



Loreto College

ST. ALBANS



FREEDOM JUSTICE SINCERITY TRUTH JOY



“Students develop into considerate, compassionate, thoughtful and confident young people.”

OFSTED





From the Headteacher

When Mary Ward started to establish schools back in 1610, she encouraged young people to aspire to something “more than ordinary”. Four hundred years later her legacy is 120 Loreto Schools on six different continents. Between them, these educate some 70,000 students, all striving to achieve something more than ordinary. Students who enrol at Loreto College in St Albans are joining a very big family.

All Loreto schools aim to help their students become caring and compassionate citizens of the world, driven by their faith to serve and enhance the communities they live in. So that they can achieve this, our pupils are encouraged to become reflective, resilient and independent young adults. We help them to develop their leadership skills, to broaden their horizons, and to gain the most they possibly can from their studies.

The shared commitment of our pupils, their parents and our staff has ensured that Loreto College has been declared outstanding in its last four inspections by OFSTED. It has also been repeatedly congratulated on the quality of its examination results by the Department for Education. We are delighted by these accolades, and we are immensely proud of the accomplished young adults our students grow into during their time with us.

“The college is an exceptionally safe, caring and supportive environment for learning and personal development. The attitudes of students towards achievement, their relationships with each other and teachers, and their conduct are exemplary.”

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Our Values

Mary Ward, an inspirational sister whose own life was beset by challenges, has provided us with a very clear mission. As in all Loreto Schools, we encourage our students to live out the following values.

FREEDOM

Mary Ward's understanding of freedom flowed from her personal relationship with God and her belief that each one of us, in our ordinary experience of life, has access to God's loving care. This gives us an inner freedom, an openness with others, and a trust in life.

JUSTICE

Justice, as Mary Ward describes it, involves being in harmony with God, with other people and with the whole of creation. This is expressed in "works of justice" - active participation to bring about such harmony. We are challenged "to be seekers of truth and doers of justice".

SINCERITY

Sincerity is an essential characteristic of the personal integrity Mary Ward envisaged. Her ideal was that "we should be such as we appear and appear such as we are".

TRUTH

Closely linked to sincerity is Mary Ward's focus on understanding the profound truth of who we are: a truth that centres fundamentally on the gift of life and the mystery of God.

JOY

Joy, for Mary Ward, is an attitude of mind and a disposition of character which reveals itself in cheerfulness, good humour, optimism, friendliness, courtesy, positive thinking, inner peace, self-acceptance and courage.

"The school is a vibrant, alive and engaging Catholic community. The school excels at providing a community based on Catholic tradition and practice, and this is evident to all who enter the school."

WESTMINSTER DIOCESAN INSPECTION

FREEDOM JUSTICE SINCERITY TRUTH JOY





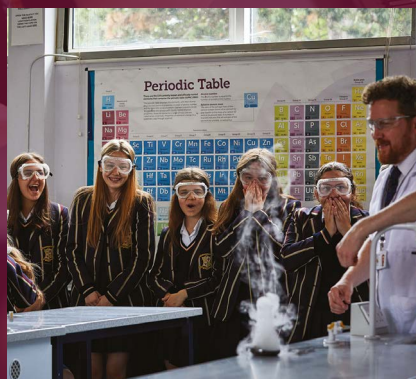
“Do your best,
and God will help.”

MARY WARD



“Students are always thoughtful, keen to share ideas, and use their time productively.”

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Our Curriculum

Loreto pupils are encouraged to develop good behaviour for learning. They are expected to play an active role in lessons and to ask questions which deepen their understanding. Our pupils take pride in their work, and are regularly rewarded with merits and subject prizes. Their progress is carefully monitored and every opportunity is taken to maximise achievement.

At the start of Year 7 pupils are placed into forms named after the five values of Mary Ward. They will remain in these until the end of Year 11. For many of their lessons pupils are taught within these mixed ability tutor groups, but for some they are grouped according to ability. Either way, our focus is always on helping each student to achieve the best she possibly can.

