



# ALL SAINTS

## CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE

The Review—March 2021



# From The Headteacher

Dear parents,

The beginning of 2021 has yielded yet another lockdown, but hopefully a final one. The current rollout of the vaccine is good news for both our community and nation as there is now a glimmer of hope that normality will return later in 2021. I look forward to a time where the running of All Saints is like it was pre 2020, where students were able to mix and have fun without restrictions in place. Nevertheless, in the Autumn term we did our level best to ensure that the students of All Saints received a well-rounded education that was steeped in academic hard work and also enjoyable experiences on both a spiritual and pastoral level.

In this edition of the Review, you can read about how we celebrated our feast, All Saints Day and managed to make it a really exciting day for all of our students. You can also read about the success of some of students who have, yet again, been offered fully funded scholarships to attend the Francis Holland School in Regents Park - an offer only made to All Saints students. At present, the building works in school are proceeding at "full steam", with the construction of the Performing Arts building well under way. In this edition, you can read an interview with our new Music teacher Mr Bick who speaks about his own Catholic education alongside why he decided to become a teacher.

I hope as you read through the pages of this review, both you and your family are in good health. Staff are working hard to deliver engaging and academic lessons to the children in the school as well as making frequent contact with you to ensure that you are supported. This has always been an ambitious task to accomplish, but one, since the first lockdown, that I felt was the right thing to do, to serve you in the best possible way.

Mr A O'Neill





# Success at Francis Holland School

Once again, students at All Saints Catholic College were selected to sit the entrance examinations for a fully funded bursary place at the prestigious Francis Holland School.

Last year, five students were successful in their applications to the Sixth Form. This was an extraordinary success and one which the school remains immensely proud.

Once more, we are back in a celebratory mood, with another five students being successful in their application to Francis Holland School for a bursary place. This is another noteworthy moment for the burgeoning relationship between the two schools. The entrance examination and interview process are both rigorous and academic. The students' success is testament to our high expectations for the academic development of students at All Saints Catholic College.

The current group of students returned to visit this year, exclaiming their collective success at being at the top of their classes in Francis Holland School. No doubt, we look forward to hearing about our future bright starts leading the way next year! [Congratulations to Dea, Okite, Zion, Daggie, and Eva!](#)

‘Christ is the  
foundation of  
the whole  
education  
enterprise within  
a Catholic  
school.’

(CCE 1977 : 34)

# Christmas From A Distance

Like most people, I'm sure, I was delighted when schools got the green light to return back to school after a stretch of 'WFH'. For a Music teacher, in particular, a successful day is one surrounded by noise: classroom lessons, students practicing independently, ensembles collaborating together with their friends, after-school clubs and instrumental lessons filling the corridors with music and acting! To some this may sound rather hectic, but for us, it's the sound of a creative, inclusive and flourishing department.

In my opinion, Performance subjects are the heart and soul of schools, allowing for the holistic development of children and so much more. I am so fortunate to work in a school where that is echoed from the very top, which is evident in the exciting new building dedicated to music and drama thanks to Mr O'Neill. The support and belief in the importance of Performance from staff and parents and the overwhelming participation from our students makes it a pleasure to work at All Saints Catholic College.

Upon returning to school in September, we were presented with various challenges when it came to COVID related restrictions and our extra-curricular provision, which is hugely important in our school life. Although online lessons continued, many of our students had been without collaborative performance opportunities for months, so it was more important than ever for us to find a way of resuming safely. And that we did!

Our school choir, alone, consists of fifty-two students across all year groups. In order to rehearse safely, therefore, we moved to the school hall and arranged students according to their year group. String Orchestra and Steel Pans moved to the Dance Studio, the large music classroom was used for small ensemble rehearsals and individual students were able to use the practice rooms at lunchtime and after school. Miss Henry, our Head of Drama, was even able to rehearse for a Christmas production of *The Snow Queen*, with year 7's remaining in their 'year group bubble'. It's safe to say that the Performance Department was not deterred by the challenges presented, but inspired! If anything, the acoustics were an improvement and rehearsals were great fun!

