



ST PETER'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

# WELCOME

## TO ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

From David Todd, Headteacher

“As Headteacher of St Peter's I regard it as a great privilege and pleasure to lead this great family of learners. St Peter's is a school where we love to learn and learn to love. We have a strong tradition for providing an excellent all-round education to young people of all abilities. We provide each student with a broad and balanced curriculum which meets his or her needs, alongside a deeply caring pastoral system, where each student is known as a child of God. I hope that this Prospectus will make it clear why St Peter's is so distinctive, successful and popular.

Parents and visitors always remark on the unique sense of community and care here at St Peter's, where our staff support each other to develop professionally in a culture of continual improvement. Consequently the students benefit by being challenged and nurtured to be ambitious, to be inquisitive and to be determined and persistent in all their endeavours.

We offer intellectual rigour and great academic progress for all students, whatever their starting point, along with a vast range of extra-curricular experiences. Students are engaged and inspired to participate fully in the life of the school, for example in sports, performing arts and, of course, in their spiritual and moral development. Our charity work and links with India and South Africa are celebrated aspects of the school's mission.

Our public examination results are contained within – especially significant are those measures which show the progress that students make since they join us and we are pleased to note the improvement in the numbers of students gaining top GCSE and A Level grades.

The three key elements of the school's success are summed up in St Peter's Three Ps:

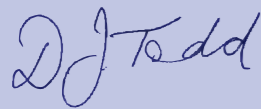
**Prayer:** our starting point is Faith and the need to remember that we are always in God's presence

**People:** the process of education is not about data but about people. We learn from and through people and so human relationships are at the core of the process

**Pedagogy:** education is fundamentally about the art of teaching and the science of learning. Our staff and students focus on constantly improving and refining the skills used in the classroom so we can all *become the best we can be*.

Please also take time to visit our website which provides additional and more detailed information including a welcome video produced by one of our students. We invite you to explore this school where we 'love to learn and learn to love' and Ofsted recognised it too!

With every good wish in making the right choice for your child.



*With Christ as our Guide*  
**LEARNING TOGETHER**  
*Loving God and each other*  
**BECOMING THE BEST WE CAN BE**

St Peter's School Mission Statement



“Within no time at all I had made friends, I even found out that someone in my class got the same bus as me and I felt at home, they were my family.”

St Peter's Year 8 student

# ST PETER'S – VALUES AND VISION

St Peter's School is proud of its history and its heart. We are a Voluntary Academy run under the joint trusteeship of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth\* and the De La Salle Brothers, a world-wide Religious Order devoted to education. St John Baptist de La Salle founded the religious order in the 17th Century. He became the patron saint of educators. The De La Salle Order is now a world-wide organisation running schools, colleges and universities across the world with 1,050 educational establishments serving over 940,000 young people.

De La Salle encouraged his students and teachers to remember during the school day that they were *in the holy presence of God*. We follow that tradition and pray, *Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!*

The School works tirelessly to provide a safe, supportive and spiritual environment. St Peter's is open to students from all Christian denominations, from all religions and those of no faith, within the confines of our admission policy.

The primary purpose of the School is to give a Christian education to all its students by...

**Seeking to develop and strengthen** Christian faith and practice in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church

**Developing a passion for learning** and a spirit of enquiry and discovery in the students

**Being ambitious** to achieve the best for each student academically, socially and spiritually

**Providing opportunities** for each student to develop self-respect and self-confidence, creativity and responsibility, initiative and leadership

**Inspiring a spirit of service** to the family, the Church, the community and the World at large

**Working in close partnership** with the Parents/Carers, who are the first educators of the child.

***In short, St Peter's is a school where we love to learn... and learn to love.***

*“St Peter's is very much a caring environment inspired by a wonderfully embracing Catholic ethos. Our links with the school have always been excellent and we know our former pupils settle in quickly and happily.”*

Gordon Scott, Assistant Head, St Thomas Garnet's School



## ST PETER'S – AIMING HIGH

### *Building on success*

Founded in 1936, St Peter's School has a strong tradition of academic achievement coupled with sporting and artistic success for its students. In recent years we have focused on the development of the art of teaching and the science of learning, engaging teachers and students to become the very best they can be. Consequently our examination results have improved even more and our value added measure (from KS2 to KS4) shown a significant and impressive increase. Our own analysis of our more able students has also proved that our students do better at St Peter's than comparative students in selective (grammar) schools. In many ways, St Peter's is a school in which you can have faith!

