



# St Aidan's Catholic Academy

*'We believe that God has created each person  
to celebrate life to the full'*



*'Where excellence is a habit'*

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with great pride and pleasure that I write this letter of introduction to you as the Headteacher of St. Aidan's Catholic Academy. I am honoured to have the opportunity to continue serving the local communities of Sunderland, upholding the strong traditions and values of our community and maintaining our outstanding provision for young men. I look forward to working with you to ensure your son achieves his full potential in the coming years.

At St. Aidan's, we are committed to fostering a nurturing and inclusive environment where every young person is encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, and personally. By placing Christ at the centre of all that we do and recognising learning as the fundamental focus of all our work we are achieving our mission objective to ensure that each person can 'Celebrate life to the full'.

Our ethos and practice are proudly rooted in these beliefs and in the core values: Hard work, Fairness and Trust. From the moment a pupil arrives at St Aidan's Catholic Academy we expect them to live by these values and in return we guarantee to do all that we can to help our pupils achieve their full potential.

The staff here at St Aidan's promote a dedication to excellence which empowers our pupils to excel and achieve whilst expanding their horizons in a nurturing environment. Our commitment to high-quality teaching, focus on mastery of knowledge and partnerships with parents and the local community provide a richness of experience that enables all to develop their God given talents.

The rigorous attention to detail and dedication from our staff, not to mention our hard-working pupils, ensures that GCSE and A Level results, at St Aidan's, are significantly above National average, opening doors to pupils and ensuring they can access the next step of their learning journey; last year **all** pupils moved on to their chosen career, sixth form centre or university of choice.

Excellence at this level does not happen by accident but through high intention, sincere effort and a deep understanding of how boys learn.

There is now a recognised body of research which posits that boys do learn differently from girls. Teachers in our academy understand the unique way in which boys learn, and as a result, our staff are extremely successful in implementing the effective teaching techniques required to achieve optimal results.



A member of  
Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust

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Headteacher Mrs Anne-Marie Whitten | Chair of Governors Dr C Emmerson



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Generally speaking, girls reach physical and mental maturity earlier than boys, and so creating a bespoke curriculum for our pupils hugely benefits them with their learning as well as reducing social pressures and added stresses that can occur in adolescence in a co-educational environment.

St Aidan's Catholic Academy offers a safe place for boys to take chances, express their emotions and, without the impact of gender stereotyping of a co-educational establishment, discover and thrive in subjects such as the arts and classic literature. I say with great confidence that ***'if you want your son to achieve, then this is the place to be'***.

I would like to personally invite you to see for yourself what makes St Aidan's Catholic Academy such a wonderful place to learn and grow through God and the Catholic faith and hope you will join us at our Open Day/Evening event on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Whitten  
Headteacher



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