



# Prospectus 2023 - 24

Welcome to  
St John Plessington  
Home of Inspire  
Learning Teaching  
School Hub NW





**All are welcome...** Barnston Primary **Bedford Drive** Primary Bidston **Avenue** Primary Bidston Village Primary **Brackenwood** Juniors Bromborough Pool Primary **Brookhurst** Primary Castleway Primary **Cathcart** St Primary Christ Church CE Primary **Church Drive** Primary Christ the King Catholic Primary **Dawpool CE** Primary Devonshire Park Primary **Eastway** Primary **Egremont** Primary Fender Primary **Gilbrook** Primary Greenleas Primary **Grove Street** Primary Heswall Primary **Heygarth** Primary Higher Bebington Juniors **Holy Cross Catholic** Primary Holy Spirit Catholic CE Primary **Ladymount RC Aided** Primary Lingham Primary **Liscard** Primary Manor Primary **Mendell** Primary Mersey Park Primary **Millfields** Primary Mount Primary **New Brighton** Primary Orrets Meads Primary **Overchurch Juniors** Overchurch Primary **Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic** Primary Our Lady of Pity RC Primary **Oxton St Saviour's** Primary Pensby Primary **Portland** Primary Poulton Lancelyn Primary **Prenton** Primary Raeburn Primary **Redcourt** Primary Riverside Primary **Rock Ferry** Primary **Sacred Heart Catholic** Primary Sandbrook Primary **Somerville** Primary SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary **St Alban's** Primary St Andrew's CE Primary **St Anne's Catholic** Primary St Aloysius Catholic Primary **St Bridget's CE** Primary St George's Primary **St John's Catholic Infants** St John's Catholic Juniors **St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Upton)** St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Wallasey) **St Mary's College (Crosby)** St Michael & All Angels Catholic Primary **St Peter's Catholic** Primary St Peter's CE Primary **St Werburgh's Catholic** Primary Stanton Road Primary **Styal** Primary **The Priory Parish CE** Primary Thornton Hough Primary **Tower** Primary Townfield Primary **Vyner** Primary Well Lane Primary **William Stockton** Primary Woodchurch Road Primary **Woodside** Primary Woodslee Primary

# Welcome from the Headteacher



As Headteacher of St John Plessington Catholic College, I am delighted to welcome you to our 2023 Prospectus and share some information with you about our College.

St John Plessington is an 11-18 Voluntary Aided Academy part of the Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust in the Diocese of Shrewsbury. We are oversubscribed in all year groups. We are the lead school in

the Inspire Learning Teaching School Hub. We welcome children of all faiths and from a wide variety of backgrounds who all add to the richness of our College.

We are a successful school, students of all abilities make good progress and benefit from a rich and broad curriculum tailored to meet their individual needs, as well as excellent pastoral support throughout their journey with us.

Our curriculum has a blend of academic and vocational qualifications delivered by subject specialists in excellent facilities which include a state of the art media suite, multi million pound

Sixth Form Centre and Humanities Centre, access to professional standard sporting facilities and excellent IT facilities throughout the College.

Gospel Values underpin everything we do at St John Plessington. Our school motto 'Always faithful to Christ' guides us as we learn together on our academic and social journeys from Year 7 to Year 13. In the words of Oscar Romero, 'We are prophets of a future that is not our own' and our students are guided and supported to make a positive contribution to our local, national and international communities during their time with us and beyond.

Our success is based on the partnership we have with our parents and carers, to provide consistently good support and guidance for all our students, however we never take your support for granted and we always strive to be the best we can be.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

**Mr Peadar McLoughlin**  
**Headteacher**

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# Mission, Vision and Values

## Our Vision

*Excellence in all we do*

## Our Mission

*Empowering an inclusive community,  
founded on Gospel values*

## Our Values

*Pride - Respect - Determination*













# Pastoral Care

The College works hard to give our students a smooth, positive transition to secondary school. We work closely with our partner primary schools to get to know your child and to understand their academic and social needs and abilities. This personal and proactive approach ensures that teaching provision is responsive and tailored to the individual.

From the outset, our focus on pastoral care enables staff to forge strong relationships with our new students. At the heart of our pastoral system is the form teacher who supports each student on a daily basis and is a key point of contact for families. The form teachers are supported by a Head of Learning, a Learning Coach, SENDCO, Assistant SENDCO and other key pastoral staff such as the First Aid & Wellbeing Lead. Unique to St John Plessington are the Learning Coaches.

