



**SERVICE BEFORE SELF**

# **Sacred Heart School**

## **Proposed Free School 2018**

### **Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017



## **Mission Statement**

The Sacred Heart School is a community committed to the education of its pupils within a Catholic Christian ethos, where each person is invited to serve God and others, in faith, hope and love.

We aim to:

Foster growth in Christian faith and values

Value, appreciate and enjoy learning

Work for excellence

Further curiosity and creativity

Aspire to high ideals

The Sacred Heart School is a Charity run by the Daughters of Divine Charity. The School welcomes pupils of all faiths and backgrounds providing there is sympathy for the Catholic education and ethos.

Our aim is to achieve happiness and excellence through our mission statement and offer our pupils an education for life. We offer an exciting, yet balanced all round education with many opportunities for pupils to foster special talents in our school community and benefit from the friendly atmosphere where every child is known as an individual by staff and other pupils.

When your child leaves the school at the end of Y11 they will have gained in confidence and been given the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Year 7 is an exciting time for all pupils, even those who have been at the school for many years. It is a time for greater independence and a commitment to developing the whole personality and taking responsibility.

## **The Prize Giving Speech Given by the Head Girl Niamh Hodges, November 2015**

I would like to begin by both thanking everyone for joining us on such a wonderful occasion and by also welcoming Mr Stuart Nicholson, a close friend of the Sacred Heart who is principal at Cambridge Centre for Sixth-Form Studies. Stuart has graduated from Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge and is currently Chair of the CIFE, the National Association of Independent Sixth Form Colleges and is Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Association. Therefore, it is an absolute privilege to have someone so well-respected within the education sector with us this evening and we hope he has enjoyed the prize-giving and seen the rich talent amongst the pupils here. Of course, we also wish to offer our congratulations to each of the pupils both past and present who have been recognised for their achievements at school. The vast array of prizes and awards that have been given this evening is evidence of the diversity of talents that are present in our school.

There are not only awards for academic merit, but also for those who are talented in the arts or sports, showing how all pupils have an incredible opportunity to display and cultivate these gifts, whether it be in one of the many sports teams or entering the various arts and crafts competitions offered. Having been at this school since I was three, I have been privileged to see the school evolve and blossom in a way that not only enables each pupil to develop their strengths but has also encouraged us to overcome personal challenges, thereby ensuring that each child that walks through the open and welcoming doors of this school, leaves, feeling confident, accepted and valued. It is this ethos of our school, that each pupil has a talent or quality that makes them special and unique that I am particularly proud to be a part of. As the Sacred Heart is such a tight-knit community, staff and pupils alike, are able to acknowledge each pupils personal achievements as, put simply, ‘everyone knows everyone’.

Attending an event like this triggers a reflection on my time at the school and my personal achievement. There have been so many incredible opportunities available to me that would have not existed elsewhere, such as work experience in Prague, silver service, ski trips; the list goes on. Other students have also been able to compete at county level in various sports, complete dance and LAMDA accreditations, again the list goes on. It is these unparalleled, one-off experiences that facilitate the personal growth of each pupil to become well-rounded, open-minded and caring people. Qualities which are invaluable for life.

My time here has also been one of a kind, not just in 'out of school' activities and retreats but within the classroom. The teachers are always finding interesting and diverse ways of teaching a lesson; learning about Alternating Current and Direct Current - Why not play some ACDC? It's small thing like that, that help you remember information when you really need it.

When considering the ways in which the school has allowed each child to flourish, and achieve their ultimate potential, we realise the exceptional skill, passion and drive of our staffing body who have such a profound impact on each of us. Every teacher educates us. Yet, it is the way in which the Sacred Heart staff go above and beyond what is expected, genuinely provoking interest in his or her subject, offering additional support whenever we need it, and providing us with the knowledge, determination and enthusiasm necessary to allow us to reach the highest possible standards that makes the Sacred Heart an amazing place to study and learn. It is the work of our dedicated teachers that has resulted in an environment where each student feels comfortable and assured in the classroom. We are encouraged by our peers to fulfil the best of our ability and we are not mocked or belittled for achieving higher or lower grades, but are instead congratulated, reassured or offered extra help from our own classmates. Furthermore, we cannot overlook the emotional support that is provided by our teachers

who sincerely care about whether we are content, happy or facing difficulties. Struggles are inevitable, but what we learn here at the Sacred Heart, is that failing to overcome them is not. We are given advice and guidance during our time at the Sacred Heart that I know I will carry with me for life.

