

# ABOUT ST AMBROSE COLLEGE

St. Ambrose College in May 2012 changed its status to a State-Funded Independent Catholic Grammar School and in September 2012 began a new era in within its state-of-the-art £24 million pathfinder school which was designed and built to fit its purpose in an innovative way that also reflects the school's ethos.

Established in 1946 by Christian Brothers who had fled the Nazi invasion of the Channel Islands, St. Ambrose is one of Great Britain's leading Catholic grammar schools, with generations of boys achieving consistently strong A Level and GCSE results.

The main teaching block has been built in the round with different academic departments on three levels, looking onto a shared community space for socialising and support. The design of the College allows high visibility and there are collapsible walls to extend or reduce teaching space as necessary. Already an innovative school, with a paperless homework and reporting system and an exciting and flexible virtual learning environment, St. Ambrose has the very latest ICT networked throughout, making the College one of Europe's pioneers.

Adjacent to the main teaching areas there is a stunning sports hall and swimming pool, with space for five basketball courts and an eight-lane 25 metre pool.

Outside there are fabulous playing fields, exciting play environments, a contemplation garden a nature reserve and even a water feature, allowing boys and staff to explore the world around them in their free time.

The school is rich in extra-curricular activities with something for everyone. The main games are rugby, cricket, athletics and cross-country, but there are many others with new sporting activities introduced this year. With the introduction of our new 25 metre swimming pool, all boys will be involved within the College swimming programme.

Boys are actively involved in the liturgical life of the school; a Chaplaincy Team is developing the Catholic Spirituality through liturgical celebration. All boys have the opportunity to take part in retreats during their school career.

There are 950 boys on the school roll, including 200 in the Sixth Form. We are proud to say that most proceed to University, a number to Oxbridge and Cambridge.

We have an annual Speech Day in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, where we celebrate the achievements of our boys. St Ambrose College is a Christian Brother foundation, although now with a lay Head Master and teaching staff. All that is best in the Christian Brothers' tradition is preserved. St Ambrose is, therefore, first and foremost, a Catholic School and a Catholic ethos must exist in our daily life.

Teaching posts are not restricted to Catholics. A very strong contribution is made to the College by teachers who are practising Christians of other denominations, and are sympathetic to the aims and practices of Catholic education. Teachers must be willing to lead assemblies and be involved in other liturgical celebrations.

Examination results place us amongst the highest achieving schools in the country. In particular ALPS place us in the top 1% of the country for A-level results.

# Building Features

## Ground floor

This level provides both pupil and visitor entrances to the school, the school office and the major proportion of specialist areas e.g. design and technology, sport cardio, dining and lecture theatre as well as a direct link to the swimming pool both from the central area and via a separate sports entrance.

The central atrium space is designed as a multi functional space for assembly, theatre style performances and a dining/social area.

## First floor

The first floor level accommodates the balance of specialist areas including science together with music and art.

The first floor also accommodates the sports hall accessed from the ground floor link by either stair or lift.

## Second floor

The second floor houses the library pods, Sixth Form common room and outdoor balcony alongside study areas and ICT classrooms. Every wing is provided with a dedicated ICT room and boys also have access to seven 'cyber cafes' during their free time.

## Internal and External Sports Provision

Sports facilities are contained in the southern wing and extend over two floors. The twenty five metre long, six lane swimming pool sits directly below the sport hall and provides views across the rugby pitches and cricket square. The air conditioned sports hall houses a full size basketball court, cricket nets and four badminton courts. Alongside this is a fitness suite equipped with Concept 2 rowing machines, weights and fitness stations and running machines.

The existing senior rugby pitch and cricket square are maintained in their current location, which maintain the views from Hale Road. These facilities have been supplemented by two further rugby fields to the south of the building, where spectators can view matches from the grassed terrace areas or the viewing balcony.

The outdoor areas will provide additional areas for pupil development with the wetland areas and allotments; there is also a 'trim trail' and exercise area along with traversing walls.

# Eight Essentials

of St Ambrose College  
A Blessed Edmund Rice School

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These are the essentials by which Blessed Edmund developed his first schools in Ireland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Evangelising the Modern World**

“Not keeping the Gospel to ourselves but spreading it to everyone”

**Promoting the Spiritual**

“Awareness of God in the ordinary as well as extraordinary aspects of life”

**Building a Christian Community**

“Community that works and lives together under Christ’s example”

**Compassion for those in Need**

“Sharing in life’s struggles and caring in life’s pain”

**Concern for the Whole Person**

“Caring for every aspect of every person in our school”

**Striving for Excellence**

“Trying to be the best in all that you do  
and in all that you are”

**Education as a Christian Calling**

“Understanding that teaching goes  
beyond the classroom and effects real  
lives”

**Education for Justice**

“Standing up for justice and speaking out  
against injustice”

