



St Alban's Catholic High School

Candidate Information Pack 2026/27



St Alban's Catholic High School
Digby Road
Ipswich
IP4 3NJ

www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk

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LETTER FROM HEADTEACHER



Dear Candidate,

I would like to warmly welcome you and thank you for expressing an interest in this post. I hope you will find the post attractive and feel encouraged to apply.

At St Alban's, we believe we provide a rich educational environment for each student. We also believe that the traditional values of courtesy and consideration are essential and our community is ordered, structured and well-disciplined but within a frame work of caring for each individual.

Christ is at the heart of our school. Our motto '*Love God, Love Our Neighbour, Love Learning*' resonates with our distinctiveness as a Catholic school and our students are at the heart of everything we do.

The dedicated staff are well supported by our experienced Local Governing Body. Our aim to achieve the best possible education for all our children can only be realised in partnership with parent/carers and the community.

A genuine enthusiasm for the promotion of students' learning is essential for the post and it is important to note that, whilst being Catholic is not a prerequisite for this role, a willingness to be supportive of the Christian ethos is necessary.

Your application should include a supporting statement which addresses the following:

- How your experience relates to the requirements of the job description/person specification
- Your own personal philosophy of education
- Specific skills that you can bring to the role and the school
- Any other supporting information you wish to draw to our attention

The school is committed to the safeguarding of children and young people. We expect any prospective member of staff to provide three separate forms of evidence of identity (passport, birth certificate, utilities bill, driving licence, for example) and to provide evidence of 'Right to Work in the UK' together with proof of academic qualifications included in any application. Successful candidates will be made an offer of employment subject to pre-employment checks including an enhanced DBS check. Further details of the DBS code of practice, registration and application process can be found here: [DBS code of practice - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dbt-code-of-practice)

Full details of the application process and the necessary forms can be found on mynewterm.

If you require further information or have any questions relating to your application, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Gittins (Headteacher's EA) at: lgittins@stalbans-staff.org

Yours faithfully

Mr S N Corless
Headteacher

MISSION STATEMENT

Love God, Love Our Neighbour, Love Learning

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.

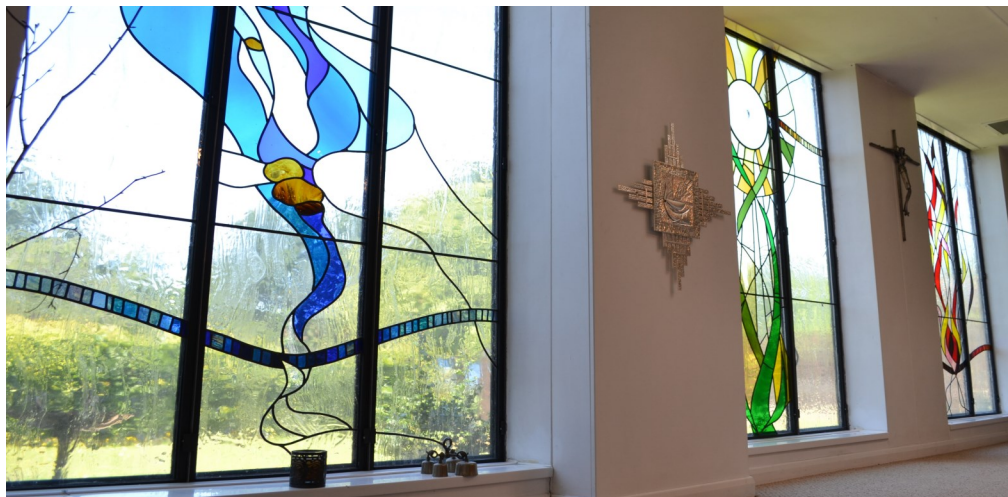
Our Strategy

To recognise that each individual student and member of staff is a unique creation in the image of God, and deserves to be valued equally.

To follow Christ's example by providing a living testimony to the goodness and presence of God and so to prepare our students for a fuller participation as followers of Christ in the life of their community.

To develop effective leadership throughout all levels of the staffing structure and to use this to create a successful teaching environment where high expectations of students, staff and governors are met.

