



“Life at St Paul’s”

Thank you for your interest in the positions currently being advertised at St Paul’s Catholic College. I would like to take this chance to give you a taste of “life at St Paul’s” to help you decide if this role is the right opportunity for you personally and professionally.

St Paul’s is an 11-18 mixed Catholic comprehensive school with a total of approximately 1100 students on roll including over 350 students in the Sixth form. The College has a strong ethos and is a vibrant Christian community. We are committed to making sure we never accept second best for the students in our care and look to give them a full and well-rounded experience of education that supports their academic, personal and faith development. This is summarised in our mission statement and educational vision which is:

“To provide an innovative, inspirational and Christian education which challenges, nurtures and informs our students to enable them to take their place in a changing world.”

We are proud of all that students achieve at St Paul’s and in the last three years our contextual value added has placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally. Our 2015 results were:

- GCSE: 90% A*-C, 81% with English and Maths, 34% of grades were at A* or A. This places us as one of the top performing comprehensive schools nationally, this year within the top 5%.
- A2: 69% A*-B, 88% A*-C and 99% pass rate. This achieved an ALPS rating of ‘outstanding’.

Essentially these results are built on a belief that we have a duty to ensure that every student achieves their potential with us. We also believe it is essential to give our students the best opportunities to develop as individuals - academically, personally and in their faith journey.

The College moved to our current modern and inspiring environment eleven years ago on the outskirts of Burgess Hill. This is situated with strong travel links from Brighton and London and is the heart of the beautiful Mid-Sussex region with countryside, sea and links to city living.

This move gave us the unique opportunity to develop an innovative C21st learning environment. We have worked hard to develop the highest standards of learning and teaching and have built a national reputation for using technology to enhance learning. Students have access to learning “anytime, anywhere” through a scheme which looks to provide a laptop or iPad for every student to support their learning at home and school. As you can imagine this transforms the way we teach and the way students learn. Our approach to learning and teaching is based on the accelerated learning to ensure we develop students as learners not just their understanding of subject knowledge. We believe this will develop every young person as an independent learner and give them adaptable skills to ensure they can thrive at every stage of their lives in the modern world.

St Paul's is a Teaching School, Maths Hub and Leading Edge School. Leading the Inspire Teaching School Alliance we work on professional learning, leadership and raising achievement. This leads us to working extensively on "outreach" work with other schools both locally, nationally and now internationally. This spreads as far as Shanghai, Australia and Kazakhstan. This work provides a wide range of opportunities to work collaboratively with others both at St Paul's and in our partner schools as well as developing exceptional leadership opportunities for all staff.

Outside the classroom there are numerous opportunities for students to take part in a very wide range of activities - drama, sport, music, exchanges, away days, Duke of Edinburgh, retreats and trips. This includes opportunities for prayer and reflection as well as many examples of living an active faith through service, pilgrimage and fundraising. We also lead an enrichment afternoon every week to give students this great opportunity day to day as a core part of our curriculum with a choice of over seventy activities.

St Paul's is heavily over-subscribed and has built an excellent reputation in the community. We only recruit the best possible staff and have high expectations to ensure we develop the highest standards of learning and teaching. Over 90% of lessons observed have been graded good or outstanding and it is this "rich diet" in the classroom that engages and motivates students as well as leading to positive behaviour and an exciting learning environment. Each teacher is expected to work hard to keep up these high standards and all staff are given extensive opportunities to develop professionally. We only look to recruit and retain the best teachers and this is why any underperformance is challenged, it is because of this commitment that both staff and students really enjoy being at College each day and we can build on the current success which can never be taken for granted. We invest highly in the best opportunities for staff development at every stage of their careers. Staff at St Paul's tend to be young, dynamic and ambitious and there are plenty of opportunities to develop in the classroom and as school leaders and this has led to many staff being promoted, internally or externally, very rapidly.

"St Paul's is an outstanding school where all learn, thrive and succeed together." Ofsted, November 2007

In 2007 we had our last full Ofsted inspection in which we were graded "outstanding" in all key categories, when you read it you will see why we were proud of this achievement. This was followed up in 2008 by an Ofsted survey visit on "creative learning" in which we were again graded as outstanding. In April 2011 it was followed by an interim assessment that graded us as "outstanding" once again. We were grade as outstanding in all categories in the Section 48 Inspection in 2014. We believe it is important as this opens the next chapter in the development of the College. We need to work hard to maintain and build on the current standards as well as looking to move forward and continue to improve at St Paul's in every way. Are you ready to be a part of this exciting opportunity?

The ideal candidates will be energetic, enthusiastic and excellent practitioners who are willing to be dedicated to all that we believe in at St Paul's. You do not have to be Catholic to work here, we have staff from a wide range of backgrounds, all we ask is for you to support and embrace our ethos and all it brings to our school. If you are interested in this post then please download the application pack and feel free to visit the College at any time to see it for yourself prior to applying.

Application is by letter of no more than two pages and CES application form. St Paul's is committed to the highest standards of safeguarding.

I believe St Paul's is an exceptional place to work and I am privileged to be able to appoint the right staff who can continue to help us flourish and develop further as an outstanding school. I hope you will decide St Paul's is the right place for you and will look forward to meeting you.



Rob Carter
Headteacher