Every child has a Learning Coach who will support them holistically. They will meet with your child during the year to monitor and discuss academic progress as well as ensuring that your child is happy and successful. It is our job to ensure that all children get the chance to show their talents. Our pastoral care system ensures that all the students are known inside out.

## **Rights Respecting School - UNICEF**

We are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. We aim to place the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond.

# The Learning Experience

**St John Plessington is a place where all children can learn.**

The College provides a calm and ordered learning environment where all children are treated as individuals. This allows the students to enjoy high quality teaching and learning.

A strong emphasis on high quality first teaching and learning ensures that each student is fully supported stretched and challenged. Regular and consistent assessment ensure that students' progress is carefully monitored, achievement is celebrated and underachievement swiftly addressed.

Good learning brings its own rewards; at St John Plessington we promote success through supportive praise and encouragement, with rewards for sustained effort, good work, praiseworthy conduct and improvement. As well as academic success, we acknowledge personal endeavour, service to the College community and sporting achievement.

Here at St John Plessington we work to create opportunities that allow all students to succeed.





**At KS3 students study the following subjects. \* We offer the following courses at KS4**

Art & Design	Business Studies*	Computer Science
Dance*	Design Technology (which includes: Food Technology, Resistant Materials, Graphics and Textiles).	English Language
English Literature	Geography	Health & Social Care*
History	ICT*	Mandarin
Mathematics	Media Studies*	Music
Music Technology*	Performing Arts	Physical Education
Religious Education	Science	Spanish

*“My daughter has loved her first year in St John Plessington. She has got involved in numerous activities and performed at various showcases, school performances and the opportunities have been endless!” - Parent 2023*

# Enrichment

Our Enrichment Programme, a cornerstone of our Personal Development Curriculum, offers a diverse range of activities designed to foster growth in every student. During lunch and after school, your child will have the chance to explore new passions and cultivate existing interests. Lunch activities, mandatory for all, encompass sports, arts, drama, music, science, and more. These activities kindle confidence, facilitate new friendships, and nurture skills.

Our commitment extends to subject-specific enrichment too. Small group sessions in English, Maths, and Science provide tailored support, catering to individual learning needs. Enrichment occurs during three lunch periods per week, leaving two for form and assembly. Each activity lasts 30 minutes, leaving ample time for a nourishing meal. Students commit to an activity for half a term, with opportunities to switch thereafter.

After-school enrichment caters to Y10, 11 & Sixth Formers. Subject-specific clubs, alongside sports, drama, music, eco, and IT clubs for Y7-9. We also have numerous enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom, from visits to local museums to global expeditions like PGL adventures, water sports in the Mediterranean, ski trips to the USA and Europe, and cultural excursions in China, India, and Peru. Closer to home, students engage in National Careers Challenge, Cadbury World, and university visits.

Notably, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is a prized endeavour, strengthening character, leadership, and confidence. While Covid may have disrupted our stride, we're fervently regaining momentum for Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards in Year 10.

Enrichment isn't just an addendum to the SJP Experience – it's an integral part. Your child won't just learn new skills and expand knowledge; they'll refine their talents, embrace challenges, and shape their character. It's a remarkable way for Year 7 students to transition and make friends, while every student gains opportunities.









# Innovation

There is a culture of achievement here at St John Plessington. We have received many local and national awards, including being named TES Secondary School of the Year and winning the TES National Award for Numeracy & Maths, as well as being shortlisted for the National Award for Literacy & English.

St John Plessington is a designated Teaching School Hub, one of only 87 schools nationally to have been recognised as a centre of excellence for teacher and leadership and development.

We are a school that is always looking to be at the forefront of fresh initiatives that will further benefit the lives of our students. This can only be achieved as a result of the hard work and dedication of staff who are totally committed to their profession.

Students will find opportunities for: football, athletics, gymnastics, badminton, hockey, netball, music, dance, drama, art, basketball, cricket, skiing, rounders and rugby, along with specialised fitness work and sports leadership awards, this complements the St John Plessington Experience.





# Spiritual Life

At St John Plessington, all adults model behaviour that is based on Gospel Values. Our mission is to provide a rigorous and broad education within the context of a Christian environment. An understanding of the Roman Catholic faith, in line with the Gospel message, underpins the whole work of the school.

Our main aim is to develop the self-esteem, dignity and respect of all members of the community by concentrating on each person's infinite worth in the eyes of God. The College fully respects the beliefs of parents and children of all denominations and faith backgrounds. The Christian ethos underpins all our work and provides all members of the College community with a safe environment which is paramount in creating a successful learning environment.

All students study Religious Education and our Catholic identity and spiritual life are reflected in all areas of our College.