Some GCSE courses begin in Year 9, others in Year 10. The majority of pupils will be prepared for exams in at least nine different subjects. They will make their Sixth Form application at the start of Year 11, and will receive guidance on the different pathways available.

As well as including a range of academic studies, our curriculum also includes lessons on Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education. This includes topics such as friendships, self-esteem, esafety and resilience.

We also offer our students lots of support in their studies through lunchtime clinics, individual tuition, and revision programmes. Teaching Assistants are involved in a significant number of lessons, and also run targeted sessions for students with specific learning difficulties.

“Students of all abilities enjoy their learning and respond readily to the challenges they are set.”

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Our Sixth Form

Students in our Sixth Form can expect to be stretched and challenged in lessons which are stimulating and enjoyable. By choosing to study at Loreto, students are giving themselves an excellent opportunity to become independent, resilient and resourceful young adults. We provide a variety of academic programmes and we welcome applications from aspirational students who want to set themselves up for success.

We have a strong co-educational Sixth Form which is attracting an ever-increasing number of students. Each year we are also joined by a group of international students from across Europe as part of an exchange programme. The enthusiasm and fresh perspectives they bring do much to enhance the college life of all our students. We also work in collaboration with other local schools to provide more flexible access to post-sixteen courses.

High quality pastoral care is central to our philosophy. Students are given all the advice and support they need to make wise choices for the future, appropriately reflecting their strengths, interests and ambitions. Our ethos of hard work and striving for excellence is fundamental to our success. We are justifiably proud of our excellent results in post-16 examinations and of the large number of students who are accepted onto degree courses each year, including some of the most competitive subjects at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

In addition to academic studies, we aim to provide a substantial enrichment programme designed to address the personal and spiritual development of each student. We foster in our students both self-confidence and an independence of mind so that they can approach all of their learning with vigour and enthusiasm. We have always encouraged a commitment to the community and to the service of others, and we expect our Sixth Form students to respond to this by taking on new responsibilities as role models and prefects.

“I believe Loreto College has helped me to grow into a well-rounded and thoughtful person as well as being able to focus on my academic studies.”

HEAD GIRL

“Students are being very well prepared for the next stage of their education because they are taught to be independent, achieve very well, and make a significant contribution to the community.”

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“The Sixth Form
is outstanding.”

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Our School Life

All students are expected to play a full part in the religious life of the school, and are positively encouraged to develop their talents by participating in a range of other enrichment activities.

All pupils are invited to attend Mass in the school chapel every Friday lunchtime. On Holy Days of Obligation we also celebrate a whole school Mass in the nearby Church of St Alban and St Stephen. Our students always fulfil important roles at such events.

During Lent we have a strong focus on fundraising for local, national and international charities. Our students are also heavily involved in JPIC activities (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation). With the help of their teachers, families and friends, each year they promote awareness of various worthy causes, and raise many thousands of pounds for them.

Students can also take part in a variety of other lunchtime activities and after school clubs. These vary in nature from the Gardening Club to Gymnastics to the Debating Society, with participants ranging from complete beginners through to members of national squads.

Our school calendar features a variety of special events. Amongst others, these regularly include music concerts, technology and art showcases, school productions, a drama festival, Forensics Day, STEM days, World Book Day, author visits, and gym and dance displays.

A range of day visits and residential trips also take place each year, with destinations including places such as St Albans Museum, London theatres, the Dorset coast, North Wales, Iceland, Italy and Greece.

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Here you will find supplementary application forms and the latest information relating to admissions criteria, uniform, transport, courses offered, exam results and leaver destinations. Additional information can also be found on our school website www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/admissions

“Students are welcoming, polite, keen to succeed and eager to learn.”

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“All students are able to participate fully in the experiences offered.”

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ST. ALBANS

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