



# ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



## Prospectus

# 2023-24



*Welcome to our school*



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# Headteacher's Welcome

I would like to welcome and introduce you to Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

Our mission says:

***'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10)***

and we believe that every student here can achieve great things wherever their skills and talents lie.

Students tell us that the time they spend here is very special. Within our caring community new skills are learnt, knowledge increased, new friends made and futures planned. When students look back before they leave us to go to university, college, an apprenticeship or employment, they are frequently amazed at what they have achieved and how they have developed as a confident young adult.

As a prospective student, parent or carer we encourage you to visit our school, look around and please contact us if you would like to know more.

*Mrs C Vile*

**Headteacher**



When I stand before God at the end of my life,  
I would hope that I would not have a single bit  
of talent left, and could say,  
'I used everything you gave me'.

Erma Bombeck



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL





Ellesmere Port Catholic High School is a school with a unique sense of community, where every student is known, where there is exemplary student behaviour, a culture built on striving for excellence and where there are exceptionally high aspirations for everyone.



*Leaders and staff place as much emphasis on pupils' personal development as they do on academic achievement. Most pupils are confident and well-mannered."*

**Ofsted June 2021**

## Catholic Ethos

Students will be successful when they feel secure and happy at school. At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School we provide an environment where all members of our school are encouraged to develop their spiritual, moral, academic and physical potential in a caring community.

- ❖ *We treat each other with respect.*
- ❖ *We work hard at all times.*
- ❖ *We take pride in our school community.*
- ❖ *We are a community which encourages confidence, empathy, spiritual awareness and integrity in every person.*
- ❖ *We want students to explore the whole range of their talents and to aspire to and achieve success intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.*

All our students receive lessons in Religious Education and have the opportunity for reflection in our Chapel, during retreat trips and by spending time with our School Chaplains.

Justice **Love Hope**

Courage **Faith Service**

Community **Reconciliation**



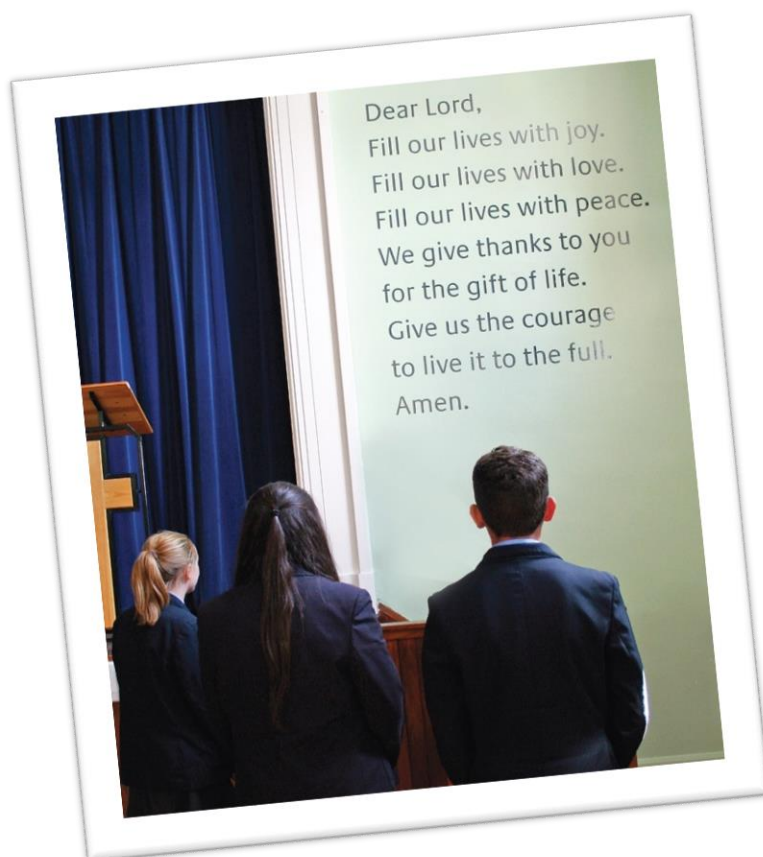
*“...committed to the school’s mission that pupils should ‘have life and have it to the full’.”*

Ofsted June 2021



*“Pupils support many local charities and community organisations. They are keen to serve the local community in Ellesmere Port.”*

**Ofsted June 2021**



# Academic Learning

We aim to provide students with a curriculum that has breadth and depth. It is challenging and, most of all, engaging and enjoyable.

