



# BRENTWOOD DIOCESE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A great choice for your child



There are a total of 17 Catholic secondary schools in Brentwood Diocese, a mixture of acadmeices and voluntary aided schools, some single-sex, some co-educational, all of them thriving and all of them rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. They are all individual and unique but they share a Catholic ethos that marks them out as different, special and offering something unique to every pupil who comes through their doors.

# FOREWORD

BISHOP ALAN

Over the years, Catholic schools have made a significant contribution not just to the life of the Catholic Church, but also to the life of the nation as a whole. Catholic schools are places of great ethnic richness, they are characterised by tolerance, respect, a genuine spirit of enquiry and the search for truth. The education and formation that takes place in our Catholic schools is part of our contribution to the **Common Good** of society as a whole. Perhaps for these reasons and for the way children are cared for and valued, so many parents choose to send their children to a Catholic school.



Education is one of the most powerful weapons in combating poverty and in helping children to reach their full potential as human beings. So Catholic education is part of the Church's effort to realise Christ's desire for us all that we might **"have life, and have it to the full."** (John 10:9) This is achieved not just in the teaching of RE, but by a whole system of gospel-based values encompassing the way everyone relates to each other in all that we do and in extracurricular activities, in other words by the whole Catholic ethos of the school. Here we find a genuine means of exposing young people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and of helping them to respond to Christ's invitation to "follow me".

I am particularly grateful for those who participate in Catholic education and who craft this great treasure. Parents who choose a Catholic school and often go the extra mile to contribute to its life and help in practical ways with the running of a school. Over the years our forefathers fought hard to establish and maintain Catholic Education in these lands. Now it is our turn to work together to ensure that Catholic Education is maintained, supported and enabled to grow and develop for the future generations of children across the Diocese of Brentwood.

*Alan Williams, sm*

Rt Rev Alan Williams, sm  
Bishop of Brentwood



# WELCOME

ROBERT SIMPSON



I am delighted to be able to encourage you to apply for a place at your local Catholic secondary school. Our Catholic schools foster values of honesty, respect and tolerance and encourage an atmosphere of high expectation conducive to hard work. At the same time, our schools are places where you will see Christ at the centre of the enterprise with a Catholic ethos that is palpable. Our teachers and support staff strive to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential, explore their individual talents and learn to appreciate, nurture and protect the world in which we live.

Learning opportunities are challenging and stimulating, both within the classroom and through a wide range of activities out of it. Each child is supported to grow in confidence and develop attitudes and skills to enable them to make a significant contribution to wider society. The education of the whole child is a fundamental principle that underpins the approach taken in our Catholic schools.

Making the decision about which school to send your child to is an extremely important one and I hope the information that you have received enables you to make an informed choice that is right for your child. I encourage you to visit your local Catholic school when you have the opportunity to do so, in order to feel the sense of warmth, commitment and excellence provided to our young people.

Our Catholic schools look forward to working with you because you are your child's first, best and most important educator. They recognise that developing this partnership with you is crucial because with mutual understanding and shared responsibility towards achieving the best educational outcomes for your child we are more likely to succeed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Simpson'.

Robert Simpson  
Director of Education





# Holy Family Catholic School



Walthamstow, E17  
[www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk)

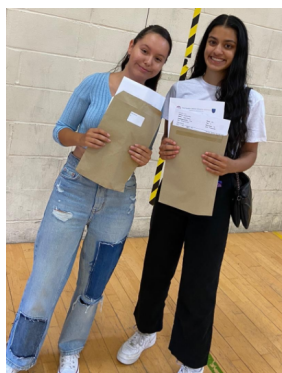
Despite the lockdown and the partial closure of schools during the summer term because of the global pandemic there has still been much to celebrate at Holy Family Catholic School in Walthamstow.



Headteacher, Dr Andy Stone, has found that "lockdown has meant new ways of learning at Holy Family, with students and staff getting to grips with the possibilities of remote learning and staff making the most of platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google

classroom. Some of this improved use of technology will become part of the fabric of teaching and learning here in the future".

Despite the concerns about examination results nationally, there were many individual success stories including Megan Najman who will be studying law at Oxford and Joyce Pereira who gained a place at Cambridge to read geography.



The pandemic crisis has also contributed to our highest ever numbers in the sixth form with many students opting to stay on at Holy Family and a record number of students joining us from other schools keen to be part of a small, friendly and successful sixth form community where everyone is welcome and encouraged not only to do their best but to give back to the rest of the community.

*“Our Catholic ethos is at the heart of what we do and of who we are.”*

Every sixth former takes part in two forms of enrichment - one is for personal development and could involve learning a new skill or taking part in sport. The second is a form of community service and might involve working with other pupils (difficult now in an era of separate yeargroup bubbles) or assisting

members of the wider community. A great example of this has been our long-standing



'silver surfers' programme which involved sixth form students helping senior citizens to get on-line and make the most of their digital devices and enjoy communicating with friends and relatives around the world.

"Our Catholic ethos is at the heart of what we do and of who we are. Every pupil who enters our school is a unique child of God and we treat all our young people as members of a very special family - Holy Family Catholic School.

