



# Our Prospectus

*Plan a future filled with hope*



**Chester Catholic**  
High School

[christofidelis.org.uk](http://christofidelis.org.uk)

**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



Together we will all achieve success by developing our strengths, exploring our talents and recognising that Christ, our original teacher, will support us.

# Welcome



## Plan a future filled with hope

In 2019, I became Headteacher of The Catholic High School in Chester and I have never looked back. The school upholds everything I see as vital for any school; the desire for students to succeed, pastoral care where every child is seen as an individual and a mutually supportive community.

Our results speak for themselves but it is the compassion I see between staff and students which is the essence of our school. Our children know we have their best interests at heart and seek to help them become successful happy individuals. In November 2021, Ofsted confirmed that we are a good school and children flourish at The Catholic High.

We are a Catholic school yet we have many faiths join us. We are proud that our children exhibit their faith and values every day through their interaction with others, whether within this school community or the community outside our gates. We are a school for everyone.

Do we get everything right? Of course not, but together we learn from all of our experiences and we gain strength from each other in order to make life here at The Catholic High School happy and safe.

Don't just take my word for it- come and see us.

**Mrs C McKeagney**  
Headteacher





# Moving to High School

We understand that moving to High School can be daunting as well as exciting. That is why we have many things in place to help you on this journey.

## **Specialist Year 7 Tutor Team**

A dedicated and experienced Year 7 Tutor Team who are familiar with the transition process and can ensure students are happy and settled in the new school environment.

## **Visits to Primary Schools to meet the students and answer any questions**

Mr Green our Head of Year and Mrs Wraige our SENDCO visit primary schools to meet students and answer any questions they may have.

## **Enhanced transition for students with additional needs**

There is the opportunity for students who may find the transition challenging to make additional visits to the school before starting to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.

## **Year 6 Day in summer term**

All students are invited to join us for a day in the summer term to meet their Form Tutor and tutor group, and to explore the school site.

## **Summer School**

Year 5 and 6 summer schools where students attend the school to take part in a variety of activities to familiarise themselves with the key staff and the school site.

## **Year 7 Nurture Group**

Is available for those students who may require additional support in core subjects

## **Eden Garden**

Year 7 have exclusive use of the Eden Garden at breaktime and Lunchtime where they can sit and eat their lunch in beautiful surroundings.

# Curriculum

The mission of The Catholic High School, Chester is to provide the best Catholic education for all.

Our curriculum is designed so that the learning pathway of all students is broad, balanced, and relevant.

The curriculum has strong foundations in the National Curriculum and prepares students for the demands of the GCSE courses followed in Year 10 and 11.

As such, we do not think in terms of Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 anymore but rather in terms of a 5-year curriculum journey.

In Years 7-9 all students study RE, English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Art, Drama, Food Technology, French or Spanish, Computing, Music, PE and Technology. PHSCE is taught as a rolling programme to all year groups across the school year.

In Year 10 all students follow a core curriculum of RE, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science as well as core PE. Also they start to consolidate their learning in their chosen subject areas.

Finally when students reach our 6th form they will then study 3 A-Level subjects as well as core RE lessons.

*The school is very welcoming to all students. I love reading and the library here is amazing!*

Amelia Year 8



# Pastoral Support

Our aim is to ensure that every child feels valued, recognised and supported.

We pride ourselves in the excellent pastoral support and holistic care that we provide as a school. Every student is member of a form group where the Form Tutor ensures that effective care, guidance and support is afforded to all. Year groups are led by Heads of Year who oversee the academic, social and emotional progress as well as the well-being of their year groups.

We have two dedicated Pastoral Support Workers who work alongside our Heads of Year. As non-teaching members of staff, our Pastoral Support Workers are able to respond to needs as they arise. They will work closely, alongside form tutors, class teachers and parents/carers, to help ensure that your child achieves their best.

Our Pastoral Support Workers will build a strong relationship with both you and your child during their time with us. Their experience in working with young people can be invaluable in supporting students in some of life's challenges:

- **Future Lives**
- **Stress/Anxiety**
- **Social Media**
- **Divorce/Separation**
- **Bereavement**



Our pastoral provision also includes our Trinity centre that helps to re-track and give support to students who are struggling. The Trinity centre works closely with the SENCO and SEN department to achieve this aim.

