

St. Anthony's School Sunderland – summary information March. 2010

www.st-anthonys.school.co.uk

St. Anthony's is an 11-18 voluntary aided girls' comprehensive school serving the Roman Catholic community within the City of Sunderland. There are 1358 pupils in the school with a buoyant sixth form of around 350 pupils. There are over 90 teaching staff (full time and part time) and c. 50 support and administration staff (full time and part time).

History and ethos

The school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy during the 19th century and has a fundamental commitment to high quality girls' education in a Christian environment. The Sisters of Mercy are the trustees of the school. The school has the benefit of two Chaplains and a School Chapel. This is the focus for retreat days, opportunities for reflection and 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 and www.mercyworld.org

Oversubscription

The school is over subscribed and has developed a strong reputation over its one hundred year history. There are admission appeals annually in the main school and the sixth form is oversubscribed too.

School place planning indicates numbers that in the main school continuing to exceed 1000 over the next fifteen years and all evidence indicates that St. Anthony's continues to attract sixth form applicants.

Post-16 offer

Currently thirty three subjects are offered at advanced level with some vocational provision and a flexible work related learning course. Please see the sixth form brochure for further information.

Inspection/Reports/Awards 1998-2008

2010

Recognised as a centre for Newcastle University M.Ed. modules.
Awarded the Basic Skills quality mark for literacy and numeracy provision.

2009

Awarded Language Specialism by the SSAT (Specialist School and Academies Trust)
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.

2006

Member of the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust 60% Club.
Invited to become a regional centre for SSAT for Technology CPD.

2005

In 2005 the school was placed on an OFSTED list of particularly successful schools.

2003

In October 2003 the OFSTED Inspectors identified the school as, "a very

good school with some excellent features".

The 2003 Diocesan RE report describes, "The happy and secure environment where pupils develop academically and spiritually and where opportunities are underlined by a strong moral code".

In 2003 Technology College status was renewed for another three years (phase 2).

2001, 2002 and 2003

The school was awarded a DfES Excellence Awards for Achievement in 2001, 2002 and 2003 (while these awards existed).

2000

In September 2000 the school became a Beacon School (while this project existed).

1999

The school was named in a 1999 report to Parliament as, "an **outstanding** secondary school".

In September 1999 the school became a designated Technology College.

1998

During the 1998 OFSTED inspection the school was described as, "a very good secondary school".

The 1998 Diocesan RE report referred to the, "excellent ethos of the school".

Links with local faith schools

There are post-16 curriculum and social links with St. Aidan's (RC boys 11-18) as well as links with St. Robert's (RC mixed 11-18) and the Venerable Bede (CofE mixed 11-16) mainly via work between the four School Councils. The school is also part of the Diocesan Secondary Schools Partnership (for more information please see www.edurcdhn.org.uk and www.rcdhn.org.uk) and the Hexham and Newcastle RC Partnership (South). This partnership involves staff and students in a range of activities, music events, art exhibitions, liturgical events, CPD opportunities etc.

Location/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.

Social and economic background of students

Pupils attending the school come from very varied backgrounds. 58% of pupils come from the 30% most deprived wards in the country. 15% of pupils are eligible for free school meals, however take up is often half this. 10% of students are from ethnic minorities. This is small compared to national figures but three times the local authority figure. 6% of students have a first language other than English.

The wide catchment area, which covers the whole of the City of Sunderland, and provides a genuinely comprehensive intake. Many parents in neighbouring authorities seek to have their daughters educated at the school due to its inclusive nature.

Behaviour and attendance

Expectations with regard to pupil behaviour are high and the pastoral care of pupils is a strength. In the 2007 OfSTED the behaviour of students was described as "**Exemplary**". One of only two schools in the North East to achieve **outstanding** for behaviour. Attendance is routinely 94%. Fixed term exclusion are rare and permanent exclusions rarer (1 in the last three years).

Curriculum and examination performance

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 over thirty at Advanced level.

Attainment at all key stages and in post -16 education is above national and local averages. In 2008 71% of students achieved 5 or more GCSE's including English and Mathematics. In 2008 22% of A level passes were at A grade and 42% of A level passes (excl. GS) at A/B grade.

Academic year 2007-8 - five Y13 students were offered Oxbridge places and thirty two students obtained offers at either Oxbridge, Russell group or the most prestigious Scottish Universities.

Retention/entry into HE

Retention rates are usually c. 90% and entry to Higher Education in 2008

was 90%.

Extended/extra-curricular

Pupils also enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular activities and perform in many sports at national and international level. There are very high participation rates in sporting and other extended curricular activities.

Several individuals and teams compete with success at national level.

A variety of sporting, cultural and educational visits both in this country and abroad are available to students as well as an extensive summer school programme 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 and activities as well as compete in local and national competitions.

Training

The school has partnerships with the Universities of Durham, Northumbria and Sunderland for Initial Teacher Training, Northumbria University for SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) and the GTP (Graduate Teacher Programme) programme. There is a commitment to continuing professional development at all stages of an individual's career. The school is a core trainer for DT SCITT for Northumbria University. The school provides Food Hygiene training for ITT DT students from Sunderland. The school provides License to Cook training for the northern region for the SSAT. The Northumbria DT SCITT was ranked best SCITT scheme by OfSTEd in 2008 and the third best DT training provider (after Oxford and Cambridge) in 2008.

Partnership

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 also a member of the Durham and Darlington RC Partnership (South) and consequently has links with a wide network of RC schools in the region.

The school provides MFL expertise to the Diocesan GTP programme based at Carmel School, Darlington.

The school is also a member of the Sunderland Education Partnership, LA networking groups at all levels and Schools North East.

Some current initiatives:

- School Mission November 2009
- Study Plus DCSF National Pilot
- Functional Skills (English/Maths/ICT) national Pilot
- SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) LA Pilot
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) LA/National Pilot
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Pilot Level 3
- License to Cook National Project
- International School Award
- Chartered Assessor Project
- Action Research (20+ projects currently)
- National Professional Qualification for Specialist Leaders of Behaviour and Attendance
- School Sport Co-ordinator Scheme
- Junior Sports Leader Project
- Community Sports Leader Project
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme