



# Welcome to Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School

## Dear Prospective Parents and Students

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School and Sixth Form for what may be the start of your child's seven year journey with us. Our school was judged as good by Ofsted and outstanding by the Diocese of Portsmouth, as a centre of learning, with an excellent reputation and offering a solid and caring Catholic education. An 11 to 18 school, your child will benefit from our strong ethos, receiving the teaching, advice and guidance they need right up to the point that they move on to the next stage of their life, typically university or college. High expectations apply not only to our students but also to my staff, who are committed to continually improving what we offer. Throughout a child's time with us, parents and carers are key partners in ensuring the young person is happy and successful.

Taking pride in our school as a community where every child is known, we offer unrivalled pastoral care supporting a proven track record of academic excellence. Opportunities for student enrichment, both in and beyond the classroom, coupled with a commitment to excellent teaching, reflect our belief in routinely going the extra mile for our students. This is why, year on year in Reading, we are a top school among other similar schools, for student progress.

Selecting a school is a serious matter and I hope this prospectus gives you some indication as to why I am so proud to lead Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic school. Do arrange to come and visit us. I look forward to meeting you!

**Dr Simon Uttley**  
Headmaster



*“There is a strong Christian ethos that permeates the school.”*

Ofsted.

*“The school values and recognise each pupil as a unique, special individual who deserves the opportunity to learn and grow in a community where all are cared for.”*

Ofsted.

*“Respect, dignity and equality of opportunity are inherent in the day-to-day life of pupils at the school. These values underpin the inclusive culture across the school.”*

Ofsted.



*“We aim to inspire  
all students, whilst  
challenging them to  
achieve their full  
potential.”*



## ***Our School***

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre is Voluntary Aided, founded by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and working in partnership with Reading Local Authority. We have over 900 students in our school. We want our students to be successful and happy and we strive to ensure that every one of our students leaves us with:

- The best possible qualifications they can achieve
- The values and morals to live good lives
- The skills and knowledge to prepare them for their future
- A clear understanding of the role of faith in a flourishing life

## ***Our Vision***

Our vision is to create a Catholic school where Christ is at the centre of all we say and do. We want our children to grow in their faith and be equipped to become leaders and change-makers, as well as people of exceptional character. We want to help form young people who see faith, work, relationships, hobbies and careers as integrated, not separated. We believe that our students should experience life as joyful and be well-prepared to tackle its challenges as they come along. We believe, with the Bishops of England and Wales, that a Catholic education is an exceptional education. It does focus on the whole person, on developing their moral compass and bearing the hallmark of their unique dignity as sons and daughters of God, each with a unique vocation.

## ***Catholic Ethos***

We will ensure that being part of this Catholic school means being on a journey of reflective self-discovery, based on the firm foundations of the teachings of the Catholic Church, where children grow spiritually, emotionally and to their full potential. We celebrate our faith regularly and mark the seasons of the Church's year. Our ethos also means we want our parents and carers to work in partnership with us so that their child has the best possible support.



## ***Our Catholic Community***

We will ensure that every child understands that being a part of Blessed Hugh Faringdon is to be part of the Reading family of Catholic schools and parishes.

## ***High Expectation of Achievement***

We believe that every child should achieve beyond their level of capability. We will set exceptionally high expectations of achievement, commitment and behaviour for all our students, which we reinforce constantly as they go through school. We believe every child can realise their potential with the right teaching and support.

## ***Outstanding Teaching***

We will ensure that outstanding teaching is evident at Blessed Hugh Faringdon. Lessons are carefully planned and that they contain a variety of activities which engage and motivate learners. We will use assessment data to improve teaching and the curriculum and to ensure that each child achieves their potential. We will use research evidence and experience of best practice, to achieve excellent outcomes for all of our students.

## ***Exemplary Behaviour and Uniform***

We will expect an exemplary standard of student behaviour and uniform, to allow teachers to focus on teaching and students on learning. We want students to become courteous and understanding, fair and considerate. Please be aware that our policy on uniform, hair, jewellery and shoes is clear prior to a child taking up their place and do not allow for alteration or customisation.

## ***Depth in Learning***

We will provide more time for core subjects and to extend the curriculum through enrichment activities. Our curriculum will be planned to provide pathways from any level at entry to high achievement at the end of the child's time in the school.







## ***Strength in the Core Subjects***

Every subject is equally important. The subjects with the broadest impact on students we call core subjects. These are English, Mathematics, Science and RE. This is worth noting given that, in schools without a religious character, RE would not be included as a core subject. In our school, RE is central to our curriculum. We will use assessment data to ensure that we support each child so that the high expectation of our vision is realised.