The school is clearly one-of-a-kind, particularly because of the spiritual and religious element of our school. There are many factors which make these buildings more than a school, however, it is perhaps the Christian values and sense of faith that can be felt throughout the place many of us like to call our second home that makes it such a loving, secure and joyful environment. It is faith in God that has formed the immensely strong foundations of this school, when the sisters from Austria first arrived in 1914 and despite the mountain of adversities, they formed the Sacred Heart School which has thrived for over a century. Whilst our school will see centuries more of pupils that experience the unique education it offers, unfortunately, our time individually at the school is limited. Therefore, this event which celebrates the achievements of not only pupils, but the whole of the Sacred Heart, should perhaps remind us to enjoy our time here to the fullest and to appreciate the exceptional education, support and community it offers.



**We will be holding our Introduction and Assessment days on Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th January 2017 for prospective Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils.**

All pupils will take part in English, Mathematics and Verbal and non – Verbal Reasoning assessments. Pupils will have a short interview to talk about their interests, their hopes for the future and what they are currently reading

Your child will need to be at school for 8:40am each morning. School finishes at 3:45pm each day. S/he will need to bring pens, pencils, and full PE kit and PE shoes. School lunches will be provided.

These days will give your child the opportunity to see the whole school at work; to take part in practical lessons such as ICT, Music, Art and Sport and enjoy our learning environment.

Arrangements can be made for girls who wish to sample boarding. Please bring the necessities for an overnight stay, plus a duvet and a pillow, by 8:30am on Monday morning.

Parents and pupils will be invited to talk about the assessment results at the beginning of February.

Please complete the form and return to the school office by **Friday 6th January 2017.**

**2017 – 2018**

There will be greater opportunities to gain a scholarship for September 2017 as, hopefully, this will be the last year before the Free School opens.

## **Academic Assessment**

All pupils will sit papers in English and Mathematics so that we can judge their level of attainment. This will take place over the three days when the pupils come into school.

In order to promote high standards in the school, pupils who achieve outstanding marks in the Mathematics and English assessments will be awarded scholarships up to the value of 50% of the fees.

If you would like to enter your child for an Award in PE, Art or Music, please complete the form.

## **English Scholarship**

Pupils will be expected to read a passage or poem and then answer comprehension questions based on the text.

They will then prepare a piece of creative writing such as a short story or a letter, which may be based on an aspect of the reading passage.

We do not expect your child to have any particular preparation for this assessment. Marks will be awarded for content, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Presentation is also important, especially in the extended writing.

An enjoyment of reading books and the ability to describe and discuss their content and storyline is one of the best forms of preparation at this stage.

## **Mathematics Scholarship**

The questions in this assessment will be set at the Year 6 National Curriculum standard appropriate for the year group. It will include both straightforward and more challenging questions. Pupils will be able to use a calculator in some of the questions and should bring their full Mathematics equipment (protractor, compass, ruler etc.).

To achieve a high mark pupils must be able to answer questions that are more challenging and which require some thought. Demonstrating clearly, by showing working, how an answer has been arrived at, will be given credit.

Pupils should try and answer all the questions but if they do not finish, they should not worry.

## **The Art and Design Award**

The Sacred Heart has a thriving Art Department with attractive Art and Ceramic Rooms. Pupils work in a wide variety of types of media during their time in school.

We are happy to offer a scholarship in Art and Design of up to 20% off school fees to a talented pupil who would like to seriously pursue Art during their time in the Senior School. The person awarded this scholarship would be expected to study Art at GCSE level. Applicants are invited to bring in a portfolio of work to show the Head of Art.

Equipment needed for the assessment will be supplied. Applicants will be assessed on their ability to work to a given task brief, drawing, designing and using colour effectively.

