



Notre Dame High School
Diocese of Hallam

Information for Applicants



"Outstanding in all areas"

OFSTED Inspection September 2008

Introduction

Notre Dame High School is a popular and successful Catholic comprehensive school within the Catholic diocese of Hallam.

The school has been graded outstanding by Ofsted since 2005.

Notre Dame draws students from a very wide catchment area across the city of Sheffield and beyond. It has 1500 students, including 400+ in the Sixth Form. The school population includes around 18% of children from various ethnic minority groups. The school has an integrated resource for students with physical disabilities.

In our last inspection by Ofsted (September 2008), inspectors reported that:

“Students thrive in an atmosphere where each is cherished as an individual, and all are challenged and supported to achieve their best”.

“All students make very good progress, consistently, throughout the school.”

“Throughout the school relationships are exemplary”.

“High levels of tolerance and respect are evident in the way students react to each other, to staff, and to visitors”.

“Students’ enjoyment is seen in both the consistently high level of attendance and the extremely rare use of exclusion”.

“Teaching and learning are outstanding because of the consistently high quality of many lessons”.

In the inspection of the Catholic life of the school and Religious Education which also took place in September 2008 the feedback from the inspector included the statement “the Catholic life of the school is outstanding, actually exceptional, and I am sad there is not a higher grade I can give”.

Since 2008, year on year students have continued to make progress that is significantly above the national average. Feedback from visitors, staff from other schools and the consultants we bring in to triangulate school review consistently comment on the outstanding climate for learning and quality of relationships evident throughout the school.

Monitoring visits by the Diocese of Hallam continue to reflect the commitment of our students and staff to maintaining a high quality and distinctive education.

That maintained success is evident in the reputation of the school. We attract strong fields for posts that we advertise and we enjoy high numbers of applications from students who wish to join the school.

The strength of the school has also led to opportunities for us to contribute to wider leadership within the education system. We became a Teaching School in 2011 as one of the first wave of such schools. In 2015 we were accredited to run School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) where we already have a growing reputation for high quality teacher training across the region. We lead a regional Maths Hub and we are a lead school in a number of strands of

research, working with Higher Education institutions and bodies such as the Education Endowment Fund.

History of Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame High School is situated in the Ranmoor area of the city in 20 acres of ground, which includes Smith Wood, believed to have been once part of Sherwood Forest. It was here that Mark Firth, famous son of the city of Sheffield, steel manufacturer, philanthropist, Lord Mayor, Master Cutler, built his dream mansion in 1860. His mansion became an Officers' Convalescent Home in the First World War, a convent in 1919 and a Sixth Form Centre in 1988.

The school's history goes back even further than the Firth estate. It was in 1855 that the Sisters of Notre Dame came to Sheffield from Liverpool to set up a much needed school for girls in the city centre. The school was established in Holy Green House on the Moor, now replaced by a busy shopping centre.

In 1862, the school was moved to Cavendish Street where it developed and expanded to such an extent that further space was required for the many girls who sought admission.

The Sisters moved their living quarters to Oakbrook in 1919, leaving more room for classrooms and in 1935 built another secondary school in the extensive grounds. This remained a separate school until amalgamation was recommended in 1948.

In 1976, the school changed its status from that of a girls' grammar school to become a mixed comprehensive. Cavendish Street housed the lower school until 1988 when the Victorian buildings were finally vacated and later demolished by the new owners.

To accommodate the whole school on the Oakbrook site, extensive internal improvements were made. New buildings were erected, including a fine Sports Hall and three additional Science Laboratories.

There has been significant further development of the site over recent years, including the addition of:

A purpose built technology block;

An Open Learning Centre combining traditional library with first rate ICT facilities;

Several other classroom blocks for Geography, History, Music and Languages;

A fitness suite;

An Environmental Learning Centre which serves as an impressive base for 21st century education centred on the ancient woodland that forms part of our site;

Recently refurbishment of our main school block providing upgraded accommodation for English, Maths, RE, Art and two further science labs bringing the total to 13.

Over this period, the school has continued to go from strength to strength:

In 1995, a year when the school celebrated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Sisters of Notre Dame in England.

Recognised as a Beacon School and an outstanding school;

Served as a National support school;

In September 2011, Notre Dame High School became one of the first 'wave' of teaching schools;

Converted to academy status in July 2012;

The school is proud to retain contact with the Sisters of Notre Dame, who are still represented on the School's governing body. Notre Dame High School Sheffield is an active participant in the world wide Notre Dame community and we are deeply proud to be associated with the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Catholic education in Sheffield and their ongoing service of the most vulnerable young people in England and around the world.

Staff

Staff are committed, experienced and friendly. There are over 160 members of staff, of which 95 are teachers.

The Senior Management Team currently consists of a Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Director of School Improvement, Director of Business, two Senior Assistant Headteachers, Head of Sixth Form and three Assistant Headteachers.

The Pastoral Team is led by a Senior Assistant Headteacher and includes Heads of Year, two Pastoral Managers, a Pastoral Administrator and Form Tutors, who are at the centre of the pastoral care system.

