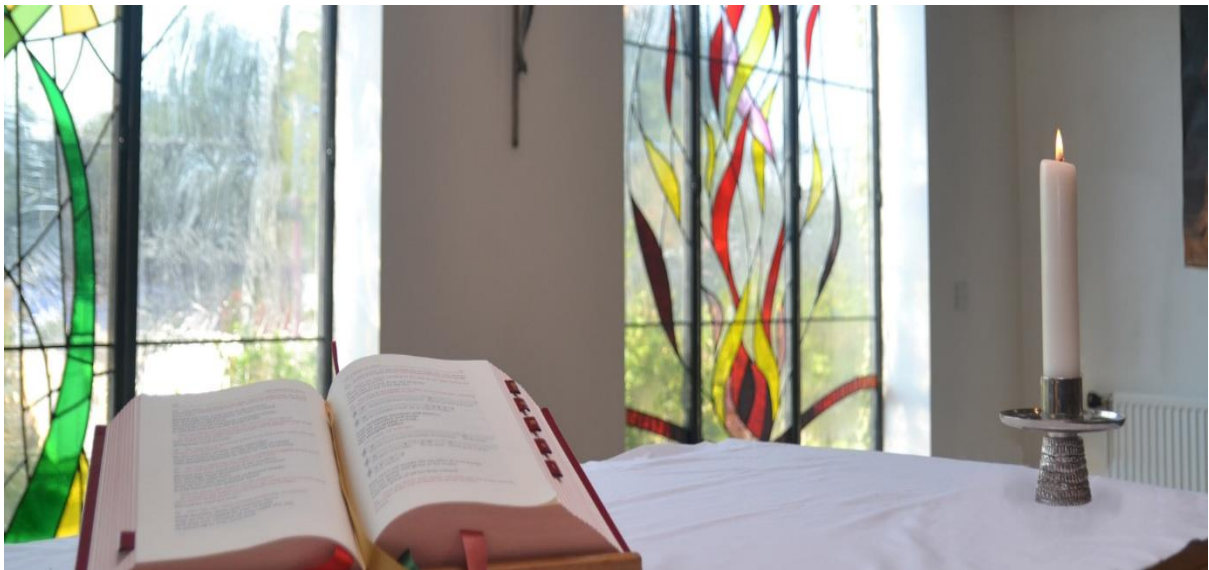




# St Alban's Catholic High School



Applications for Headteacher

Information Pack

Interview Date 24/25 April 2025

*“Lord, that I may serve”*



## **Headteacher Information Pack**

**St Alban's Catholic High School**

**Digby Road**

**Ipswich, Suffolk**

**IP4 3NJ**

### **Welcome from the Chair of Governors**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Headteacher at St Alban's Catholic High School. This information pack provides details about our school, its ethos, achievements, and future aspirations.

We are seeking an exceptional Catholic leader who will build upon our strengths and guide our school community to new heights of excellence, while nurturing the Catholic faith that is at the heart of all we do.

We hope this information gives you an insight into our vibrant school community and inspires you to join us in our mission to provide outstanding Catholic education to the young people of Ipswich and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Phil Dance  
Chair of Governors

## Our School

St Alban's Catholic High School is a thriving secondary school located in Ipswich, Suffolk, serving approximately 1000 students aged 11-18. Founded in 1966 our school has a proud history of providing excellent Catholic education within the Diocese of East Anglia.

As part of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust, we benefit from strong collaborative relationships with other Catholic schools in the region while maintaining our distinct identity and traditions.



## Key Facts

The main school is currently oversubscribed with waiting lists in all years with 59 on the waiting list for admissions Sept 2025. The school is currently fully staffed.

