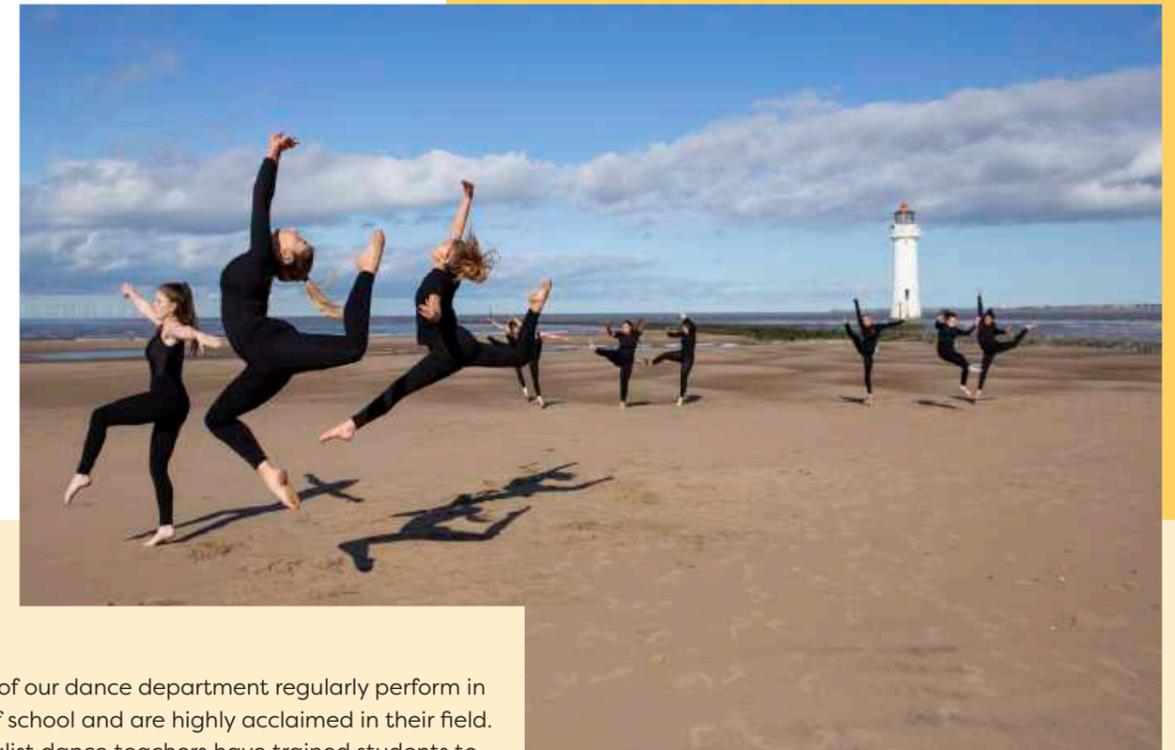
Music is important to us as a College. Students perform across the year, both as part of regular shows and concerts as well as to support our active liturgical calendar and performances each year.

Over the last years students have travelled across the country performing in shows and festivals, whilst also taking part in tours to European destinations such as Paris. The department offers recitals, competitions and concerts, whilst also providing the student musicians that play in all of our plays and productions.

This year we will be exploring the opportunities for our students to create shared performances across the Trust, further enriching the variety and scope for our students to perform and share their talents.

"Performing within hundreds of school shows and productions during my 7 years studying at St Mary's helped me with my confidence in public speaking and meeting new people which ultimately led me to working, volunteering and studying in places all over the world".

**Joseph Callaghan**



## Art & Design

**'Everyone is born an artist - the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up' - Pablo Picasso**

At St Mary's, we have hugely talented teachers who help our students become the creatives of the future. Our art department works with creative companies across the region to give incredible opportunities for our students to flourish.



# Where athletes are created

The physical, mental and social well being of young people is of paramount importance to staff at St Mary's. Physical activity has a huge role to play in helping children become rounded individuals.

Physical Education can change the lives of young people and so we strive to ensure that physical activity is at the heart of every child's experience at St Mary's.

