



John Paul II Multi-Academy

Bishop Walsh Catholic School
Holy Cross Primary School
St Joseph's Primary School
St Nicholas' Primary School

Registered in England and Wales:
No. 08706247



Bishop Walsh
Catholic School

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE STAFF

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for your interest in the advertised post. Please find below information which I hope is helpful to you.

HISTORY: Bishop Walsh is an 11 – 18 Catholic Comprehensive, and part of The John Paul II Multi Academy Company which includes Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and St Nicholas Catholic Primary School situated on a single open site in Sutton Coldfield on the north-east fringe of Birmingham.

The school was opened in 1966 and comprises excellent accommodation adjacent to its own extensive playing fields. Currently there are nine Science laboratories, networked ICT rooms, Sports Hall, Gymnasium, well equipped Library and a host of specialist rooms for Music, Technology and Art. At the front of the building is the Chapel, the focal point of the school.

The annual intake to the school at the moment is 150 pupils. The present roll is 1040 with five applicants for every one place. There is a large Sixth Form of 250 students the majority following 'A' level courses and some following other Level 3 courses.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY: Bishop Walsh Catholic School is first of all a faith community, the great majority of pupils (99 %+) are baptised Catholics and over a half of the staff are Catholic. There is no requirement to appoint Catholic teachers but all staff are expected to uphold and support the religious ethos of the school. This is a standard question for all applicants at interview.

ETHOS OF THE SCHOOL: My vision for the school is about academic excellence, social awareness and spiritual development. A principal aim of the school is the spiritual growth of each pupil not simply growth in their faith but in their awareness of the world as a place where their witness to the Gospel values of Love, Truth, Peace, Justice and Forgiveness is called for. The religious life of the school permeates all aspects of the curriculum and determines staff and pupils' positive approach to school life. **Our school chaplain is Fr. Allen Morris, who is also parish priest at St. Nicholas in Boldmere.**

Every member of our school community is valued and we endeavour to fulfil the potential of all who attend here. The emphasis on the equal worth of each student stems from the belief that each has individual and unique God-given talents and opportunities must be provided for their growth and development.

Academic Excellence
Spiritual Development
Social Awareness



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| a: Wylde Green Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 1QT

| t: 0121 351 3215 | f: 0121 313 2142 | e: enquiry@bishopwalsh.net | w: bishopwalsh.net

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Emphasis is put on academic excellence and high standards of pupil behaviour. Traditional characteristics underpin our whole approach principally the expectation of good behaviour, regular homework and compulsory school dress. Bishop Walsh continually seeks to enhance its reputation for the highest social and academic standards.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT: The examination results in recent years have been excellent. Mindful of school policy of entering all pupils for GCSE, irrespective of ability, we experience excellent exam grades. In 2016, we achieved excellent A level results – over 50% of A2 grades were at A*, A or B. In 2016 97% of Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more grade A* - C at GCSE. 78% of pupils gained an A* - C's in English and Maths and 92% of our Year 11 students gained at least 2 A* - C grades in Science. 34% of pupils gained the English Baccalaureate in 2016. We prefer to measure our results by value added residuals. Our Progress 8 score for the whole school was +0.24 in 2016.

ORGANISATION AND PASTORAL CARE: Pupils are placed in House Groups under the care of a House Tutor who, together with the Year Head, is responsible for monitoring the welfare and progress of each pupil. Regular meetings are held to allow parents and teachers to consult and parents are always welcome to visit the school. The school behaviour policy is based on the recognition of positive achievement. Emphasis is put on respect for oneself and others and on the links between school and home. There is a half-termly Newsletter. Pupils are expected to wear school uniform. There is no jewellery or make up allowed and members of staff are expected to be key players in enforcing these rules. Pupils are always better behaved when they understand clear boundaries.