- **Students:** 1009 students aged 11-18
  - **PAN** 174
  - **Composition** Boys 47.6%, Girls 52.4%
  - **EAL** 37 %
  - **SEN** 112 (11%)
  - **Pupil Premium** 189 (19%)
  - **Attendance** 91.9%
- **Staff:** Teaching staff 62 (56 FTE), support staff 42 (33 FTE)

- **Location:** Digby Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 3NJ
- **Ofsted:** Good, January 2020
- **Diocesan Inspection:** Good, September 2019



### **Our Catholic Ethos**

At St Alban's, our Catholic faith permeates all aspects of school life. We are committed to:

- Living out Gospel values in our daily interactions
- Celebrating our Catholic traditions through liturgy, prayer, and sacramental life
- Fostering strong relationships with our local parishes and the wider Catholic community
- Promoting service to others through charitable activities and social justice initiatives
- Supporting the spiritual journey of all members of our community

We welcome students from all faith backgrounds while maintaining our distinctively Catholic character. Our chaplaincy team works closely with local clergy to provide spiritual guidance and opportunities for worship.



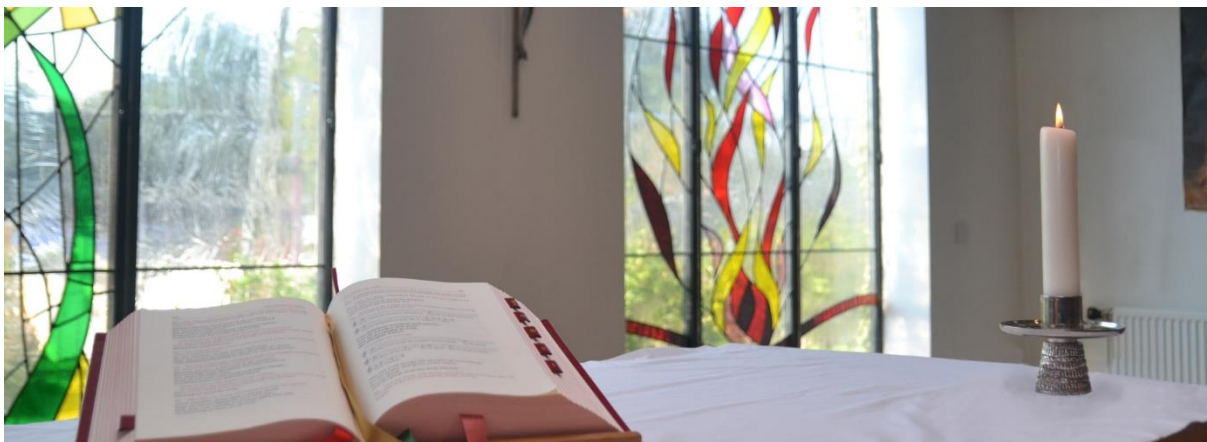


## **Our Support for Staff**

As Headteacher at St Alban's Catholic High School within Our Lady of Walsingham Trust, you would benefit from a comprehensive support network designed specifically for school leaders. The Trust provides dedicated executive leadership mentoring through regular one-to-one sessions with experienced education professionals who offer guidance on strategic challenges and operational decisions. The collaborative framework of Our Lady of Walsingham creates invaluable peer support through termly Headteacher forums where best practices are shared and common challenges addressed collectively.

The Trust's centralised services alleviate administrative burdens in areas such as HR, finance, and estates management, allowing you to focus on educational leadership and school improvement. Professional development is prioritised through bespoke leadership programmes and funded opportunities to pursue national qualifications.

The Catholic ethos of the Trust ensures spiritual support through dedicated chaplaincy services and regular retreats designed specifically for school leaders. A dedicated wellbeing package includes access to confidential coaching and counselling services, recognising the unique pressures of headship. This multi-layered support system within Our Lady of Walsingham Trust would enable you to lead St Alban's with confidence, resilience, and continuous professional growth.



## **Our Vision and Values**

### **Our Mission Statement**

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 Core Values

- **Learning:** We strive to be the best versions of ourselves, created in the image of God. We work hard every day to master the knowledge and skills we need to lead successful, fulfilled lives.
- **Respecting:** We create meaningful work to inspire others. We are independent-minded, creative thinkers and problem-solvers. We respect ourselves and others underpinned by Christian values.
- **Caring:** We are articulate, confident and determined individuals. We work to build the qualities of Resilience, Ambition, Curiosity and the Common Good, flowing from Jesus Christ.