## **Music Award**

The Sacred Heart has an active orchestra and choir. While pupils of all abilities are welcome, we are pleased to offer a scholarship which allows a reduction of up to 20% from school fees to a pupil with musical talent and potential that is keen to contribute to the musical life of the school throughout their years in the Senior School. Music is offered as a GCSE option.

Applicants for the Music Award are asked to bring an assessment of their musical ability based on school music reports or from an independent music tutor or examiner. Pupils may offer singing or an instrument (ideally voice and an instrument or two instruments) Candidates will be assessed by the Head of Music. They will be asked to sing and/or play their principal instrument or sing two contrasting pieces. They will also take sight reading and aural tests appropriate to their age and experience. Candidates should bring their own music and instrument.

A strong interest in music making is most important and will be taken into consideration when awarding, as also will the best and most promising performance on the day.

## **Sports Award**

The Sacred Heart School has a very successful record in both team and individual sporting activities. All children take part in the wide variety of sports on offer and PE is offered as a GCSE option.

Applicants for Sports Scholarships should offer a range of talents. These may include Athletics, Gymnastics, Cross Country, Football, Hockey, Netball or Tennis. There should be evidence of success in competitions and events.

During the assessment days, candidates will be asked to perform a number of practical skills in a range of sporting activities.

Successful applicants will be expected to represent the school in teams.

We are pleased to offer a scholarship of up to 20% from school fees to a pupil with ability and potential who wishes to contribute enthusiastically to the sporting life of the school. Applicants for this award should bring any certificates or medals that they have been awarded and are particularly proud to have received.

### **Centenary Memorial Awards for ‘all-rounders’**

Given to prospective Year 8 and 9 external candidates – ten awards available

The school wishes to attract pupils who are likely to contribute exceptionally to the overall life of the school. We are pleased to offer scholarships of up to 50% from school fees to a pupil with major extracurricular strengths who shows potential leadership qualities.

Assessment for this Award will be based on:

- A list of major extracurricular activities and achievements from the last two years with supporting references from non-school sources.
- An essay or presentation regarding the pupil’s interests and any voluntary work undertaken.
- On scholarship days, candidates will be required to show evidence of, and speak to a member of staff about, one area of extracurricular strength and prepare a piece of writing entitled ‘My Ideal Learning Environment’.

## **Conditions for those who accept awards at the Sacred Heart**

- All those in receipt of awards will be expected to play a full part in the life of the school and to work to the best of their ability.
- Anyone who fails to maintain the standards expected of a scholar may, after due warning and having been given time to improve their performance; have his/her scholarship or award withdrawn.

Those offered scholarships and awards will retain the honour to the end of their GCSE course, subject to the above points. The Scholarships and awards may be shared between successful candidates of equal standing.

## **Bursaries**

A bursary may be granted to parents of a current pupil who experience temporary financial difficulties in paying fees. All applications for bursary assistance must be discussed with the Headteacher in the first instance. A means test form is completed by all bursary applicants. An established formula is used to work out the maximum percentage discount that can be offered to parents.

## **Remissions for Siblings**

A 5% discount is given for each sibling attending the school.

## **Remissions for children of staff**

Remissions of up to 30% are available to children or grandchildren of staff, after they have been in employment for 12 months, providing there is room in the appropriate year group. These are not automatic but discretionary.

## **CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR FEES: (Reviewed Annually)**

**DAY PUPILS:** Charges are inclusive of lunches

Years 7 to 9 **£3625** per term    Year 10/11    **£4045** per term

**BOARDERS:** Boarding charges are inclusive of tuition and meals

Weekly boarding Years 7- 9            **£5785** per term

Weekly boarding Year 10/11            **£6200** per term

## **Outstanding student of 2016**

Niamh Hodges left the Sacred Heart School after taking her GCSE's in 2016. Niamh gained 12 A\* grades in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, French, Religious Studies, PE, Psychology. Niamh is currently studying at the Independent Sixth Form College, CCSS in Cambridge.

## **Sacred Heart Proposed Free School 2018**

An application to become a Free School is being made to the Department for Education. If successful, the school could become a Free School in September 2018 and then parents will no longer be required to pay fees

A fee for Boarding but not education will still be required.

To find out more please visit our [website](#).

## **Celebrating 100 years of Education in Swaffham**

### **Sacred Heart School**

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