We provide:

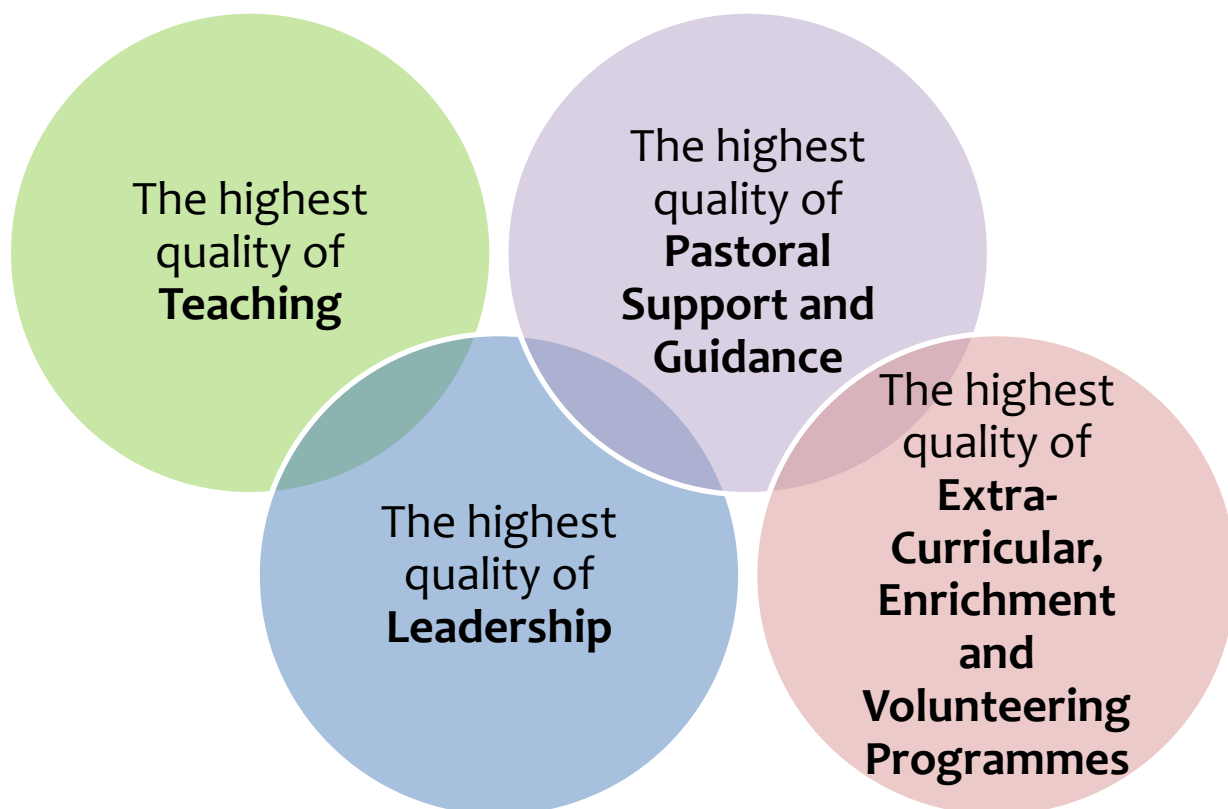
- A strong Catholic ethos
- Excellent leadership at all levels
- Excellent teaching by all staff
- Consistently stimulating lessons and a rich and varied curriculum offering opportunities for all abilities
- Student reviews to track and monitor achievement and progress



Above all, we aim to provide for students' academic learning, wellbeing and safeguarding needs.

***“Pupils study all subjects in depth.”***

**Ofsted June 2021**



Our curriculum includes taught lessons, applied learning visits and residential experiences against a background of working in a Catholic, Christian community founded upon the teaching of Christ in the Gospels. The promotion of British values is incorporated into the ethos of the school.

The curriculum reflects the National Curriculum and our belief in the need for a curriculum which has breadth and depth. We know this to be the best means of assisting the young people in our care to grow as rounded and complete individuals, with an understanding of their own gifts and of the part they can play in the world.

Year 7 students will study Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish, History, Geography, Physical Education, Music, Art, Design and Technology, ICT/Computing and Drama.

There are a number of opportunities available to students throughout their time in school to participate in day visits and overnight stays on curriculum-based activities, holidays and retreats directed towards spiritual and personal development.