## Academic Excellence

St Alban's is committed to providing a broad, balanced curriculum that challenges and inspires all students to achieve their full potential. Our academic provision includes:

- A rich and varied Key Stage 3 curriculum
- Strong GCSE results across a wide range of subjects
- An excellent Sixth Form offering A-level and vocational pathways
- Support for the most able students and those with additional needs
- A focus on developing independent learning skills
- Strong progression to higher education, including Russell Group universities



## **Pastoral Care**

We pride ourselves on the quality of our pastoral support, which ensures every student is known, valued, and cared for. Our pastoral system includes:

- A dedicated year-based pastoral team
- Form tutors who provide daily support and guidance
- A strong PSHE program addressing contemporary issues
- Effective safeguarding procedures and mental health support
- Close partnerships with parents and external agencies
- Celebration of student achievements both in and out of the classroom

## **Extra-Curricular Life**

St Alban's offers a vibrant program of activities beyond the classroom, enriching students' educational experience and developing their talents and interests:

- Sports teams and competitions
- Music groups and performances
- Drama productions
- Art exhibitions
- STEM clubs and competitions
- Oracy competitions
- Retreat programs and pilgrimages
- Charitable fundraising activities
- Educational visits both locally and internationally



## **Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust**

St Alban's is proud to be part of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust, which brings together Catholic schools across the southern part of the Diocese of East Anglia. The Trust provides:

- A shared Catholic vision and purpose
- Collaborative professional development
- Centralized support services
- Opportunities to share best practice
- A strong voice for Catholic education in the region

The Headteacher will work closely with the Trust CEO, central team and other school leaders to contribute to the ongoing development of Catholic education across the diocese.

## **The Diocese of East Anglia**

The Diocese of East Anglia covers the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough. Led by Bishop Peter the diocese is committed to supporting Catholic education and works closely with schools to preserve and develop their Catholic character.

The Headteacher will collaborate with diocesan education officers and participate in diocesan events and training to strengthen the school's Catholic identity and mission.





## **Living and Working in Ipswich**

Nestled in the heart of Suffolk, Ipswich combines rich historical heritage with vibrant modern development, creating an ideal environment for educational leadership. The town offers exceptional quality of life with its beautiful waterfront, excellent connectivity to London and Cambridge, and more affordable housing compared to neighbouring regions. Beyond the town itself, the surrounding Suffolk countryside provides stunning natural landscapes, from the heritage coastline to picturesque rural villages. The area boasts outstanding cultural amenities including Christchurch Mansion, the New Wolsey Theatre, and numerous festivals celebrating local arts and heritage. Families thrive here with access to excellent schools, diverse recreational facilities, and strong community networks. For an ambitious headteacher, Ipswich presents the perfect balance: a supportive community that values education, combined with the professional opportunities of a growing regional centre, all within a setting that offers both urban convenience and natural beauty.