During the year, students take part in series based around the liturgical calendar and participate in a whole range of groups and experiences that provide faith-based community service. Each day, prayer and collective worship form an integral part of the life of the College. Students have the opportunity for reflection during retreat days, residential visits and by spending time in the College Chapel and Peace Garden.

## **Faith in Action**

As a Catholic school, Gospel Values guide us in all we do. By putting our faith into action we commit to helping those who are in need, working on improving human rights for everyone. We put the teachings of the Gospel into action and at St John Plessington we all have a responsibility to live out our faith through serve and reflection as we deepen our relationships with God.













# The St John Plessington Experience

Life at our College extends well beyond the classroom.

Our fundamental aim is to ensure our young people are taught the key values of respect and dignity, that the sort of person we become is of first importance, and to have a real sense of duty and service to others.

At St John Plessington, we aim to offer something of lasting value to our students. We call this the 'St John Plessington Experience' - in addition to academic qualifications, the students have opportunities to participate in a range of experiences that are exceptional – for example, visits to the USA, South America, China, Europe and Africa.

The College also partakes in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award initiative with many students currently working towards achieving their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

By empowering an inclusive community, founded on Gospel values, our students are expected to serve others, gain the best qualifications they possibly can and develop a real understanding of who they are in life.

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# Careers Guidance at St John Plessington Catholic College

Providing high quality careers advice and guidance is part of our role in enabling our students to prepare for life beyond statutory education. We know that if they have a clear and accurate understanding of what 'the world of work' looks like, they are more likely to succeed within it.

We encourage our students to explore the variety of pathways open to them. We empower them, over time, with the knowledge required to make choices that will be the most rewarding and engaging for them. Alongside their curriculum education and working within our personal development framework, our aim is to develop the 'whole' person: to nurture the skills that will allow them to create successful futures, in which they maximize their life opportunities.

We work with many partners in order to deliver our careers programme, which is based upon the Gatsby Benchmarks. These partners include the Careers and Enterprise Company, CareerConnect, Unifrog, training providers and local colleges, universities, employers and employees, to name but a few. In our latest Ofsted report (November 2022) it was noted that *'there is a comprehensive careers programme accessible to all year groups'*.

Note: please refer to the 'careers' section of the SJP website to see full details of the careers programme by year group (from Year 7 to Year 13).





  
**ARMY**  
THE BEST

DISCOVER  
THE STRENGTH  
OF A TEAM  
BE A BETTER TEAM

Search A...







# Recognised for Eco Schools Excellence and Outstanding Conservation Education

This year we have received two prestigious accolades at SJP.

In 2022 we received our first Eco Schools Green Flag with Merit. We have retained our accreditation this year, gaining the Eco Schools Green Flag with Distinction this time around. This has been down to the joint work of the Eco Ambassadors on our Junior Leadership Team and our extracurricular Eco-Club and SJP Urban Farm Club.

We were also honoured to receive the 2023 Chester Zoo Conservation Schools award for Outstanding Conservation School - Secondary. This is due to having conservation as a key part of the curriculum, with conservation and sustainability messages embedded throughout the school in various projects.

What was particularly significant was that Chester Zoo recognised the importance of pupil voice when presenting us with the award, which they said was;

***'In recognition of the work they have done across the school to develop pupil voice, encouraging their young people to speak outwardly and confidently about sustainability issues.'***



# Sixth Form

We have a broad curriculum offer enhanced by an exciting enrichment programme.

Our students receive highly personalised pastoral support to enable them to be successful in their chosen career.

The Sixth Form Centre provides high spec independent study facilities for our students. There is a large 'open plan' study area with over 70 workstations and Wi-Fi access as well as offices for the Sixth Form Pastoral team. The new build connects with our College Library which our students can access with additional computer facilities available.

The Ann Benson-Burke Study Centre also provides a number of bespoke Sixth Form classrooms including a new Media suite with an additional area for film and media development where students will study in a truly immersive environment, with interactive projectors capable of wirelessly displaying multiple workspaces as well as allowing multiple users to access a finger touch screen. Photography, SFX and VFX will also be a focus for the students as they utilise the Green Screen Studio with its wall to wall, ChromaKey Cyclorama enabling the students to create work of a professional standard.

## **College Library**

The College boasts a large and vibrant library, valued by the whole community. Sixth Formers are able to work and gain computer access in the College library throughout the day.

## **The Refectory**

Staff and Sixth Formers have the opportunity to come together and share a mutual working and relaxation area near the dining room. It is equipped with Wi-Fi access and staff and students are able to eat and drink in this area.















