

# Upton Hall School FCJ

## About our school

Upton Hall School FCJ is a Catholic Grammar School for girls aged 11-18, situated in the Diocese of Shrewsbury and under the Trusteeship of the Society, Faithful Companions of Jesus. It is Voluntary Aided and maintained by Wirral Local Authority. The school serves the population of the Wirral Peninsula and pupils come from 66 primary schools. Pupils are selected for admission: they are required to reach 236 in two NFER verbal reasoning tests. The average Key Stage 2 point score for pupils in Year 7 is usually 31 points with occasional fluctuations: 2008 it was 35.4 and in 2009 it was 31.7 (LA KS2 Data). The CATs standardised mean score per pupil is on average 111. This relatively high level of prior attainment, although lower than the other Wirral grammar schools that select using the 11+ examination, makes us determined to ensure that our pupils make excellent progress and that as a school we do not 'coast'.

In September 2009 we had 70 pupils on free school meals i.e. 7.7%. In the Sixth Form there were 74 students claiming EMA i.e. 7.7% of the school but 28% of the Sixth Form. There were 82 pupils identified as SEN i.e. 8.5% of these two pupils are school action plus and have statements. There is a broad social mix in the school which is a strength but requires careful management to ensure that we are socially inclusive. Only 2.8% of pupils are from minority ethnic groups which reflects the population of Wirral. In 2006 as a 'High performing specialist school', that has had Technology College status since 2002, we were invited to apply mid-cycle to become a Language College. At re-designation in September 2006 we applied to become a Training School in order to build on the work we had been undertaking with ITT students. This status was achieved in April 2007. Our Specialisms have enabled us to work in partnership with other schools and the wider community.

Our last full Ofsted Inspection took place in October 2006 and judged the school to be outstanding. A survey inspection took place in January 2009, when the implementation of the revised Key Stage 3 curriculum took place. This was also judged outstanding. Both reports and that of the RE inspection in October 2006 are available to be downloaded from our web-site.

In 2006 the school achieved British Council full International School status and in 2009 this was renewed. A Socrates Comenius 1 School Partnerships project has been completed; Water, Source of Life and Knowledge. Science, PE, Drama, English, Geography, History, Art and Languages have contributed to this study. Another project has been identified based on Citizenship and plans are in place. We achieved Gold Artsmark in 2005 and this was renewed in 2009. The school gained its Investment in People Award in 2006 and is about to be reassessed. Traditionally all school events are celebrated with music and performance. Art work is on display throughout the school with pupils' work often hanging beside that of professional artists. Pupils' work is on display in the community and in local galleries: currently Art work is on display alongside that of a professional artist, Ben Johnson, in the official residence, The Lodge, of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. Pupils are encouraged to appreciate culture and to develop their own creative talents. All year 7 pupils are provided with free instrumental tuition.

The school has Healthy School Enhanced status and is working to develop this further by developing the link between the Dining Room and the curriculum in DT Food. The Headteacher chairs the Extended Services cluster and is a full service extended school. The focus has been; parenting support and out of hours activities. For the last 3 summers the Extended School Summer Camp has been organised by Upton staff for the wider community with 177 young people participating in August 2009. A varied programme of extra-curricular activities is available to our pupils.

The English Faculty has become a participant in the Prince's Teaching Institute and shares good practice with other secondary schools and Mathematics and Science have submitted plans to become a part of the Institute which seeks to raise standards through sharing good practice.

All of the above contribute to achieving the fundamental aim of the school:

*As a Catholic School, our fundamental aim is the education of the 'whole person', spiritually, and morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and artistically. We seek to identify and cater for each pupil's needs as they arise during her school life; and to encourage each individual to develop her talents for her own sake but also so that she can help to make the world a better place, according to the values embodied in the Gospels.*

## Summary of Information

<b>Phase:</b>	Secondary
<b>Age Range:</b>	11-18
<b>Gender:</b>	Girls
<b>No. of Pupils</b>	952 (693 11-16 and 259 post 16)
<b>School Type:</b>	Selective
<b>Funding Status:</b>	Maintained – Voluntary Aided
<b>Religious Character:</b>	Roman Catholic
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