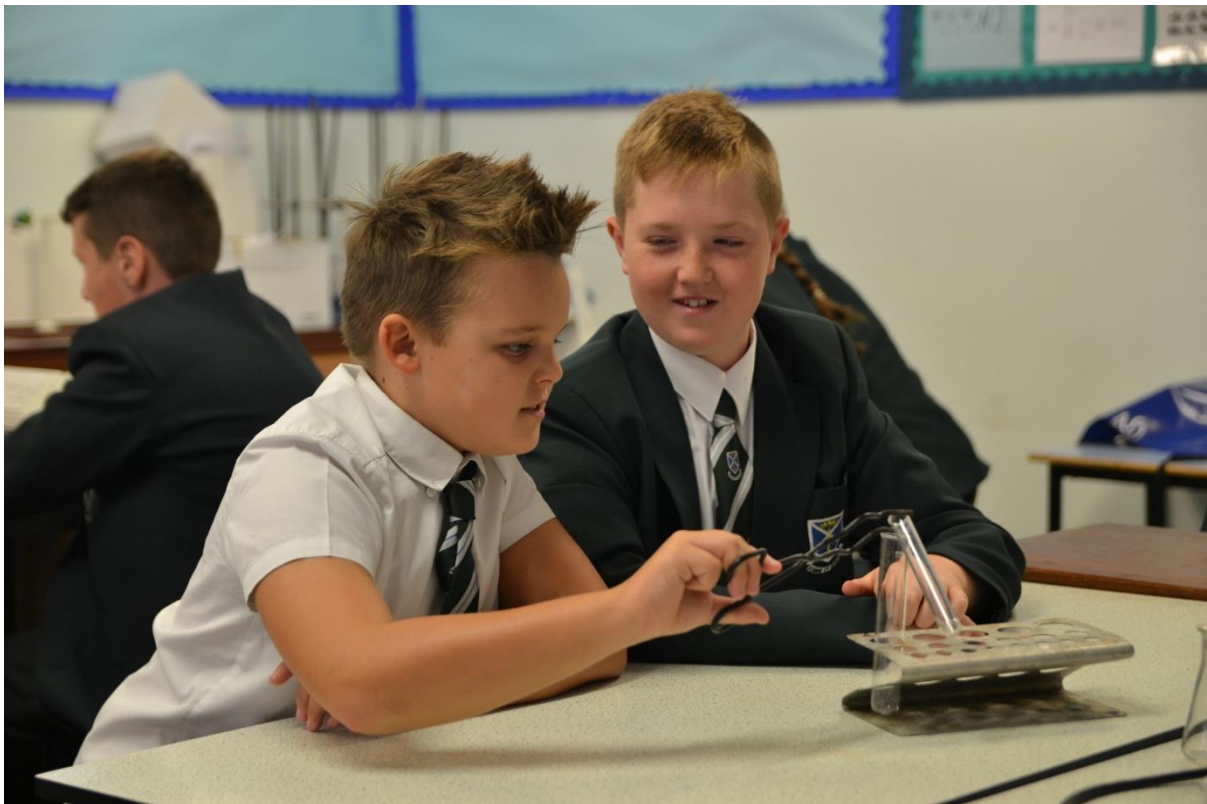
## **Our Strategic Priorities**

Looking ahead, the Governing body and the school leaders have identified the following priorities for development:

- To enhance the distinctive Catholic nature of our school.
- To ensure every child and young person receives the very best education so that they are empowered to develop, learn and achieve.

- To develop and embed sustainable, high quality and robust leadership in the school.
- To strengthen engagement between our school and its community
- To achieve excellence in facilities, staffing, professional development and resourcing

The new Headteacher will play a crucial role in shaping and implementing this vision in partnership with governors, staff, students, and parents.



### **The Headteacher Role**

We are seeking an exceptional Catholic leader who will:

- Uphold and develop the school's Catholic ethos and mission
- Provide inspirational leadership to staff and students
- Drive continuous improvement in teaching and learning
- Manage resources effectively and sustainably
- Build strong relationships with all stakeholders
- Represent the school within the Trust, Diocese, and wider community

The successful candidate will have:

- A lived commitment to Catholic education and values
- A proven track record of successful leadership in education
- The vision and determination to build on our strengths
- The ability to inspire and motivate others
- A deep understanding of effective teaching and learning
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills

## **Application Process**

### **Key Dates**

- Closing Date: 3 April 2025 (noon)
- Shortlisting: 4 April 2025
- Interviews: 24/25 April 2025

### **How to Apply**

To apply for this position, please complete the application on the MyNewTerm website

Your application will include:

- A completed CES application form
- Names and contact details of three referees, including your current employer and a priest who can testify to your commitment to Catholic education

In case of difficulties with the application process please contact Lisa Gittins at the school. [lgittins@stalbans-staff.org](mailto:lgittins@stalbans-staff.org)

### **Selection Process**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a selection process that will include:

- Panel interviews with governors, Trust representatives, and Diocesan officials
- Presentations to staff and students
- Tours of the school
- Strategic Development Task
- Data analysis exercise
- Meeting with the leadership team

## **Further Information**

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Flavio Vettese, our CEO, by emailing [srahman@olow.org.uk](mailto:srahman@olow.org.uk)

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Lisa Gittins [lgittins@stalbans-staff.org](mailto:lgittins@stalbans-staff.org) to arrange a visit.

Additional information about St Alban's Catholic High School can be found on our website [www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk)

St Alban's Catholic High School and Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

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*"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10*