We aim to develop a positive attitude to learning in all the students, and successes and efforts are formally recognised and praised by individual teachers, departments and the pastoral team. We recognise that learning is done by the students, not to them. We use tutorial materials during the year to raise the students' awareness of what it means to be a successful learner. In lessons we then recognise and reward their efforts to '*become the best they can be*'.

\* St Peter's is a Catholic school in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and Canon Law, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Portsmouth; religious education is in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church and religious worship is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

# ST PETER'S – OUTSTANDING SUPPORT

## Keeping in Touch

Parents/Carers can access an Internet-based secure website at any time which enables them to view up-to-date information about their child's progress and achievements as well as their timetable and the names of their teachers. We encourage Parents/Carers to contact the school if they have any queries or concerns via email, phone or by writing a note in the student's diary, which the students carry with them during the day.

Students regularly take information home about progress in the form of academic progress reviews which are collated at intervals throughout the year and also made available on our individual online site. A full personalised report is issued for all students once a year.

During the school year Parent-Teacher meetings give parents the opportunity to discuss the academic and general progress of their child with the teaching staff. All Parents/Carers meet the subject teachers annually. In Year 7 they meet with tutors to review the settling-in period.

Many functions take place during the school year to which Parents/Carers and friends are invited. In particular, drama and music productions, sports fixtures and our thriving Parent Teacher Association social events draw much valuable support from families.

## The Pastoral System

The pastoral work of the school is a real strength. The focus is on supporting the students to achieve their very best by celebrating success, developing self-confidence, fostering both academic resilience and mutual encouragement of peers and by allaying any anxieties and concerns. Students are placed in tutor groups, their care and welfare is the responsibility of Form Tutors. Each tutor group meets once a day during tutorial time, which includes a corporate act of worship. The Form Tutor is usually the first point of contact between home and school. The work of the form tutors is co-ordinated by Year Leaders and other pastoral staff.

## The Chaplaincy Team

St Peter's Chaplaincy is a ministry which permeates the entire School Community. It serves to animate the spiritual and liturgical life of the School, support the pastoral systems and promote gospel values as expressed through the School Mission Statement. Its outreach extends to families, parishes, our two dioceses, local community and partner primary schools. Our own team is supported by local clergy and other religious groups.

## Behaviour for Learning

Our code of conduct is based on mutual respect and rules have been devised to promote smartness and ambition, self-respect and safety for all. For example, St Peter's is uncompromising about the importance of student appearance and adherence to the uniform code. We also operate a ban on mobile phones.

Our discipline systems are influenced by the Christian notion of forgiveness and reconciliation; however, school sanctions do exist to deter and correct undesirable behaviour. Sanctions include detentions after class, after school and on Saturdays or staff days; periods of 'seclusion' from peers and exclusions both fixed-term and permanent.

## School Policies

The school has a comprehensive set of policies that comply with all relevant educational legislation. To view our school policies please see our website ([www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk](http://www.st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk)).



*Our aim at St Peter's is not just for them to leave us better educated, but also to be prepared for their life ahead, helping our young people to feel confident, to express their personal opinions, to respect the truth, to overcome prejudice and social pressures and be what they want to be.*

*I visit the school regularly, the students are polite, caring and eager to learn, there is a real community spirit at this school. You can clearly see the dedication of the teachers in all that they do.*

Richard Dickinson, Chair of Governors



# ST PETER'S – A SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE

We do not select our intake on the grounds of prior attainment or perceived ability. We believe that all students can thrive, learn together and sustain normal social relationships in a community that is inclusive. As a Catholic school we are more socially and ethnically diverse than average UK schools. We welcome every child into the School community whatever his or her ability, social background, or ethnic origin.

Students from St Peter's will advance to a wide range of degree courses. These include Medical and Veterinary School or the Russell Group universities – as well as Oxbridge or to specific vocational post-16 or post-18 courses. There are many dimensions to school success be they artistic, dramatic, scholarly, practical or sporting. Opportunities abound in a rich mix of curriculum opportunities and qualifications.