OFSTED INSPECTION REPORTS: The school had two excellent Section 5 and Section 48 Ofsted Inspection Reports in April and October 2016. The Section 5 Ofsted report praised the quality of relationships at Bishop Walsh and summed up the success of the school 'Pupils' behaviour is outstanding. They are thoughtful and polite to others and very well behaved in lessons and at other times of the day'. The Section 48 Ofsted report (October 2016) described Bishop Walsh as "an outstanding Catholic School".

CURRICULUM:

Between 2000 and 2011 Bishop Walsh received specialist schools grants from central government for our major specialism Performing Arts and for our second specialism Maths and Computing, Therefore Performing Arts is still a real feature of the work of the school giving pupils confidence to present themselves in the best way possible.

Years 7 and 8: All pupils follow a common curriculum comprising Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, French, German, History, Geography, Design Technology, Music/Performing Arts, Physical Education, Art, Computer Science, Dreamtime and whole life issues are dealt within House Group time.

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GCSE Years: All pupils are encouraged to study a balanced curriculum comprising Religious Studies, English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Language, History or Geography, a Performing Arts subject and a technology based subject. Optional subjects are also available. All pupils are entered for G.C.S.E. courses.

SIXTH FORM COURSES: Sixth Form courses to Advanced Level are available in many subjects, including Level 3 BTEC. A small number are shared with neighbourhood schools. In 2008 a fit for purpose series of buildings called The Cardinal Newman Centre was built to accommodate our growing Sixth Form.

CAREERS GUIDANCE AND TEACHING: The school works closely with our own Careers Officer to assist senior pupils with information and advice. There is a regular programme of careers films, talks and visits, and all Year 10 and 12 pupils have the opportunity of Work Experience.

HOMEWORK: Homework is seen as an essential part of every pupil's study programme. A homework timetable and diary for the year provide the link between parents and school.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION: The John Paul II Multi Academy Company is under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. There is a School Chapel where Mass is celebrated weekly by the School Chaplain. There are special celebrations at other times in the Church's year e.g. Gospel values form an integral part of the school ethos.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: The school has a strong tradition of Performing Arts and Sport. Our last seven school musicals have been in the top three for the best school musical in Birmingham and in 2016 "Annie" gained the top place. The main sports are soccer, hockey, cricket, netball, athletics, cross-country and tennis. Squash, badminton and golf are also played. There is a school band and orchestra and pupils are encouraged to learn a musical instrument. Tuition is provided in brass, woodwind, strings and guitar. Other activities include The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Journalism Club and Science Club. Community Service (Christian Duty) is undertaken by Sixth Form pupils, and several train as Diocesan Youth workers each year. There are trips abroad including skiing visits, performing arts overseas trips and regular visits to the continent.

PARENTAL SUPPORT: The Bishop Walsh Association provides opportunities for parents to meet socially and to support the school in practical ways.

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OTHER PARTNERSHIPS: As well as being part of The John Paul II Multi Academy, Bishop Walsh is a member of the East Birmingham Network and strongly supports all activities particularly relating to student events and the networking of senior staff. Similarly, it is firmly committed to working collaboratively with the neighbouring schools in Sutton Coldfield.

INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS: If you would like to know more about our school please do not hesitate to contact me (0121 351 3215) for a chat on an informal basis. If I am not available leave your number and I will endeavour to get back to you. Visitors are always welcome and I or a colleague will be only too happy to meet you and show you around the school.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS: If you are interested in applying for the advertised post you should complete the Application Form and also write a letter of application. Letters should be addressed to Dr. K. Hill, Chair of Premises, Finance and Staffing Academy Committee, c/o Bishop Walsh Catholic School, Wylde Green Road, Sutton Coldfield, B76 1QT. Letters should not generally exceed 2 sides of A4 and should address

1. The qualifications, experience and skills you have which you believe make you an appropriate applicant for the advertised post.
2. Briefly what you would hope to have accomplished, if you were appointed, after 12 months in post.

If you decide to apply for the post I look forward to hearing from you. If not, I thank you for your interest and I wish you well in your future career.

Yours sincerely,

John B Farrell,
Headteacher

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