

Executive Headteacher: Mr T Alderman Head of School: Ms C McCormack Boardmans Lane, Blackbrook, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 9BB

Dear Colleague Professional,

Thank you for taking the time to download the application form for the Headship of St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic High School. Over the past ten months, as the recently appointed Chair of the Governing Body, I have learned a great deal about the school and the community it serves.

St. Augustine's is situated less than 1 ½ miles from St. Helen's town centre. Around 50% of our students are Catholic, and the Catholic ethos of the school is central to our decision making and day to day practice. Whilst a small number of students have challenging behaviours, most of our students feel safe, secure and happy at the school and a good proportion of parents are former pupils of the school with a number of staff having been there for many years. It has a truly comprehensive intake with a similar proportion of high and low attainers and a broadly average proportion of students with special educational needs. Over the years the percentage of students entitled to Pupil Premium has increased to circa 50%.

The most recent OFSTED Report graded our school 4 in all areas, and we as governors recognised that not only were the judgements correct but that many long-established systems previously seen as 'good practice' needed to change. The departure of two Deputies and the Headteacher during the spring and summer has resulted in the new temporary Leadership Team beginning the process of implementing significant changes both to teaching methodology, the curriculum and to behaviour policies. The Leadership Team is taking a holistic approach to addressing the needs of our most vulnerable students, tackling the entrenched persistent absenteeism and non-attendance of a small group of students, recognising that for some these are real safeguarding and child – protection issues, whilst for others, coming from families where there has been generational unemployment, a 'team around the family' approach is necessary.

The school has a long way to go, but HMI in its recent monitoring visit, fully endorsed the changes outlined above, stating that:

'Leaders have taken significant strides towards overcoming some of the very significant challenges identified at the last inspection. New interim leaders have provided the school with clear direction, following a period of alarming decline. They have devised appropriate plans to improve the school in those areas requiring most urgent attention. Through their careful management, substantial improvements have been made to the school's ethos, pupils' behaviour and teaching, particularly in English and mathematics. This has led to improved morale throughout the school.'



Our Mission, Our Promise St Augustine's is a welcoming family Together we learn creatively Achieving our hopes and aspirations Respecting each other in the spirit of Jesus Christ



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We now need an inspirational leader with practical skills and experience, who can take our school forwards, embed the changes made by the interim leadership and furnish our staff with the skills to consistently support and challenge students and each other to achieve the best outcomes possible. I am confident that the successful candidate will find this role both challenging and rewarding in equal measure.

Yours Truly

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Ann Moore Chair of Governors