Students with Special Educational Needs are provided with appropriate support. We have teaching assistants and teachers specialising in English

as an Additional Language, Language and Communication needs and literacy and numeracy support.

The school has a development plan for improving access but prospective Parents/Carers should be aware that the Southbourne site is built on a slope with multiple buildings and levels and currently not all specialist areas are wheelchair accessible.

## Facilities

The School has two sites, each with excellent facilities and surrounded by ample playing fields. In addition to the provision of library/learning resource centre, science laboratories, workshops, art rooms and subject specialist rooms there is also a large sports hall with climbing wall, a 470 seat theatre, dining hall, drama rooms, dance studio and a purpose-built Chapel.

## Internal Examinations

School examinations are held towards the end of the school year, except for students in Year 11 who have mock exams in December.



*The learning environment is perfect for any ability and there are special sets for people struggling or with a learning disability, which can all help improve your ability, knowledge and skills. Overall, St Peter's is a fantastic school, with great morals, friendly staff and is a great place to learn. I am really enjoying my time here!*

St Peter's Year 8 student

# ST PETER'S – BEYOND LESSONS

## Extra-Curricular Activities

The School runs many clubs and societies. Out-of-school sports activities include rugby, soccer, hockey, netball, basketball, volleyball, cricket, athletics, tennis and chess. A Health Suite with cardio vascular and resistance equipment is available for the use of senior students. A purpose built Dance Studio provides for curricular and extra-curricular pursuits. A drama club and school orchestras and choirs provide live theatre and music at regular intervals. Students are able to attend sports, music, chess, computer and art and craft clubs during lunch hours. A number of educational visits abroad are arranged including student exchanges, cultural visits, field work, historical sites, activity centres and, for older students, working holidays supporting our partner school in South Africa.

## Careers Education

Careers education and guidance is provided in a variety of ways through curriculum time and via an external, independent Personal Advisor who visits the School regularly. The Careers programme begins in Year 7 where students are encouraged to consider real life decision-making and evaluate their own strengths and areas for improvement.

## Charging

The Governing Body believes that a state education is free. However it also recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including clubs, trips and residential experiences can make towards the students' personal and social education. The Governing Body aims to promote and provide such activities, both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the students of the School and as additional optional activities.

The Governing Body reserves the right to make charges in certain circumstances for activities organised by the School. Where an activity is dependent upon voluntary contributions and those fail to meet the required amount, the Governors reserve the right to cancel the proposed activity. Please see our website for the latest policy statement.