All pupils follow a Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) programme as part of the National Curriculum. PSHE supports the development of social, moral and spiritual understanding.

We aim to be "faithful to Christ" by being a listening and caring school; we believe that where students are happy and safe they will achieve and succeed in their present and future lives.

# Meet the Chaplain

Hello, my name is Ana. As a Lay Chaplain at The Catholic High, my aim is to spiritually guide you, echoing our ethos and values founded in the gospel and helping you to live your life to the full.

My role in school is to give spiritual support to students regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. We welcome students from every faith and none, as this is an inclusive school.

It is a privilege for me to be part of our young people's spiritual journey and development. I am looking forward to welcoming you to the CHSC family.





# Learning Support

Our School has an inclusive philosophy; all teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and therefore teaching such children is inclusive to all.

We cater for students with a range of additional needs within school, who access additional support that is required to support their social, emotional and academic wellbeing.

We also have an Autism Resource Base for students with Statements/Education, Health and Care Plans for Autism Spectrum Condition and places are allocated by the Local Authority.

We have high expectations of your child, whatever their ability. Beginning from the point of transition, we give careful attention to identifying and assessing additional needs. We conduct a robust transition planning process with the primary school and with you the parent/carer, which helps us to understand your child and to provide continuity of support between primary and secondary education.

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*"The inclusive and supportive environment of the school has allowed my child to reach their full potential"*

Year 10 Parent



The Learning Support Department provides a range of support, primarily delivered by Teaching Assistants. Their main aim is to develop confident young people with lifelong learning skills. Support is varied and will be tailored to the individual needs of students.

This includes:

- In class support, small group interventions and 1:1 support
- Literacy support
- Homework support
- Social skills and life skills
- Speech and language interventions
- Access to a quiet space during unstructured times
- Support packages to develop emotional wellbeing and mindfulness.
- Programmes to support positive behaviour outcomes
- Personalised timetables in Year 10 and 11 to support option choices and study skills
- Year 7 Nurture Group





# Educational Visits

At The Catholic High School, your child will have the opportunity to take part in expeditions and trips locally and all over the world. We believe that educational visits teach children that they can make a real difference to the global community.

Students can take part in a range of activities and experiences that serve to extend and consolidate their learning, as well as develop their knowledge of the wider world.

We provide students with experiences of a wide variety of environments which contribute to making learning enjoyable. These opportunities enable our students to visit places they might not otherwise see and undertake activities in which they might not otherwise participate.

Educational visits are used to develop, embed and enrich our classroom-based learning. We have a significant amount of Educational Visits each year including:

- **Student retreats to the Conway Centre.**
- **The School Ski Club provides termly trips to Chill Factore and an annual Ski Trip to Austria.**
- **Expeditions to Peru, Kenya and Borneo.**
- **Theatre Trips.**
- **London Art Galleries.**
- **Chester Zoo, Llandudno and Hilbre Island.**
- **Berlin, Auschwitz, The Battlefields of WW1.**
- **Conferences and workshops with local industry.**
- **Colleges and Universities.**
- **The Globe Theatre and Shakespeare's birthplace.**



# Enrichment Performing Arts

## Musical Opportunities

The City Jazz Orchestra & Singers offers young musicians/singers the opportunity to develop their performance skills to a very high standard through weekly rehearsals and many domestic engagements throughout the year. The emphasis has, and always will be on the student's enjoyment of music performance. Our musicians develop a real confidence in themselves, and in doing so, realise their full potential.

The City Jazz Orchestra have undertaken twenty-five European Tours over the last thirty years to the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Ireland, France, Switzerland and Germany. The ensemble performs annually at the Cork International Jazz Festival with consecutive appearances from 2004.



## Drama

We aim to involve as many students as possible in our school productions. Those who are interested in technical theatre can also gain experience of lighting, sound and stage management.

Our annual musical productions are a chance to showcase our wide variety of talent.