# Safeguarding

**As recognised by Ofsted, Leaders ensure a strong culture of safeguarding. We take steps to make sure that pupils and students are safe. We have created a positive safeguarding ethos here at St John Plessington Catholic College. The wellbeing of our students is a priority. We provide a nurturing environment, where students feel safe to learn, socialise and develop to be the best version of themselves.**

At St John Plessington, there is a designated team of safeguarding experts, The Designated Safeguarding Lead is supported by a number of deputy DSLs. All staff are trained above statutory guidance to ensure students receive the best quality care and support.

We support our student's needs through assistance from our experienced pastoral team and external agencies including CAMHS, Kooth, the school Nurse, Young Carers and many more.

For more information on how we safeguard our students, please visit our website and view our policies: [www.stjohnplessington.com](http://www.stjohnplessington.com)

# New Beginnings

## **Links with Primary Schools**

Staff and students from St John Plessington visit local Primary Schools throughout the year for a whole range of liaison activities. Because some of these activities take place at the College, many of our prospective students have visited us on several occasions before they begin Year 7. In the summer term before their admission, all of our new students receive visits from our Transition Team who give them all the help they need to get ready for the move to St John Plessington.

During this time, a whole series of induction events takes place to help newcomers to settle in and to allow parents to get to know the College. A Welcome Evening takes place in July when parents and students meet their new Form Tutors.

## **Communication with Home**

Communication and partnership is key. Parents receive reports twice per academic year and parent teacher meetings throughout the year.

We communicate directly with families via ParentMail and Arbor. All parents have access to our on-line reporting system and extensive Virtual Learning Environment (Google Classroom). These are all accessible via our website at [www.stjohnplessington.com](http://www.stjohnplessington.com), which also contains all of our units of work for all subjects in all years.

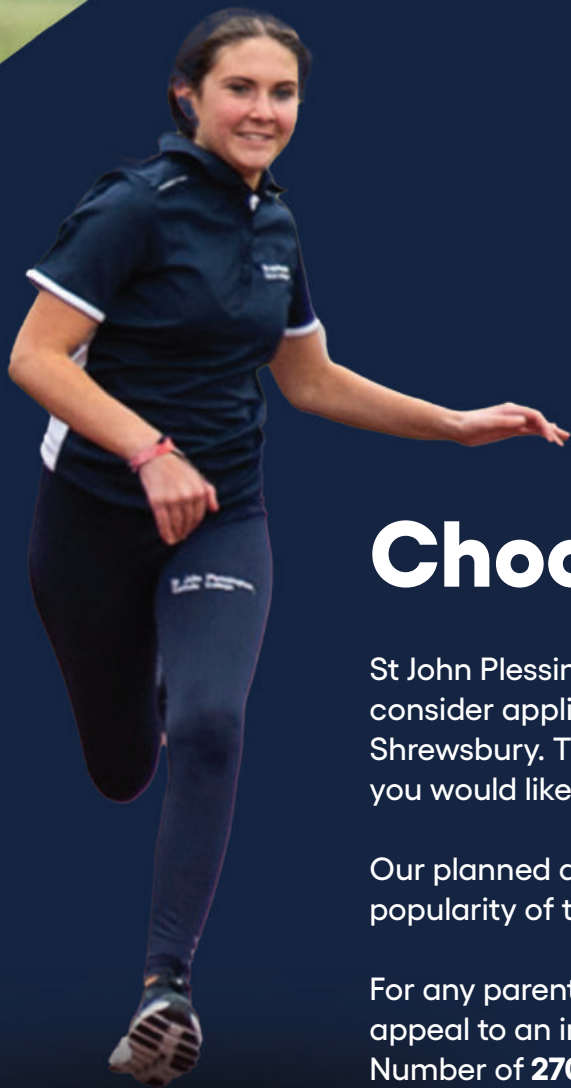












# Choosing St John Plessington

St John Plessington is a Voluntary Aided school, which means that our Governors are responsible for admissions. They consider applications according to the criteria in our Admissions Policy agreed by the College and the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The Governors consider these applications in a priority order made available to Wirral Local Authority. If you would like to visit the College to discuss the entry of your child, please call us on **0151 645 5049**.

Our planned admission number is **270**, increased by the Governors of St John Plessington in recognition of the growing popularity of the College and the enhanced demand for places.

For any parents who have been unsuccessful with their applications for a place, there is a process of appeals. Parents appeal to an independent Appeal Panel who may choose to place students over and above the Planned Admission Number of **270**.













## St John Plessington Catholic College

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