Through the broad range of sporting activities delivered across the curriculum and beyond, our aim is to inspire and foster a lifelong passion towards sport within our students, giving them every chance of continued positive physical, mental and social health as they get older. This is achieved by the positive relationships developed between staff and students, ensuring that all students feel safe and confident to participate in both PE lessons and extra-curricular activities.



# A community of faith

At St Mary's we follow the example of Jesus Christ as our guide. Everything we do is rooted in Gospel Values and our actions are guided by this. Through compassion, forgiveness and integrity, we guide our young people to find their physical and spiritual place in the world.

Our faith in action group shows how our belief in justice and equality can be lived out. Many of our young people enjoy actively supporting the local community and wider society by taking our values to them.

We are a Catholic college, but welcome children of all faiths and none. We have many students that have flourished with us from all faith backgrounds.



# Beyond the Classroom

Through our curricular and extra curricular provision we want students to have the best experience possible and create friendships that will last a lifetime.



## **Trips**

We also run a trip to China, a ski trip, music trips to Europe, Media and Performing Arts residentials, trips to Paris and America, and there are many more opportunities for our young people.

All of these give a unique opportunity to broaden the horizons of our students and help them to see the wider world around them.

## **SMCC Experience**

Throughout the year we have many opportunities to extend learning for our young people through our SMCC experience. This is an exciting programme of events.

Throughout their time at St Mary's students will progress through the relevant experience programme depending on their year group. This has been creatively designed to help our young people learn and grow, and take their place in the world.

## **Extracurricular activities**

We have many more activities and clubs that students can join: Faith in action, debating club, DT club, sports, drama, choir, band, science club, eco club and more.

**“St Mary’s gave me lifelong friends who’ve made me who I am today.”**

Samantha Walters

## **Sports at St Mary’s**

At St Mary’s we are passionate about sport and the transformative effects that this has on lives. Our PE department offer the chances to develop a huge range of skills from athletics to rugby, netball to football and so much more.

We offer an exciting range of extra-curricular activities at St Mary’s. In recent years our students have enjoyed celebrating a number of sporting success stories, including a Trampolining National Championship win, winners of the Wirral Football Championship and winners of the Wirral Basketball Championship.

We enjoy supporting our students in developing their leadership skills and their ability to cooperate with each other. We believe that these skills will become lifelong qualities which will assist in helping them to ‘be more’ and become well rounded adults who are able to make a contribution to society.



# Partnerships

Partnerships provide a unique experience for our students and are central to our work.

## Parents

Our relationship with parents is key. We know that in working together we can get the best understanding of your child's needs. At every stage we aim to build strong relationships to give our students everything they need.

## Parish community

Working with our local Parishes, we join a wide network of our faith community. We seek to develop relationships based in faith and support each other across the local community.

## Services

We work closely with all services to make sure our young people and families get the very best. Where support is needed we get the right people at the right time.

## Chester Zoo

We work closely with Chester Zoo to provide an exciting layer of curriculum. Our friends from Chester Zoo support our curriculum delivery in Science, Geography and our new 'Inspire' curriculum. Our passion for conservation and social justice come through at each stage.

## Inflation Wirral

We have a special partnership with Inflation Wirral and site their inflatable course within our school. Students and families have special access to offers throughout the year.

**Come and visit us to see what St Mary's can offer your child. You won't look back.**

## Expanding Horizons Future Careers



Through our work at St Mary's we provide the highest quality speakers to share their journey with our students.

From music producers to authors, to directors of nursing, we aim to show the opportunities available to our young people through their life.

Through 20-21 we will be having a series of lectures to inspire our students who are looking to go on to different careers. These will include lawyers, actors, scientists, sports personalities, care workers and many more examples of adults who have made successful careers.

Our commitment to supporting our students to find the career that is right for them is central to everything we do.

Staff working across the Trust ensure the best opportunities are made available to our young people from the earliest stage.

# Service to our community - making a difference to our world

At St Mary's, we recognise the difference that each person can make in our world. Throughout their time at St Mary's, our young people will have opportunities to make a difference not only in their own school, but also in the wider community and wider world.

We believe that all our students can be agents of change and everything we do works towards this aim. Our students will be the doctors, nurses, politicians and decision makers of the future. We know that the grounding that they get at St Mary's will send them on their way.



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