Previous musical productions include:  
**Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Oliver!, Our House, We Will Rock You, Fame and Cinderella.**

We have taken part in the National Theatre Connections Festival which involved our students performing at The Lowry in Manchester.



# Enrichment Physical Activity

## Sporting Activities

We offer a range of extra-curricular sporting activities for all students at lunchtime and after school, 5 days a week. We offer both recreation and competitive participation in a number of sports including, Football, Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Hockey, Volleyball, Trampolining, Table tennis, Gymnastics, Badminton, Tennis, Cricket, Rounders and Athletics

We enter every Chester and District sporting tournament, hosting a number at our school. In recent years, we have had success in a variety of competitions, winning both local and county wide tournaments. Throughout the year, there are weekly friendly fixtures with other schools in the district. Within each sport we have two or three teams per year group to ensure every student has the opportunity to represent our school.



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a nationally recognised award that illustrates the school's commitment to offer high quality extracurricular activities to complement excellent academic success.

The components of the award also reflect the school's desire to equip students with relevant life skills that will also serve them well as they make their way towards Higher Education and employment. The school offers Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for students from Years 9-13.

As a school we have also been recognised for our commitment to encouraging so many to take up the award.

*"The school excel  
in their commitment  
and effort to the  
D of E award"*

D of E Award PA





# Enrichment Other Opportunities

Our students thrive whilst taking part in the extra-curricular opportunities we provide. They develop in skill, technique, and confidence. Alongside these benefits, the students widen their social circle; developing strong bonds and relationships with their peers, whilst creating unforgettable memories.

## Charity Work

**"Loving your neighbour"** is at the heart of The Catholic High School, Chester. Our students respond positively and enthusiastically to fundraising for charity.

We aim to raise money for a range of causes, and over the years we have raised a substantial amount of money for various charities such as CAFOD, Water Aid, Claire House, Help for Heroes and Cancer Research.

Annually in the Summer Term we have a charity day, students will suggest a charity and the day is spent learning about the charity then raising money.

We have been very fortunate to build a strong link with St.Werburgh's Church SVP group. Each term the elderly come to our school for an afternoon tea and spend time with our sixth form students.

At Easter and Christmas the sixth form raise money to purchase hampers for the elderly that they have spent time with during our lovely afternoons.



# Sixth Form

We offer the only Catholic sixth form provision in Chester. We aim to provide the best sixth form education in a nurturing environment. We have the highest validated progress score in Chester and one of the highest in the North West.

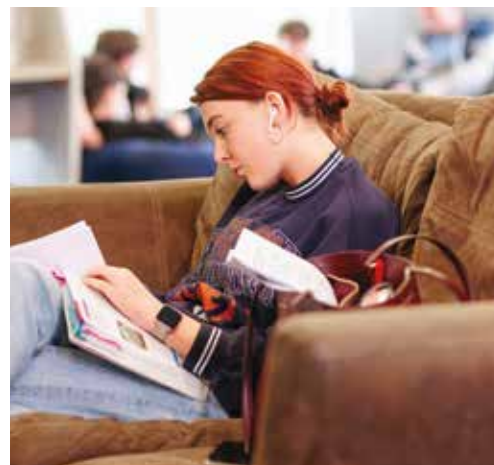
We inspire our students to achieve, and as a result of their hard work, engagement with staff and commitment to their subjects, the vast majority go on to their first choice university, apprenticeships or jobs.

Our sixth form provision is based in our modern Emmaus building, where students have ownership of and responsibility for their space. Students are encouraged to be independent, whilst continuing to receive the individual pastoral support and guidance they need.

Our students are an integral part of our whole-school community; they volunteer throughout the school to support younger students and teaching staff. They lead many charity and fund-raising events and are able to form their own clubs and societies.

In the community, students are involved in supporting the local foodbanks, providing Christmas hampers to the elderly and join in our annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Through hard work and community involvement, our students have all the opportunities they need to become the best they can be.



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*"Our Sixth Form students are at the heart of our school family. They support younger students in a variety of ways and act as positive role models in school and the wider community."*







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