To provide full opportunity for our students to develop their individual talents and build a strong foundation for their future.



INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

School Structures

Our Day

The school day is arranged around four 75-minute periods across a two-week cycle. There is a 20-minute form period in the morning during which time some year groups will have an assembly. A weekly Mass and Department Briefing takes place every Wednesday and a Staff Briefing every Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Pastoral System

There are 6 Tutor Groups per year for KS3 and KS4 with a Head of Year for each year group. In Sixth Form, there are also 8 Tutor Groups, which has grown from 6 in the previous year, combining Years 12 and 13 students. The Head of Sixth Form is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is supported by a Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Each Key Stage also has a Student Support Lead/Manager.

Students and staff are also placed into one of six houses which take part in competitions and raise funds for charity each year. This resonates with our commitment to support the poor and marginalised as well as working with several local community initiatives.

Student Leadership

A number of Sixth Form students have whole-school leadership roles (Head Boy and Head Girl see below) and are supported by prefects in Years 10 and 11. Student ambassadors for each house lead their fundraising efforts. Students are able to be part of Student Voice and Sixth Form students can apply to work as Midday Assistants and help by mentoring younger students through peer supporting. Many of our students who engage in these activities grow not only in spirit but confidence as young men and women ready for the next stage in their lives.



INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

On Roll

We have 1000 students on roll (Autumn 2025/26). Our PAN is 174 in each year group 7-11 and there is a waiting list for every year group.

Staffing

We have 91 experienced and specialist staff working at St Alban's (including 35 Support Staff), with a balance of long-service experienced members of staff together with newer colleagues to our team and those just starting out on their teaching career.

St Alban's operates a broad structure which allows for a more efficient line management system. The sharing of best practice and innovation is encouraged by coordinating improvements through the Head of Department.

Senior Leadership Team

The current structure of the Senior Leadership Team is as follows:

Mr S Corless	Headteacher
Mrs J Block	Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum, CPPD
Mr A Millington	Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour and Engagement Lead
Mr M Mirshemirani	Assistant Headteacher: Head of Sixth Form
Mrs S Morris	Assistant Headteacher: Achievement, Careers
Mrs A Harries	Associate Leader: Safeguarding Lead
Mrs C Pickard	Associate Leader: SENCO

Local Governing Body

Our Governors meet regularly to monitor and support the work of the school. Governors are also allocated specialist areas of the school for which they liaise with school staff and complete termly monitoring visits, as well as reports for the Local Governing Body.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Multi-Academy Trust

The school is proud member of **Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi-Academy Trust** with the following schools:

- St Alban's Catholic Primary Cambridge
- St Benedict's Catholic High Bury St Edmunds
- St Felix Roman Catholic Primary School, Haverhill
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich
- St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Ipswich
- St Laurence Catholic Primary School, Cambridge
- St Louis Catholic Academy, Newmarket
- St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Ipswich

Premises

St Alban's is situated in the peaceful outskirts of Ipswich. We have good buildings on a decent, secure site. The main school was built in the 1960s with the original Sixth Form and Science buildings added in 1998. The Arts and Humanities building, Sports Hall and new contemporary purpose-built Sixth Form building have been added in the last ten years.



Catholic Life

We have a full-time Lay Chaplain and the local parish priest plays an important role in supporting the school. There is an active prayer life with each day starting with staff prayer and student prayer in form time or assembly. A substantial calendar of events runs throughout the year with retreats, reflection days, house masses, and other celebrations at key times in the church's year. Students are encouraged to take part in these events which we see as a key element of their educational experience.

Each Wednesday, students are invited to celebrate Mass together. This allows students to pray and reflect on the Word of God and to receive the Eucharist. All students are welcome irrespective of their faith tradition.



INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Curriculum at St Alban's Catholic High School

At St Alban's Catholic High School, our curriculum is designed to be ambitious, inclusive and knowledge-rich, rooted in our core mission: Love God, Love Our Neighbour, Love Learning. Our approach is underpinned by our published Curriculum Intent, which emphasises a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum, promoting inclusivity, accessibility and high expectations for all learners.