## ***Pastoral Support***

We will ensure that the pastoral and spiritual support evident in our Christian school community will continue. All children will feel welcomed and valued and will experience God's love in the school community.

## ***The Curriculum at Blessed Hugh***

The curriculum at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic school is based around the best interests of our students, built upon our Catholic ethos and with a range of pathways to provide a happy, stimulating and demanding experience.

We enjoy facilities which include:

- Excellent networked computer suites
- A purpose built Sixth Form Centre
- School Chapel
- Drama Studio
- An Aspergers Resource Centre
- Fully equipped Sports Hall and spacious playing fields
- Modern Food & Nutrition facilities
- A well-equipped Design & Technology Department
- Canteen - offering a wide selection of healthy and balanced meals and snacks
- Music Block – offering a vast range of musical instruments

A Catholic school promoting 'True Teaching'

- RE at the heart of the curriculum
- Weekly Mass celebrated in our Chapel
- Assemblies, Liturgies and celebrations at the heart of our eucharistic community
- A programme of Retreats and Pilgrimages underpinned by daily prayer
- 'Service through Leadership' – Head Boy/Girl, Prefects, Peer Supporters, School Council, School President



***“The people I surrounded myself with, together with the opportunities I found at BHF, had a massive influence on my journey.”***

School President.

***“BHF has helped me academically reach my highest potential and has allowed me to make long lasting friends.”***

Vice-President.

***“Peer Support has allowed me to help others in ways I never thought I could.”***

Peer Supporter.





*“Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School is a school that is committed to ensuring that students from a wide range of backgrounds receive the best possible education within a clear and strong framework of Catholic values.”*

Diocese of Portsmouth.



## *Life at Blessed Hugh*

Blessed Hugh Faringdon understands that education goes beyond the reaches of the classroom and that young people can learn a great deal by taking part in educational visits and activities away from school and home.

Our aim is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. We offer a wide range of sports, art, music and drama clubs. Students are encouraged to take part in the clubs and activities which take place at lunch time and after school. Students participate in local and national competitions in netball, football, rugby, basketball and athletics, plus many others. Students can begin their Duke of Edinburgh Award in year 9.

We strongly believe in recognising students' achievements in and out of school. Our school colours are awarded for participation in volunteering, service to others, leadership and representing clubs and societies from local (Bronze Award) to County (Silver Award) and National/International (Gold Award).

Our enrichment programme includes visits to universities, multi-national companies and workshops with business experts. There are many cultural and educational visits locally, nationally and internationally.

There is a full commitment to encouraging students to have a healthy lifestyle by undertaking sporting activities and eating a healthy and balanced diet. This approach is supported in PE, Food & Nutrition, PSHE day activities and in the food served by the catering team in school.

*“We believe every child can realise their potential with the right teaching and support.”*



## *Working Together*

We place great value on our partnership with parents. We believe it is important to work together to ensure our students receive the best possible education and are prepared for their future lives. We treat our students as individuals and put a strong emphasis on mutual trust and respect.

Parents are kept informed of their child's education and progress through our 'SIMS Parent App' and through curriculum and parents' information evenings. Parents are always welcome to come into school to discuss any concerns. We have a dedicated Head of Year with an excellent Pastoral Team and School Councillor.

Considerable importance is placed on the maintenance of a disciplined, orderly environment, good dress code, manners and hard work. We encourage our students to become responsible and active citizens and we expect high standards in all classwork and homework. The progress of each individual student is closely monitored.

We have a weekly newsletter and 'Groupcall', a text messaging service to parents/carers informing them of up to date school information.

## *Sixth Form*

Our expectation for your child is that they will choose to stay with us into Sixth Form and from there to university, apprenticeships or to work. Our Sixth Form prospectus will explain everything you need to know.

*“BHF is a high performing SSAT Leading Edge School.”*

## *School Mission Statement*

The students and staff have developed an easy-to-recall statement based on the letters of the school's name.

### The Blessed Hugh Faringdon way



**+** **Belief** - in God  
in ourselves  
in each other

 **Happiness** - in our work  
in our play  
in our goals

 **Family** - family and school together  
school as family  
family of God

 **Caring** - for ourselves  
for each other  
for our world

 **Service** - in leadership  
in our career destinations  
in generosity of spirit

*“Blessed Hugh Faringdon spoke of ‘True Teaching’, reminding us that we are preparing our students to be discerning and wise as well as well-qualified.”*