



*“Achievement by
faith and work.”*

St. Margaret's Church of England High School

Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 6AB

Headmaster

Dr D.F. Dennison B.Ed., Ph.D, C.Biol., M.I.Biol., F.R.E.S., Ad. Cert. Ed.



*Diocese of
Liverpool*

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Margaret's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England High School, which acquired Technology College status in September 1997. The Governing Body seeks to appoint employees who are in sympathy with its Christian ethos and prefer to appoint committed Christians to posts in the school

The school, which was founded in 1879, is housed in modern buildings in an established, pleasant, residential area of South Liverpool, adjacent to Otterspool Park, approximately four miles from the city centre.

The school, which is heavily oversubscribed, caters for boys from 11-18 years of age with girls admitted to the Sixth Form. The intake represents a comprehensive ability range. The catchment area is city-wide, and draws students widely, approximately half coming from urban priority areas. It provides for some of the choristers of Liverpool Cathedral.

At present there are 999 students on roll, (226 in the Sixth Form, of whom 58 are girls), with long waiting lists in every year group.

Present developments:

- i. A new admin area and classrooms built in 2003.
- ii. A new Sixth Form Centre with classroom, Internet lounge, study area and diner opened in September 2002.
- iii. Delivery of the Post-16 entitlement curriculum in partnership with the South Liverpool Collegiate.
- iv. A major refurbishment of the Science laboratories is ongoing.
- v. As a Technology College, we have spent over one million pounds on new technologies and successfully gained Phase III funding in April 2005. We now look forward to a further four years of designation and funding
- vi. In January 2006 we opened purpose-built Sports Hall and Cricket Centre of Excellence. The facility has four full-length cricket lanes, basketball courts, five badminton courts, a volleyball court, and also includes male and female changing rooms, toilets and showers on the ground floor, and a variety of lecture theatres, community rooms, a fitness suite and video playback room on the first floor.

FACILITIES

In addition to the usual classroom accommodation, the school is equipped with specialist facilities including a main school resources centre, a Sixth Form area, computer rooms, gymnasium, hall, seven science laboratories and a dining hall where meals are provided on a cash-cafeteria basis. There are 12 acres of playing fields adjacent to the school.

PRESENT CURRICULUM

11-19: upon admission to the school, students are placed in teaching sets using KS2 data. They pursue a National Curriculum course for three years (KS3) and then in Years 10 and 11 proceed to courses following KS4 of the National Curriculum leading to a maximum of ten and a half GCSE subjects.

It is the policy of the school to offer all students a realistic opportunity to study for and take public examinations towards the end of Year 11.

Provision is made for those students encountering serious learning difficulties through the Special Needs/Learning Support Department. The school makes use of the Support Services of the Local Education Authority when it is appropriate.

Entry to the Sixth Form is open to all students who meet the appropriate course entry requirements, providing that the school is able to offer them a relevant and meaningful course of study.

Post-16, students are able to choose three or four subjects from nineteen AS levels, together with General Studies AS. There is a GNVQ Engineering course on offer at Intermediate Level. Students who take this course also take General Studies AS. Students take part in the Key Skills programme which includes Application of Number, Communication and Information Technology. The wider Key Skills are delivered through the Citizenship Programme, which leads to the Graduation Certificate for all subjects. In the Upper Sixth, students opt for three courses at A2, generally with a view to university application.

PASTORAL CARE

11-16: new students are placed in one of five random ability groups and, whenever possible, account is taken of existing connections with the school and of friendships in Primary School. They remain in these groups for pastoral purposes throughout their time at the school. Each year group has a Head of Year who is responsible for daily matters, discipline and general welfare of the boys in his/her care. There are five Form Tutors in each year who have direct responsibility for the boys in their group. The House system is a basis for various competitive events in sports and the arts.

LINKS WITH INDUSTRY

All students have the opportunity to follow work experience and the school is well supported by industry and commerce through sponsorship both of individual students and the school community. Links with a European experience are being developed.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school enjoys a high reputation in sport and music locally and nationally. There are school visits, field courses and foreign exchanges. The choir, chamber choir and brass band give several public performances during the year and the choir sings evensong at Liverpool and other cathedrals.

OFSTED INSPECTIONS

The school was inspected by an OFSTED and Denomination team in March 2003. Twelve inspectors observed eighty-nine lessons and had forty-nine discussions with staff and governors, other adults and pupils. This report highlights many significant and successful features of the school.

This is a very good school and had made excellent progress since its last inspection. GCSE results have shot up and are continuing to improve and students are now achieving very well. The Sixth Form has made very good progress, standards and results have improved significantly. The school's designation as a specialist Technology College has brought significant improvements from which the students are benefiting.

Teaching and Learning – The quality of teaching and learning is very good and students learn far more than is usually expected. It is the consistency of the good teaching that students receive that enables them to achieve very well. A significant strength of the teaching is the sheer volume of work that students are expected to do. Teachers set exceptionally demanding targets for students and they respond by throwing themselves in to their work. Teachers have very good strategies to manage the behaviour of students and consequently relationship between staff and students are very good. The school provides a very good curriculum for its students and there is outstanding extra-curricular provision.

Pupils' Attitudes and Values – Students' attitudes are very good. They are keen to do well and enjoy school. Their behaviour is very good and there is a clear moral code that fosters a sense of community where everybody acts responsibly together. Students' personal development and their relationships with one another are very good and attendance is well above average.

Pastoral Care – The school has an effective and very supportive pastoral system. The positive, all-embracing approach is "achievement orientated", which students understand and appreciate. All members of staff involved in the system, Form Tutor, through Heads of Year are in accord and fully committed to the school policy. Students are confident they can find a member of staff to turn to if they need help to oversee any problems. Very good child protection arrangements are in place and the school gives very good care and attention to health and safety issues. Support to monitor and enhance students' academic performance is particularly strong and helps students to attain well-above average examination results. Students' progress is closely monitored and data showing students' level of attainment and potential is used with increasing effectiveness in informing staff and students of the standards which can be achieved. Teachers give generously of their own time and parents much appreciate the care and support that their children receive from teachers.