We are committed to developing students who are knowledge-rich, intellectually curious, and morally grounded. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced across Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9), Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) and Key Stage 5 (Years 12-13) to ensure coherence and progression, enabling students to build secure foundations and apply their knowledge confidently across a range of contexts. This is supported by evidence-informed practices such as retrieval practice, explicit teaching, and regular formative assessment, leading to strong long-term retention and understanding.

Disciplinary literacy is a key priority across all subject areas, ensuring students develop the ability to read, write, and communicate effectively within each discipline. This enables all learners to access the full curriculum and participate meaningfully in academic discussion, reflecting our commitment to both excellence and equity.

Key Stage 3 and 4

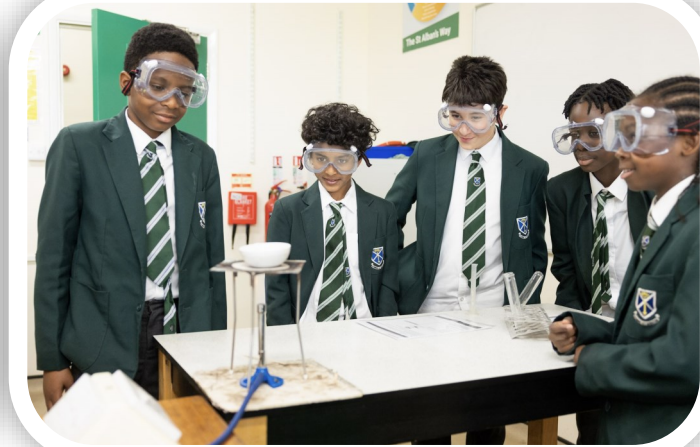
In Years 7-9, students follow a rich and carefully structured curriculum that provides both breadth and depth across the full range of subjects. This ensures that all learners develop the core knowledge and skills required for future success.

In Years 10 and 11, students study a combination of core subjects and personalised option choices, allowing them to shape their learning in line with their interests and aspirations. The options process is carefully designed to support students in making informed decisions, providing meaningful insight into subjects before final choices are made. This ensures continuity in learning and protects valuable curriculum time in Key Stage 4.

Sixth Form (Key Stage 5)

Our Sixth Form offers a friendly, inclusive and aspirational environment, where students are supported to flourish both academically and personally. The curriculum is designed to bridge the gap between school and the wider world, preparing students for university, apprenticeships or employment.

Students follow an individualised programme of study, typically comprising A Level subjects chosen to reflect their interests and future ambitions. Alongside a broad range of academic courses, students benefit from enrichment opportunities such as the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), leadership roles and community engagement.



THE LOCAL AREA



Ipswich

With a population of approximately 148,000 the county town of Suffolk, is located on the estuary of the River Orwell, about 66 miles from London and only a 15 minute drive from the coast. There are also good road and rail links.

Ipswich is one of the oldest towns in the country and is steeped in old English history. The historic town boasts a number of listed buildings including Christchurch Mansion and the Old Custom House on the Waterfront.

The University of Suffolk is situated on the Waterfront and followers of football will be aware of Ipswich Town Football Club also known as 'The Tractor Boys' and now in the premier league!

The Waterfront

The Waterfront is an up and coming hub for the social scene in Ipswich with a number of cafes, bars, restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues.

Arts, Culture and Entertainment

Ipswich offers a thriving arts and culture scene with a number of places to visit such as The New Wolsey Theatre, The Regent and The Corn Exchange — all great venues hosting big name comedians, live music and theatre shows.

'Cardinal Park', a short walk from the Waterfront, provides a 'Cineworld' complex, a variety of restaurants and fast food chains.

The 'Buttermarket' complex in the heart of Ipswich has recently undergone a huge development with the opening of a gym, 'Empire' cinema, bowling and several great restaurants.

Shopping

You will find a number of well know chain and big brand stores in the centre of Ipswich. There are also many independent boutiques worth exploring in the Waterfront area.

The town also has several large retail parks on the outskirts offering a number of restaurants, fast-food outlets, bowling and the new trend for trampoline parks!



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