The Director of Business oversees the school's Finances, Contracts, IT, Personnel and Premises.

The Chaplaincy Co-ordinator provides liturgical support to students and staff.

The whole of the school site is a no smoking area.

There is a strong commitment to continuous improvement and a performance management process involving every member of staff. This has been recognised by OFSTED as "outstanding".

School Ethos

The ethos of the school is strongly Christian and it provides a distinctive Catholic education whilst respecting and welcoming children from other denominations and other world faiths.

All staff employed by the Governing Body of Notre Dame High School are asked to guarantee that they will uphold the Catholic/Christian ethos of the school and they are required to sign the Catholic Education Service contract. Consequently, all teachers are expected to pray with students and accompany them to acts of worship held in the school.

The school chaplaincy provides extensive support for staff in this important area of school life. The school has achieved recognition because of a participative approach to prayer and worship and development of student leadership which is proving to be pivotal in the faith development of all members of the school community. A significant aspect of this development is the special relationship which exists between the school and the Catholic Chaplaincy of Sheffield University.

School Day

The school operates a five one-hour period day. The school day begins at 8.55am and finishes at 3.35pm.

Recent Curriculum Developments Robin

Key Stages 3 and 4

Notre Dame has always endeavoured to ensure access for all our students to a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum and encourages and expects all students to achieve their full potential. During 2015-2016, we undertook a significant review of our curriculum, drawing views from parents, students and staff, in the light of national reform.

The curriculum plan is described in more detail below for each Key Stage:

Key Stage 3 (Y7 and Y8)

All students follow the same broad, balanced curriculum consisting of:

Religious Education, Mathematics, Technology, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Science, History, Geography, Physical Education (includes a drama element), Music, Art and IT.

In Years 7-9 cross-curricular areas such as PSHE, Citizenship and Enterprise education are integrated into all the subjects in the curriculum as well as being supported through specific lessons, form time and Alternative Curriculum Days.

Key Stage 4 (Y9-11)

At KS4 all students follow a core curriculum consisting of:

Religious Education, Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education and IT (the latter two non-examined).

In addition to the core programme outlined above, students make an additional 4 subject choices. There is a range of courses to choose from including academic GCSEs, vocational GCSE courses and BTEC courses (equivalent to GCSEs). While the majority of our students are ready and able to start their option subjects in Y9, some need either an additional year or time built into their week to support them with their studies. We offer 3 different structured support courses for those students for whom this is most appropriate.

The choices available include:

History, Geography, Technology, additional Languages, examined Physical Education, examined IT, Performing Arts, Drama, Music (3 year course), Art (either as a 1 or 3 year course), Photography, Leisure and Tourism, Child Development and Health and Social Care.

Depending on the individual choices made, these courses will last either 1 or 3 years. The one year 'short fat' courses are intensively taught and examined over a single year. The 3 year 'long thin' courses are less intensive and are usually examined at the end of Y11. Students will make one subject choice per year, this regular choice allows students greater flexibility to complete courses and begin new ones as appropriate to need and ability.

PSHE, citizenship and careers are covered through a weekly Guidance programme. There are 3 different timetabled groups that provide additional support both for literacy and numeracy (through the Study Plus programme) and other support needs.

Through the KS4 curriculum, we aim to offer a broad education, with a range of progression routes, in which all students can develop their own strengths. All courses lead to public examinations and the results achieved are well above both the local and national averages.

Key Stage 5 (Y12-Y13)

In Key Stage 5 the majority of students will study either 3 or 4 AS Levels in Y12 and take these subjects onto A2 Level in Y13. There are a wide variety of courses available-in total we offer almost 30 different courses.

The improved way in which we are organising the curriculum lower down the school will in time allow greater flexibility at KS5 with some subjects being made available to Y12 students at GCSE Level and similarly, some AS Level subjects being made available to Y11 students

Sixth Form **Martyn**

Oakbrook House is our Sixth Form Centre. The building was a 19th century mansion house and then became the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame. It now combines tradition with modernity, with excellent classrooms, IT suites, a Sixth Form study room and the Sixth Form Common room with its own snack bar.

The Sixth Form has grown in size in recent years and now has 380 plus students.

Approximately 70% of Notre Dame's Year 11 students progress into the Sixth Form and students join us from many schools across Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

There are 24 A-Level courses on offer. There is also provision to support re-take courses GCSE Mathematics and English.

To support our students' spiritual awareness and to develop their individual potential, they follow a Religious Studies programme. We encourage students to take on roles of service within the School and wider community e.g. working with the School Chaplaincy Team, providing support in a local primary school and paired reading with our younger students.

We have a strong tradition of enabling our Sixth Form students to progress to good Higher Education and employment opportunities and we are committed to ensuring that they are well prepared to play their role as young leaders in the tradition of Christian service.