***“Leaders’ work to promote pupils’ personal development is strong.”***

**Ofsted June 2021**



All students take part in daily prayer time and Liturgical celebrations both weekly on a voluntary basis and at particular significant points in the Liturgical year.

Students are safe and feel safe at all times. They understand how to keep themselves and others safe outside of school.

***“The school’s staff form a strong team, committed to pupils’ education and well-being.”***

**Ofsted June 2021**



In Year 7 students study a wide range of subjects

- ❖ Religious Education
  - ❖ Mathematics
    - ❖ English
      - ❖ Sciences
        - ❖ Geography
          - ❖ History



- ❖ ICT/Computing
  - ❖ Physical Education (PE)
    - ❖ Performing Arts (Drama and Music)
      - ❖ Design and Technology (D&T)
        - ❖ Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
          - ❖ Personal Development
            - ❖ Art

# Personal Development / Enrichment / Extra-Curricular

Personal Development at EPCHS provides students with the knowledge, skills, dispositions and habits to promote and support them in leading healthy, happy and fulfilling adult lives. We ensure they are understanding of their safety, beyond the school gate through the gospel values which define our school's ethos. Promoting dignity and self-worth, recognising achievement, promoting justice and peace, sharing in the life of the community, and encouraging tolerance, patience, forgiveness and trust; we ensure there is a genuine concern for empathy, cooperation and understanding. Through the teachings of Jesus Christ, we provide opportunities to learn more than before and engage in the challenges of a 21<sup>st</sup> century world with positivity, character and resilience.

Extra-curricular activities broaden still further the opportunities for young people to grow and to experience success.

At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School we are extremely proud of the opportunities that we offer, whether this is part of our curriculum or through the wide range of activities, clubs, courses, fixtures, trips and residential experiences available to all students. It is testimony to the effort and commitment of so many staff that we can provide such a wide range of extra-curricular activities on a regular basis.

❖ Citizenship

❖ Character Building

❖ Enrichment

❖ Student  
Leadership

❖ STEM



❖ Relationships &  
Sex Education

❖ Careers

❖ Safety (Personal /  
Online)

❖ Oracy

❖ Student Council

All our Year 7 pupils are encouraged to attend a whole year residential at the Menai Centre in North Wales.



Students are encouraged to take part in the many extra-curricular activities available after school. There is a wide range of sports for both boys and girls including netball, badminton, rugby, football, gymnastics and basketball.

Other clubs and activities include Drama club, Music club, Arts club, Robotics, Debating club, Science club, and representation on the School Council.

We like to take every opportunity to showcase our student talents. They perform in weekly school assemblies and also at whole school events such as our annual Carol Service, Presentation Event and in school productions. Recent productions have included 'Grease', 'The Wiz' and the spectacular 'Matilda the Musical Jr' at Theatre Porto.



*“There is a well-planned personal development programme. It includes specific lessons, assemblies and themes than span subjects. Pupils learn what it means to be a citizen in modern Britain. They learn to respect people who are different from themselves. They learn how to keep themselves safe.”*

**Ofsted June 2021**



# Awards



**Eco School** - This programme empowers young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond and celebrates their ecological achievements.

**Climate Empowerment and Sustainability Award** – This award was won by the school for our commitment to developing a sustainable environment within our school community.



**Wow Recognition Award**

**Young Enterprise Innovation Award** - This award was won by Year 12 Business students for their innovative idea 'Gift a Mood' at the North West Business Awards.



**Music Mark Award** - Awarded by the Arts Council England and The UK association for Music Education, Music education at EPOCHS in 2022-2023 was awarded 'The Music Mark' in recognition of the commitment to providing a high quality music education to all children and young people.

**Dyslexia Inclusive Classrooms** - This Quality Mark shows that as a school we provide a framework of support and understanding to ensure that everyone within the school understands the needs of the dyslexic individual and that appropriate resources and strategies for support are available.



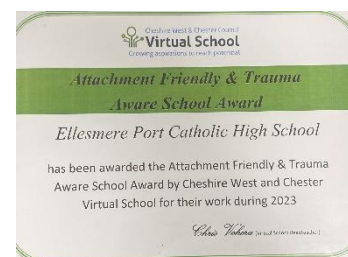
**Bronze STEM award** - Due to the hard work of Mr Hickman our STEM club has been awarded the Bronze Quality Mark, for which we had to demonstrate competence in key areas including, Leadership and Organisation, working with others and evidence of impact.

