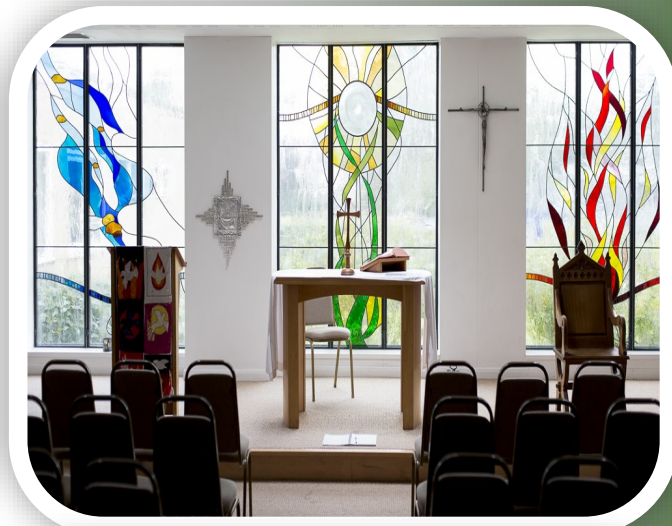





# St Alban's Catholic High School

## Candidate Information Pack 2019/20



St Alban's Catholic High School  
Digby Road  
Ipswich  
IP4 3NJ

 01473 726178

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## LETTER FROM HEADTEACHER



Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in this post, I hope you will find the post attractive and feel encouraged to apply.

A genuine enthusiasm for the promotion of students' learning is essential for the post and it is important to note that, whilst being Catholic is not a prerequisite for this role, a willingness to be supportive of the Christian ethos is necessary.

Your application should include a supporting statement which addresses the following:

- How your experience relates to the requirements of the job description/person specification;
- Your own personal philosophy of education;
- Specific skills that you can bring to the role and the school.
- Any other supporting information you wish to draw to our attention.

The school is committed to the safeguarding of children and young people. We expect any prospective member of staff to provide three separate forms of evidence of identity (passport, birth certificate, utilities bill, driving licence, for example) and to provide evidence of 'Right to Work in the UK' together with proof of academic qualifications included in any application. Successful candidates will be made an offer of employment subject to pre-employment checks including an enhanced DBS check.

Full details of the application process and the necessary forms can be found on our website:

<http://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk/Vacancies/>

If you require further information or have any questions relating to your application, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Abson at the school: [kabson@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:kabson@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)

**Matt Baker**

**Headteacher**

## MISSION STATEMENT

### Learning, Respecting, Caring

St Alban's Catholic High School strives to provide an excellent education for our students within a caring Christian community where all are respected, valued and supported to achieve their potential.

We aim to inspire everyone with the strength and purpose to begin the journey of learning for life and to prepare our students to lead by their example in the modern world.

### OUR STRATEGY

To recognize that each individual student and member of staff is a unique creation in the image of God, and deserves to be valued equally.

To follow Christ's example by providing a living testimony to the goodness and presence of God and so to prepare our students for a fuller participation as followers of Christ in the life of their community.

To develop effective leadership throughout all levels of the staffing structure and to use this to create a successful teaching environment where high expectations of students, staff and governors are met.

To provide full opportunity for our students to develop their individual talents and build a strong foundation for their future.



## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### Examination Results 2019 Headlines

GCSE	2017	2018	2019
Progress 8	-0.45	0.23	TBC
Attainment 8	44.63	51.5	47.88
English & Maths 4+	66%	72%	64%
English & Maths 5+	38%	52%	44%

### Key Stage 5 - A Level Results

In 2018/19 there were 60 students taking examinations. All students took between two and four A Levels.

A\* - A grades = 16% (includes EPQ qualification)

A\* - B grades = 32%

A\* - C grades = 58%

A\* - E grades = 94%

The average grade achieved at A2 Level was C.

### School Structures

#### Our Day

The school day is arranged around four 75-minute periods across a two-week cycle. There is a 20-minute form period in the morning during which time some year groups will have an assembly. A weekly Mass takes place on Wednesday mornings with a staff briefing each morning, except from Wednesday when a Department briefing takes place.

#### Pastoral System

There are 6 Tutor Groups per year for KS3 and KS4 with a Head of Year for each year group. In Sixth Form, there are also 6 Tutor Groups combining Years 12 and 13 students. The Head of Sixth Form is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is supported by a Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Each Key Stage also has a Student Support Lead/Manager.

Students and staff are also placed into one of six houses which take part in competitions and raise funds for charity each year.

#### Student Leadership

A number of Sixth Form students have whole-school leadership roles and are supported by prefects in Year 11. Student ambassadors for each house lead their fund-raising efforts. Students are able to be part of Student Voice and Sixth Form students help as lunchtime supervisors and by mentoring younger students through peer supporting.

## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### On Roll

We have 929 students on roll (Autumn 2019/20) which includes 110 students in our Sixth Form.

### Staffing

We have 128 experienced and specialist staff working at St Alban's (including 57 Support Staff), with a balance of long-service experienced members of staff together with newer colleagues to our team and those just starting out on their teaching career.