Academic Achievements Steve Bunting

Notre Dame continues to demonstrate excellent academic achievement at all levels of the curriculum. We are consistently within the top 20% of schools nationally for our performance at GCSE in all of the key measures such as percentage of students achieving 5A*-C (83% in 2014 and 2015, 5A*-C including English and Maths (78% in 2014 and 2015- the highest in the city) and the English Baccalaureate (44% in 2015). In 2015 89% of students met or exceeded national progress in Maths and 85% met or exceeded national progress in English. Over 99% of our students achieve at least 5 A*-G grades at GCSE. At Key Stage 5 we celebrated another superb set of results in 2015 with 51% of passes graded at A*-B. Performance at A level is consistently above national and regional averages and the progress made by our students consistently sees us ranked in the top 25% of post-16 providers nationally.

Future Plans Steve Davies

During the last few years the school has become more successful, better resourced and greatly over-subscribed. Three five-year development plans have been completed with all targets (and much more) achieved. For the future we aim to continue to:

Promote Gospel values through liturgical and other curriculum experiences, by ensuring high standards of religious education and liturgical experience across the curriculum and maintaining our distinctive ethos.

Build a caring community by ensuring a considerate, orderly community with good relationships based on mutual respect and recognition of individual differences and achievement.

Enable all members of the school community to realise their potential by;

ensuring good value added performance at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5;

providing training and development which enables staff to achieve personal and school targets; managing a programme of capital investment to provide improved accommodation for teaching and learning;

improving school attendance with fewer school days lost by students.

Develop links between schools, the Parish, the home and the local wider community by; ensuring schools and groups from the wider Catholic community benefit from the experience and expertise of this specialist and leading edge school;

ensuring students continue to benefit from specialist school status.

Teaching School Status John Coats

Notre Dame has been designated as a DfE designated Teaching School since 2011. This means it is the hub of an alliance of schools across South Yorkshire who collaborate together on school

improvement with Notre Dame providing the strategic lead. Only outstanding schools can bid to become teaching schools and Notre Dame was successful in becoming one of the first 100 teaching schools. We have roles including the training of new entrants to the teaching profession where we own and operate the Sheffield SCITT (accredited to train teachers in our own right), and we oversee a wide offer of ongoing professional development of teachers including leading regionally the South Yorkshire Maths Hub and the South Yorkshire Science Learning Partnership. We also lead a number of DfE-funded initiatives across the wider East Midlands and Humber region to boost the recruitment of teachers into the profession through a range of internship experiences and through working with international recruitment agencies. We also deliver and broker of school to school support services which means our most talented staff get the opportunity to support other schools. More recently we have grown our research capacity and have appointed a full time research lead. We are leading a number of funded research projects at both a local and a national level, including an EEF funded trial across 130 schools into the use of SMART Spaces to boost the retention of knowledge required for GCSE Chemistry.

Teaching School status makes Notre Dame an exciting place to work as our staff have access to the latest professional development and the opportunity to network with teachers from schools across South Yorkshire. Many staff have been able to access career development through working at Notre Dame as a teaching school that they would not have been able to access in other schools which has led to promotions and opportunities to get involved in supporting other schools or joining research projects. The school has a voice on a national stage around educational policy and as an innovative school much of what we do is promoted nationally through work with the National College and DfE but all of this is built on the talent and hard work of the staff who work for us in every role, it is very much a team effort.

Safeguarding Policy **Stuart**

The school's is committed to safeguarding children which is outlined in the following extract from the School's Safeguarding Policy:

“We believe that everyone is unique and of equal value regardless of academic ability, class, creed, gender, race or wealth.”

‘Notre Dame High School fully recognises its responsibilities for child protection and the need for procedures to ensure that children and young people have their welfare safeguarded.’

The school complies with the DBS code of practice in regards to criminal record information in that it will not discriminate unfairly against any applicant on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed during the application process.

Employee Benefits

There are a range of benefits available to employees working at Notre Dame High School and these include:

The option to join the Westfield Foresight Health Insurance Scheme (Level 1 is provided by the Governing Body for eligible employees).

Free tea, coffee and fruit available in the staffrooms;

Childcare Voucher & Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Schemes are in operation;

A Staff Committee who organise social events at key times throughout the year;

Free use of hi-tech gymnasium facilities;

The opportunity to work in beautiful, well kept surroundings.

How to Apply

We will be happy to receive informal telephone enquiries and requests for further information. If you decide to apply for a post at Notre Dame, please return the following:

A fully completed application form (if this is being sent electronically, it will require signing at interview);

Curriculum Vitae (only necessary if you have further information to add to the application form).

To: Notre Dame High School
Fulwood Road
Sheffield
S10 3BT

Tel: 0114 2302536

Email: recruitment@notredame-high.co.uk

If you have any requirements for special arrangements to be made in order to take part in the recruitment and selection process please let the school know what these are prior to the closing date. If this is done in writing please submit the information separately from your application form and we will make every effort to provide assistance.

May we take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest in this position. If appointed, we can assure you that you will work in a caring, supportive, Christian environment.

Good luck!

Steve Davies
Headteacher

If there are any dates in the near future when you would be unable to attend for interview, please state these clearly in your application.