**Sports Mark Award - Silver** - Our school has been awarded this mark for a number of outcomes including creating positive experiences by ensuring physical activity and competition provision is designed to reflect the motivation, competence and confidence of the students



**School Mental Health Award for Staff and Students** - Achieving this award shows that as a school we support and empower both students and staff who are committed to strengthening mental health and wellbeing for their whole school community

**Attachment Friendly and Trauma Aware School Award** - This award was achieved in recognition of the schools' hard work in understanding the impact of Trauma and Attachment on children and the barriers children can face to accessing education as a result of this.



# Careers Advice and Guidance

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) makes a major contribution to the education of all students. The school provides a stable, structured careers programme of information, advice and guidance for students to learn about employment, the world of work, the skills required and qualification pathways available to them.



Our school achieved Stage Two in working towards the inspiring IAG Gold Award.



## Safeguarding and Students

We get to know all of our students and ensure a smooth transition from primary school. Our Pastoral Leads work closely with each year group, they get to know your child to understand their personality, abilities and social needs.

Students are known and valued as individuals. We know that everyone learns in different ways and progresses at different rates, so we work hard to understand how to support students at every step of their time with us.



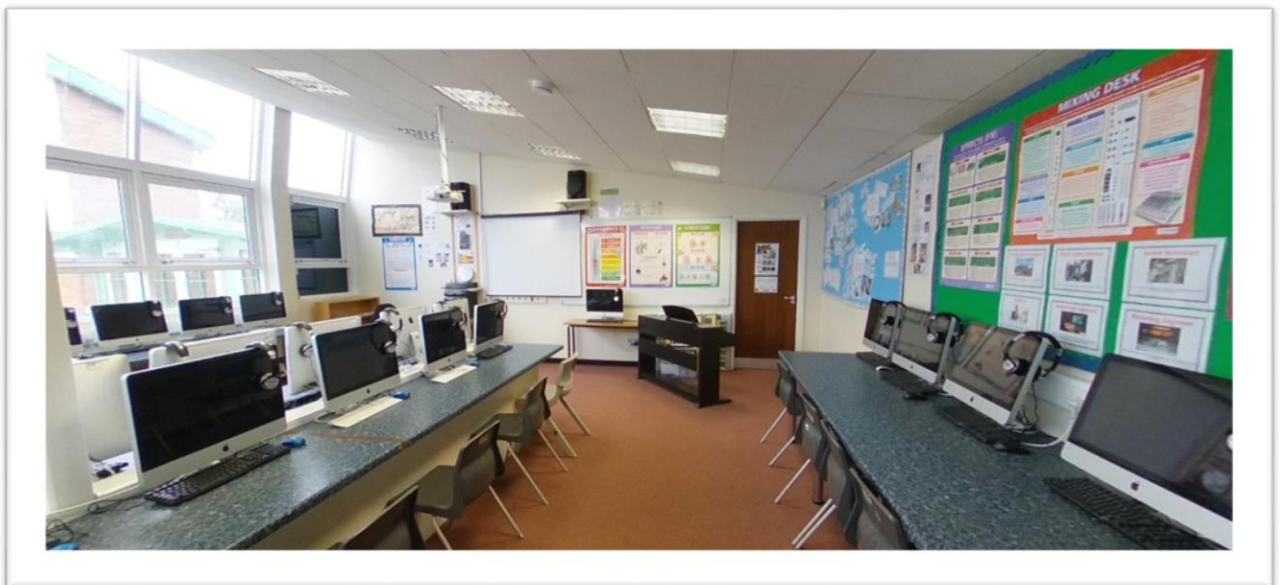
*“Pupils benefit from strong support from staff. As a result, pupils feel safe and know that they are well cared for in school.”*