St Alban's operates a 'faculty' structure which allows for a more efficient line management system. The sharing of best practice and innovation is encouraged by coordinating improvements through the Head of Faculty.

### Senior Leadership Team

The current structure of the Senior Leadership Team is as follows:

<b>Matt Baker</b>	Headteacher
<b>Simon Corless</b>	Deputy Head: Achievement, Catholic Life
<b>Laura Lawrence</b>	Assistant Head: Teaching and Learning, Appraisal, Admissions. Attendance
<b>Sarah Morris</b>	Assistant Head: Sixth Form, Curriculum, Careers ( <i>Maternity Leave</i> )
<b>Jason Horne</b>	Assistant Head: Safeguarding, Child Protection, Behaviour
<b>Nick Berry</b>	Assistant Headteacher (Ipswich Opportunity Area Secondment)

### Governing Body

Our Governors meet regularly to monitor and support the work of the school. As well as meeting as a Full Governing Body four times a year, there are three main committees that meet termly: Student, Staff and Infrastructure. These three deal with Curriculum and Progress, Personnel and Finance & Premises respectively. Each term a Governor Monitoring Visit will take place to focus on a particular aspect of school life.



## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### Multi-Academy Trust

The school is part of the **Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust** with the following schools:

- St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School, Haverhill
- St Louis Catholic Academy, Newmarket
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich
- St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Ipswich



### Premises

St Alban's is situated in the peaceful outskirts of Ipswich. We have good buildings on a decent, secure site. The main school was built in the 1960s with the original Sixth Form and Science buildings added in 1998. The Arts and Humanities building, Sports Hall and new contemporary purpose-built Sixth Form building have been added in the last ten years.



### Catholic Life

We have a full-time Lay Chaplain and the local parish priest plays an important role in supporting the school. There is an active prayer life with each day starting with staff prayer and student prayer in form time or assembly. A substantial calendar of events runs throughout the year with retreats, reflection days, house masses, and other celebrations at key times in the church's year. Students are encouraged to take part in these events which we see as a key element of their educational experience.

Each Wednesday, students are invited to celebrate Mass together. This allows students to pray and reflect on the Word of God and to receive the Eucharist. All students are welcome irrespective of their faith tradition.



## INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

### Curriculum

Each student receives an individual timetable at the start of the year or when they join. In Year 7 and 8 all students follow a common structure within the year group. There is a variety of mixed ability groupings as Tutor Groups, and some setting.

In Year 8 students begin to consider their choices for GCSE. Students can often, however, be unsure about the subjects that they would like to take at GCSE. The new Pathways process is designed to help them see a clearer path to the future knowing that they may change direction if they need to and with guidance at every stage.

The new GCSE specifications are designed to stretch and challenge students. They contain increased content and most are assessed by final examinations only. The Pathways process will help students to understand the challenge of each of the subjects available before they make a decision to study the subject at GCSE. To enable this to happen students will begin to consider their Pathways towards GCSE during the second half of year 8. Year 9 will become a transition year from Key Stage 3 subjects to GCSE subjects. It is expected that students will then follow their Pathways through to the examinations at the end of year 11. This will ensure that they have sufficient time to learn and practice the skills and content needed in each of their subjects. The Pathways process will also ensure that groups are stable and committed to each subject before the start of year 10.

KS5 courses are based on four option blocks, with Cambridge Pre-U being common to all students and Mathematical Studies taken by most students that are not studying Maths at A Level.





## THE LOCAL AREA



### Ipswich

With a population of approximately 148,000 the county town of Suffolk, is located on the estuary of the River Orwell, about 66 miles from London and only a 15 minute drive from the coast.

Ipswich is one of the oldest towns in the country and is steeped in old English history. The historic town boasts a number of listed buildings including Christchurch Mansion and the Old Custom House on the Waterfront.

The University of Suffolk is situated on the Waterfront and followers of football will be aware of ITFC 'The Tractor Boys' currently in the Championship.

### The Waterfront

The Waterfront is an up and coming hub for the social scene in Ipswich with a number of cafes, bars, restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues.

### Arts, Culture and Entertainment

Ipswich offers a thriving arts and culture scene with a number of places to visit such as The New Wolsey Theatre, The Regent, The Corn Exchange — all great venues hosting big name comedians, live music, theatre shows.

'Cardinal Park', a short walk from the Waterfront, provides a 'Cineworld' complex, a variety of restaurants and fast food chains.

The 'Buttermarket' complex in the heart of Ipswich has recently undergone a huge development with the opening of a gym, 'Empire' cinema, bowling and several great restaurants.

### Shopping

You will find a number of well know chain and big brand stores in the centre of Ipswich. There are also many independent boutiques worth exploring in the Waterfront area.

The town also has several large retail parks on the outskirts offering a number of restaurants, fast-food outlets, bowling and the new trend for trampoline parks!



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## ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Digby Road

Ipswich

Suffolk

IP4 3NJ

Website: [www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)

Email enquiries: [general@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:general@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)

☎ 01473 726178