## The Sixth Form

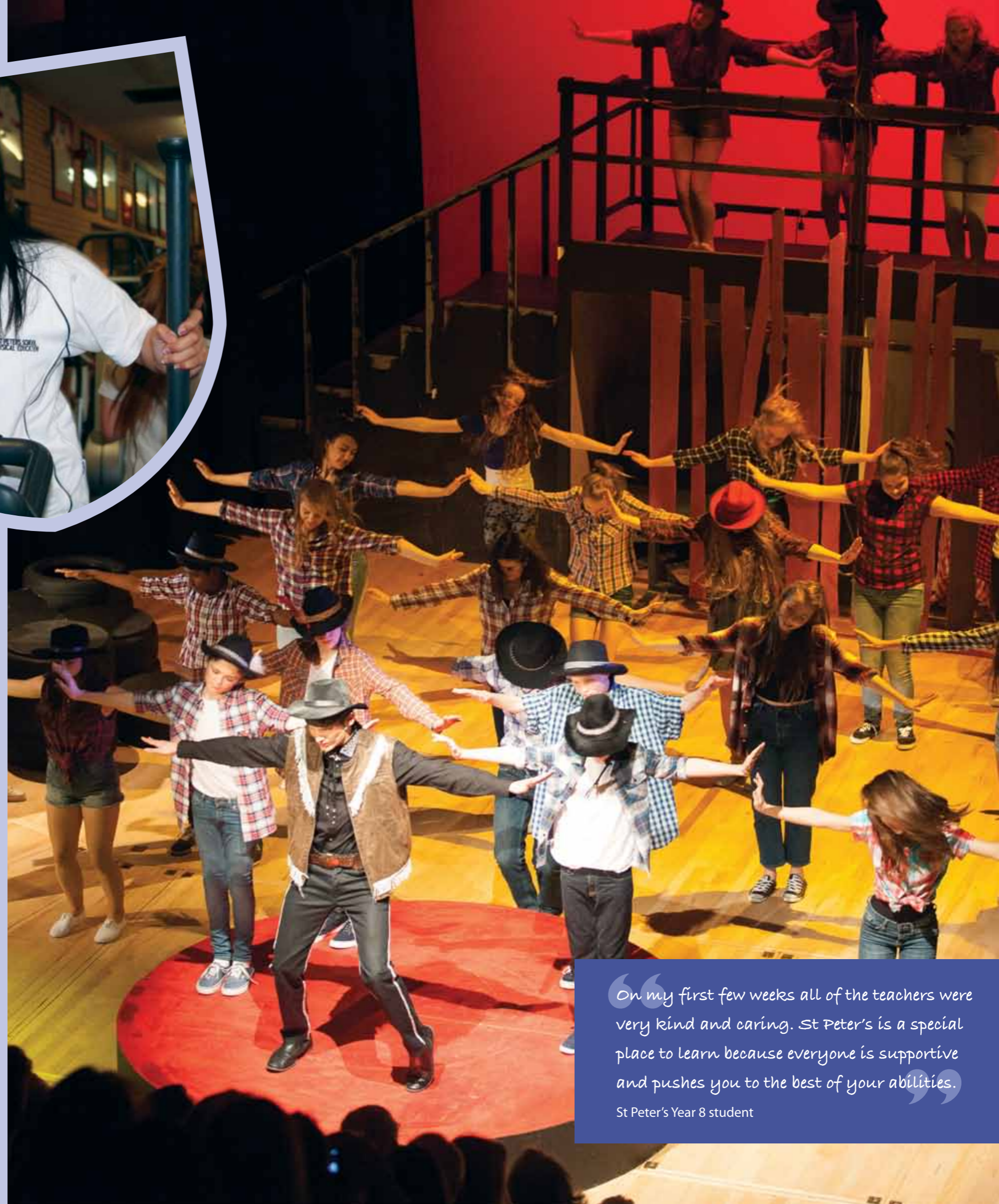
St Peter's has a large and flourishing Sixth Form with approximately 300 students. Courses are predominantly for students wishing to study subjects to Level 3 (A Level or equivalent) in preparation for entry into higher education and specific vocational career paths. Most of the sixth formers progress to university, including Oxford and Cambridge. Our stay on rate is between 70-75%. Please see our separate Sixth Form prospectus or go online to visit our Sixth Form website.



*Students are typically courteous, considerate and treat each other with respect. The Catholic school status impacts very strongly on behaviour and attitudes.*

Ofsted

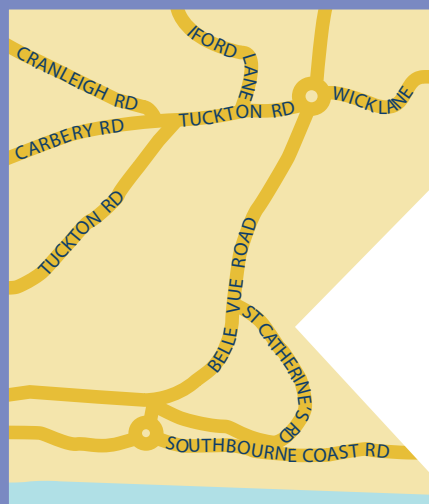
Please note the information in this prospectus was correct at the time of printing. Changes made during the course of the present School year and for subsequent years will be notified in future prospectuses.



*On my first few weeks all of the teachers were very kind and caring. St Peter's is a special place to learn because everyone is supportive and pushes you to the best of your abilities.*

St Peter's Year 8 student

let  
your  
light  
shine



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**Headteacher**  
Mr David Todd

**Chair of Governors**  
Mr Richard Dickinson

**Clerk to the Governors**  
Mrs Suzanne Wallace-Abbott