*The school has a strong culture of care for pupils and for keeping them safe.”*

Ofsted June 2021



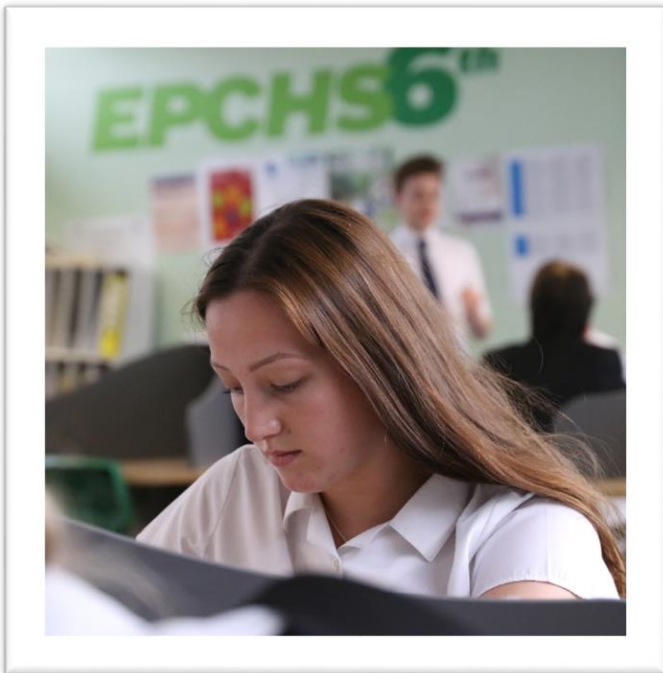
We want all of our students to enjoy their education and we pride ourselves on good, open relationships with home to help make that happen.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form

Our aim is to provide outstanding provision for those in our Sixth Form. Recent A level results show our students can achieve their highest ambitions with students gaining places at university, including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities, TTE apprenticeship programmes and commissions into the armed forces.

Ask for a copy of our Prospectus to learn more about our Sixth Form.



*“Leaders promote the personal development of sixth formers particularly well. Students play a full part in the life of the school. They mentor some younger pupils and help others to improve their reading. As a result, students gain valuable life and employability skills.”*

**Ofsted June 2021**



# Communication with Parents

Communication is a two-way process. We want to keep parents informed of the progress of their children and to share celebrations or any concerns that we may have about behaviour or progress. Likewise, we welcome feedback from parents and the opportunity to discuss any ideas or questions you might have.

Effective home school communication is essential to help support our young people. We make regular contact with parents in the forms of telephone calls, letters, emails and text messages. You will be able to speak with your child's Form Tutor, Pastoral Lead or Subject Teacher for information or support and monitor progress through the Arbor app.



We do make formal arrangements to share information on progress with parents through the reporting system and during parents' and progress evenings. All students are issued with reports from their subject teachers during the year. These will recognise and celebrate areas where progress has been made and will provide a number of suggestions or actions that will secure the next steps towards further progress in each subject.

Parents' evenings are held for every year group each year when parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with their Subject Teachers, Form Tutor and Pastoral Lead. You will be formally invited to your child's parents evening near the time and a calendar of events will be published on the website at the start of each new academic year. Additionally, we have a Year 7 progress evening in the first half term to ensure students have settled into life at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School.

Updates on what is happening across the school are regularly posted on our website, Twitter, Facebook page and weekly parent bulletin.

*"... It's incredible. I can't fault the school or the teachers at all..."*

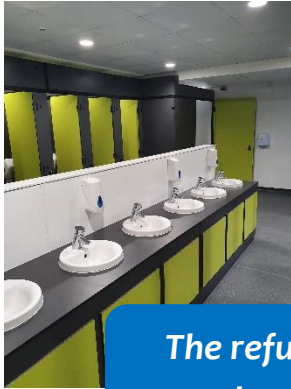
EPCHS Parent

*"... Just wanted to say thank you so much to all the staff and teachers. We know that the support given, especially over the last 18 months has been invaluable."*

EPCHS Parent

## Some of our facilities...

Please come for a look around to fully appreciate all our facilities in school...



*The refurbished student toilets*



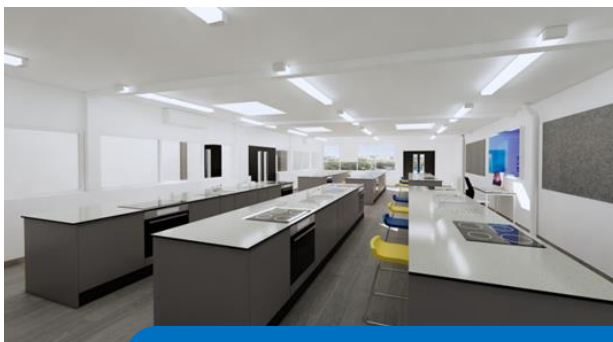
*The Library has been fully refurbished and extended over the Summer*



*Our catering pods have been a great success, providing our students with refreshments throughout the day. Picnic benches are available.*



*Our Sports Hall offers facilities for sports such as football, basketball, netball and many others.*



*The brand new Food Technology classroom has just been finished and is now being used to cook some delicious meals.*



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