



CARDINAL ALLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A RELENTLESS DRIVE FOR THE VERY HIGHEST STANDARDS

With the changing face of education and more choices available, parents anxious to secure the best education for their child can sometimes be presented with confusing possibilities. We recognise the dilemma parents now face and the apprehension over making such a vital decision. External validation of the quality of a school is very important. Why not choose a school which Ofsted graded as outstanding in two of the four key areas and good in the other two? Furthermore, the 2017 Diocesan inspection described our community as "an outstanding Catholic school." Cardinal Allen is built on solid foundations nurtured over a long period and our record of accomplishment is exceptional by comparison to any school.

Any parent looking for a place in the school is invited to come and see us at work. We offer a Catholic Education based on a solid Christian ethos, which is increasingly available to children from all faith and non-faith backgrounds. Ofsted stated "The spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of students is outstanding." They further added that "students make an outstanding contribution to the school and gain a corresponding benefit from it." Should you visit us you will have the opportunity to see this for yourself whilst watching lessons, talking to our pupils and staff and sampling the remarkably calm and purposeful atmosphere characteristic of our school.

Our school continues to thrive and expand when many are making cuts. Staffing is high, particularly in the core areas of Maths, English and Science. We constantly improve facilities including a recent half a million-pound refurbishment and expansion to our Science block and a continual program of updating teaching rooms with the most recent technology and teaching resources.

An education at Cardinal Allen could be available for your child. Come and see what we have to offer. You can call us any time.



CARDINAL ALLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
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“Be All You
Can Be”

STRENGTHENED BY GOSPEL VALUES

Pupils and staff of all denominations and beliefs are constantly reminded of the values that underpin our Catholic mission that fosters a very special ethos in our school. The strong relationships between pupils and staff were highlighted by Ofsted – “the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of students is outstanding.” Our Chaplaincy Team provides fantastic opportunities for pupils to engage in aspects of Youth Ministry and many pupils have also experienced the wonderful opportunities of pilgrimages to Rome and Lourdes and the Flame Congress at Wembley. Every year large numbers of pupils attend residential retreats at the diocesan youth centre, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick.



MUSIC

Music is a compulsory subject within the KS3 curriculum and opportunities for pupils to gain proficiency in Brass, Wind, Strings and Percussion is available via peripatetic tuition. Like Drama, Cardinal Allen boasts outstanding facilities for music. The main teaching room is equipped with the latest PC hardware & software for pupil use and is primarily for KS3 teaching. The Performance Studio with its tiered layout can accommodate a choir of 40 pupils and is complemented by a superb “Apple” recording facility which allows our pupils access to the latest technologies. Two additional practice rooms and excellent storage space makes the set-up a much envied space for pupils to excel in music. For the last three years we have run a ‘strings project’ open to all year 7 pupils and this has led us to become an outreach school for the Blackpool Symphony Orchestra. Opportunities for pupils to experience contemporary or classical styles are available via regular talent shows and concerts. These showcase occasions are for all performers whether they be instrumentalists, singers, comedians or members of a rock band.



PUPILS SET FOR SUCCESS

Five years may seem a long time in a school but we want every day to be valuable for our pupils. We consistently have the highest expectations, set motivating targets and support individuals to produce their best. On entry to the school in Year 7, all pupils are placed into one of our six mixed ability House groups for both registration and teaching of the academic subjects.

Based on Key Stage 2 SATs results pupils are streamed for academic subjects. Continuous, rigorous assessment enables us to frequently move pupils between ability groups. We also employ an additional small group for additional, intensive support and this further reduces class sizes and ensures that each pupil gets the best teaching possible - our aim is to quickly accelerate the development of literacy and numeracy. Creative arts, technology subjects and games are taught in mixed ability groups. Assessment information allows us to set challenging individual targets and we give regular feedback on progress to each child and their parents.

“Our aim is to quickly accelerate the development of literacy and numeracy.”



LEARNING SUPPORT & SEN

Pupils with SEN are taught according to their individual needs.

The Learning Support Department provides help to all pupils who require short-term intervention or longer term programmes of support. Interventions to boost progress operate in addition to the high quality teaching accessed during timetabled lessons. They may take place during lunchtime, after school and during non-core subject lessons. They are based on assessment of progress against key objectives, designed for children who need support to accelerate up to age-related expectations and beyond and they follow a structured programme. Pupils with SEN are taught according to their individual needs. Teachers provide high quality teaching with support from Teaching Assistants in lessons. A copy of the school's policy on Special Educational Needs and our Single Equalities Policy are available on the school website.



CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

We were awarded our first ECO School Green Flag in 2004 and were successfully redesignated on seven subsequent occasions. Such has been our pupils' continued success with their work on sustainability that in 2013 we were awarded the prestigious 'Ambassador Status' and following a rigorous inspection in 2017 we were upgraded to 'Foundation Ambassadors.' We are now one of only 20 Primary and Secondary schools in the country to be invited to take part in the 'Eco National Debate.' In addition to this we have been awarded North West England's school of the year and Lancashire Green School of the Year as well as winning The Evening Gazette Eco School of the year on five consecutive occasions. Our pupils are passionate about caring for both the school environment and for the environment of the local area. We have planted several thousand trees on the school site and in the local community; pupils have taken part in clean sweeps on Rossall Beach and we now lead a cluster of 14 primary schools on eco issues. Our pupil's work with the Sky News plastic bag campaign has even featured on national television!



BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

Every pupil is given the opportunity to enjoy at least one educational activity away from the school site each year. Residential visits over the last twelve months have included Berlin, the Christmas market in Lille and Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. Pupils have also enjoyed visits to the theatre, to a huge range of very successful subject based competition days, visits to local colleges and reward trips. The school is designated an Accredited Duke of Edinburgh Centre and can boast 4 fully accredited instructors on the school staff. Each year increasing numbers of pupils enrol on the course and numerous groups of pupils enjoy and benefit throughout the year from the outdoor adventure activities. We pride ourselves on our fully inclusive ethos and our trips are open to all pupils. Although we are under no obligation, we endeavour to support children and their families where financial hardship is sometimes an obstacle with more expensive visits.



SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Cardinal Allen pupils take their responsibility to the wider community very seriously. Their drive to sustain a whole range of initiatives including Fairtrade, Trans-generational matters, local eco-issues and local celebrations is supported by a full time Community Coordinator—Mr Harding.

His energetic and inspirational work has seen the school pick up a range of accolades which are just rewards for the hard work of our pupils and staff. Cardinal Allen is acknowledged as a Fairtrade school and, in addition to a festival of activities during the annual Fairtrade Fortnight, the school provides curriculum time to enable pupils to be active in ensuring that disadvantaged farmers and workers in developing countries get a fair deal for their hard work.

A huge success in recent years has been a strong engagement with elderly members of our community. Classes for "Silver-Surfers" preceded our drive to improve handwriting skills. Our trans-generational group provides mutual support whereby the senior citizens improve their IT skills whilst pupils improve handwriting techniques.

In the last 10 years Cardinal Allen has developed a sustainable and engrossing link with Birla High School, Kolkata. Teachers and pupils have visited us from Birla on seven occasions and our teachers and pupils have carried out reciprocal visits to India. We have now forged links with a school in Kenya and our work has been highlighted on The BBC's North West Tonight television program. It is not just cultural issues which form the basis of our partnerships but also a strong exchange of curriculum ideas and materials as well as projects associated with eco and sustainability issues.

As a result of our work Cardinal Allen has been accredited with the prestigious International School Award by the British Council and were TES International School finalists.



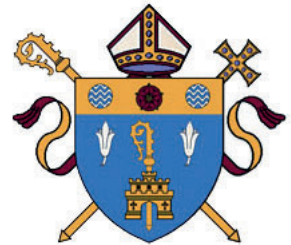
DRAMA

Facilities for Drama and Performing Arts are second to none. Our large theatre provides an excellent facility in which our pupils can perform and learn. Drama & performance is compulsory for all pupils and an important character building aspect of the school curriculum. Cardinal Allen has its own Theatre Company, "BRAVO," which puts on several productions each year. Recently these have included Oliver, Grease and Alice. In recent times BRAVO have conceived and written their own productions including "He Had it Comin" and "Crazy Little Thing." These productions give fantastic opportunities for pupils from all year groups to take part in the many different roles needed to put on a large show. Not everyone can be the star of the show so choreography, musical direction, lighting & sound, properties management & wardrobe provide excellent opportunities for pupils to learn alternative aspects of Theatre work. These activities complement the outstanding teaching and GCSE results in Drama.



HELPING OTHERS

In recent years pupils have raised many thousands of pounds in support of good causes such as Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Action Duchenne, Brian House Children's Hospice, Donna's Dreamhouse, Lancashire Deaf Society and Caritas Care to name just a few! We also featured on National television following a £500 donation to Free the Children and Street Life. In addition to these worthy causes more than £2000 each year is raised and sent to the Bishop to support the work that the diocese does with the most vulnerable in society. The School Council manage the Charity Account and they make the decisions as to which good causes to support. Under their direction contributions have been made to support our brave armed forces through the Help For Heroes charity and to Macmillan Cancer Support. The school has formed close links with the Blackpool Food Partnership and generous donations of food items from our families are periodically passed on to the Fleetwood and Blackpool food banks.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

Sport is an integral part of life at Cardinal Allen for all pupils. The ethos of the department is "Sport for All" and although very able pupils are pushed to the highest standards there is a very inclusive feel in lessons as well as in extracurricular provision. There are a multitude of opportunities to excel in a wide variety of sports and within our outstanding facilities PE offers an excellent variety of clubs. Many pupils have honours at Professional Club, District, County and North of England level. We will nurture and promote all children with sporting talent. The expertise of external specialist coaches is frequently used to enhance progress in specific sporting areas such as football and rugby. We are affiliated with Sports Leaders UK providing pupils with opportunities to develop their leadership and coaching skills by working with local primary schools. This is further enhanced by our close links with Wyre and Fylde School Sport Partnership.





ABLE, GIFTED & TALENTED

Our approach to teaching is designed to 'Stretch and Challenge' all pupils. One to one support, extra exam entries, additional responsibilities around school and tailored enrichment activities are just a few examples of how progress is accelerated outside the classroom.

Destinations for school leavers shows that well in excess of 90% of former pupils progress through to post 16 education and this is above the National figure. We enjoy strong links with St Mary's Blackpool, Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool & Fylde College and Myerscough College.

PUPIL VOICE

Communities listen and value the opinions of all their stakeholders. We operate a vibrant School Council comprising representatives from all year groups. Their opinions often influence new initiatives and school policies. In addition to this, every pupil in years 7 to 10 undertakes the detailed LEA pupil questionnaire providing an opportunity to describe personal experiences of how the school deals with safety and welfare issues. Outcomes are analysed and appropriate actions taken to enhance the secure, caring environment in school. Our pupils are also routinely invited to comment on the curriculum and lesson delivery as part of staff lesson observations and a Pupil Panel takes a fully active role in the interview process of all new staff.



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