



St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy

Part of the Newman Catholic Collegiate



Dear Parents and Carers

At St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy we are immensely proud of our commitment to a true all-round education with a curriculum centred around high academic expectations and excellent personal development; a commitment encapsulated in the words of Jean Baptist de la Salle as 'Teaching minds, touching hearts, transforming lives.'

Our ethos is grounded in care, a warm friendly atmosphere and the highest academic and behaviour standards. We believe in developing the individual so that our students are enriched academically, spiritually, morally and socially.

Situated in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, St Margaret Ward, together with our eight partner primary academies, forms the Newman Catholic Collegiate and in doing so provides children within the collegiate with a continuous Catholic education from the very beginning of their schooling until they are ready to make the step to Higher Education at the age of 18.

Choosing the right school is a key decision for any family.

The experience that children have will help shape their future. We take this responsibility very seriously and work tirelessly to ensure that our students leave school with the best possible opportunities to succeed.

We welcome all prospective parents to make an application to the Academy so that your son or daughter can also benefit from our deep-rooted Catholic faith and our absolute commitment to academic success where your child will enjoy a curriculum which challenges them and where they will develop into confident, knowledgeable young adults who can make a real and genuine difference to the world around them.

Applications are welcome from children beyond our collegiate partners and for further details about our admissions process, please visit our website: www.stmargaretward.co.uk or contact us to arrange a visit. We look forward to meeting you.



Mr D McKenna
Principal

Our partner schools are:

St George & St Martin Catholic Academy, Birches Head, St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy, Kidsgrove, St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Goldenhill, St Mary's Catholic Academy, Norton, Our Lady & St Benedict Catholic Academy, Abbey Hulton, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph, St Peter's Catholic Academy, Cobridge, St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy, Tunstall



The Newman Catholic Collegiate is a group of nine schools dedicated to working together for the common good. St. Margaret Ward, one of these schools, exemplifies our commitment to preparing primary students for high school. We take immense pride in the outstanding opportunities St. Margaret Ward offers, enabling our young people to thrive and reach their full potential.

Our approach to school improvement is both Christ-centered and child-centered, deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching. We actively involve our parishes and communities in our work, believing that well-implemented academy structures foster the common good and provide the best path to future Catholic educational excellence. By supporting the Diocesan vision, we aim to achieve more collectively as a Catholic community.

Our schools lead improvements by providing time, space, and opportunities for great teachers to learn from one another. Cross-phase collaboration among our teachers ensures the delivery of the best possible 2-19 Catholic education. Central systems are in place to alleviate administrative burdens, allowing schools to focus on improvement. Our three-year strategy emphasises collaboration, best practices, and

shared initiatives across the Collegiate, forming the golden thread of impact that underpins all our efforts.

Children and young people in our schools deserve Catholic excellence and a curriculum that supports their fullest expression and formation. Our teachers drive curriculum improvement with Christ at the centre of everything we do. Guided by our mission, we strive to grow together for life, working with all our communities.

St. Margaret Ward, led by Principal Mr. McKenna, boasts a dedicated team of teachers and a supportive school community that collaborates with families to understand each child's unique needs. Every child is special, and our mission demands the relentless pursuit of Catholic excellence through shared Gospel values for all Newman children. We believe that our family of schools represents the future of Catholic education and are committed to sharing and learning from others.



Ian Beardmore, CEO,
The Newman Catholic Collegiate

At St Margaret Ward we are strongly committed to the values and principles of the Catholic Church.

Whilst we are a diocesan school, our commitment to gospel values is enriched through the charism of Saint Jean Baptist de la Salle due to our long-established association with the Lasallian network of schools. Through his teachings, we seek to identify and praise the presence of God in all people and throughout the whole school environment and its wider community. We very much believe in the premise of our students entering our school to learn and leaving ready to serve the world around them as responsible, successful, confident and caring young adults.

Christ is at the centre of our daily routine; every day we celebrate the uniqueness of all our young people and support them in their journey of self-reflection and self-regulation to become the very best versions of themselves that they can be in all areas of their lives. Through our "St Margaret Ward Way", we nurture and develop our students by providing exceptional pastoral care, instilling high standards of behaviour and building strong relationships based on trust and mutual respect. Each day begins with our unique "Signum Fidei" (faith filled) time during which each student joins with their peers to pray and reflect on the world around them. This daily opportunity for prayer and reflection is accompanied by weekly assemblies and regular liturgical celebrations led by our School Chaplain, supported by local clergy and are truly reflective of our inclusive community.



Teaching Minds

Expectations are exceptionally high at St Margaret Ward and from the moment a student joins us, they are encouraged to fulfil their academic potential and become extraordinary individuals. All children are supported and challenged in their learning across the whole of our Teaching Minds curriculum, no matter what their ability.

Everyone in the Academy is committed to excellent teaching and to developing rigorous courses that are based on knowledge that is considered to be the best of what has been thought and said in each subject area. Our curriculum is broad, balanced, engaging and suitable to each individual's needs. We are proud of our Collegiate approach which ensures that curriculum content flows naturally and progressively from Key Stage 2 to 3 and at all stages of education we strive to ensure that every student is well prepared for the next part of their education and for the eventual world of employment. Please refer to our school website for a more detailed overview of our academic curriculum.

Each year we celebrate extremely high standards of achievement at Key Stages 4 and 5. We are always exceptionally proud of our young people and the vast array of GCSEs, A Levels and vocational qualifications they achieve which equip them well for their future.

Touching Hearts

The Touching Hearts curriculum at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy is a bespoke curriculum that encompasses all areas of formation, including RSE, PSHE and CIEAG. It is delivered through assemblies, Fidei time, timetabled lessons, calendared sessions and ad hoc presentations where appropriate.

We are proud to work with a variety of partners and agencies who support us in delivering this curriculum. These include: NSPCC, Careers Enterprise Council, Quality in Careers, Red Cross, Public Health, CAFOD, New Vic Theatre, local employers, local sports providers, Younger Minds, NCS, Higher Horizons and KMF (this list is not exhaustive).

Our exciting curriculum and high expectations extend to learning and activities beyond the normal classroom setting and outside of the usual school day. Our Touching Hearts curriculum offers all students the chance to develop their knowledge and understanding of themselves as young adults and responsible citizens: personally, socially and economically. In addition, there is a wide range of extra-curricular lunchtime and after school clubs to which all students are welcome to attend and thereby extend their learning and foster life-long interests. These include faith-based activities, curriculum-based wider learning opportunities, sporting clubs and opportunities across the arts.

Educational visits are a regular and valuable aspect of our curriculum offer, providing students with a range of exciting and interesting experiences that complement their academic study, sporting potential and artistic performance. Our Catholic life is enhanced with extra-curricular activities and visits, including many charitable events, reflective retreats, an annual sixth form pilgrimage to Lourdes and a commitment to the Lasallian World Developing Project.

We also offer a number of extended services at either end of the day to help and support our students with their learning and vibrant and exciting activity programme during school holidays.

Sixth Form

At the end of Year 11, many of our students move in to our Trinity Sixth Form that is a collaborative arrangement with St Thomas More Catholic Academy and St John Fisher Catholic College. Students have access to a wide range of A Level courses, alternative Level 3 courses and an extensive holistic enrichment programme. Through excellent teaching, bespoke guidance and individual tutoring the majority of our senior students move on to study at some of the country's best universities. Further information regarding the Trinity Sixth Form can be obtained from the school website: stmargaretward.co.uk



LET US REMEMBER WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy

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