Rehearsals were under way and the excitement from all involved was palpable – all we needed was a platform to showcase our student's hard work and talents! As hopefully you are already aware, we successfully recorded not one but three events this Christmas: a Carol Service, which took place in our neighboring Church, St Pius X, a Music Concert, which featured our annual tradition of 'Whole Year 7 Choir', and *The Snow Queen* theatrical performance.

A particular highlight for me was during our Carol Service dress rehearsal when I announced to our choir that as a special treat for working so well, they would be accompanied by a professional brass quintet! In walk five musicians from the







Royal College of Music with their shiny brass instruments and you could see the excitement and curiosity as our students faces lit up. It was truly wonderful! What inspirational exposure for our students it was to have professional musicians accompany them and add to their already glorious sound.

An exceptional amount of effort was put in by our dedicated students and of course our Performance teachers and I would like to thank Mr Bick and Miss Henry in particular for their efforts. The Christmas term of school is usually absolutely exhausting but it is also my favourite and this year was no exception! We are exceptionally proud of the high quality and mature performances from our students and given the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in, it was a wonderful way of spreading some festive joy before parting for the Christmas holidays.

All performances were professionally recorded and secure links were sent home to our parents and professional community. If you have not had the pleasure of watching them yet, I urge you to click on the link and see for yourself!

For now, we return to remote learning but we will soon be back together, ready to jump into rehearsals and prepare for even bigger performances- we cannot wait!

‘A friend knows  
the song in my  
heart and signs  
it to me when  
my memory  
fails.’

Donna Roberts

# 'School of Baroque'

Music teacher, Mr Bick joined All Saints at the beginning of this academic year. Here he reflects on his first term.

**Can you tell us a little bit about your journey here to All Saints Catholic College?**

Absolutely. I'm from West London, and I attended another Catholic state school, The London Oratory School in Fulham. After studying music at the University of Cambridge, I spent a few years working for a university chaplaincy alongside contemplating a call to religious life. About two years ago, I realised that my calling was not to the church but to education instead, so I trained as a teacher last year, and was lucky enough to get my first job here at All Saints.

**How are you finding life at All Saints?**

Wonderful – I am really enjoying getting to know the pupils and I've had a lot of fun bonding with colleagues in the staff room too. Both the students and the staff have been incredibly welcoming. What strikes me most is the way that All Saints sets ambitious, high expectations for the pupils on one hand, whilst remaining incredibly friendly and nurturing on the other, and I think it's a winning combination. It's been great joining a

fantastic music department like the one Ms Wilkinson has put together, and we're looking forward to seeing that grow in the next few years. I'm particularly excited by our all new, purpose built music classrooms which we expect to move into this September.

**Last term was incredibly busy for the music department, with students involved in a wide range of activities. Could you please tell us about that?**

We were keen to give students something to work towards at the end of term, but knew that a normal in-person concert might not be possible, so we decided to make some recorded video concerts. We put together a Carol Service and a Christmas Concert. We were delighted with how these turned out and thrilled to learn how many parents had watched the videos which were sent out to them via email at the end of term. Knowing that these performances would be recorded, rather than performed live actually had some major benefits and allowed us to have really broad programmes that would have been hard to achieve on the same evening in real life – going from our Steel Pan group, to Whole Year 7 Choir, to our String Orchestra is a lot quicker when you can edit out the transitions!





## What skills do students learn in their music lessons? What extra-curricular opportunities are there for students at All Saints?

Students mostly spend time in class learning how to sing and to play instruments, but we also teach them how to listen – *really* listen – to music, and how to write it and understand how it's made. Outside the classroom, students have the opportunity to take singing lessons, to learn an instrument with a specialist teacher, and also play or sing together in one of our various ensembles. Right now we offer lessons in violin, viola, piano, guitar, bass and steel pans, but we're hoping to expand that provision to other instruments soon.

## Why do you think it's important that students get these opportunities?

Playing in groups with other people is the number one way for students to grow as musicians. You have to practice, too, of course, but what students are practicing for is that group dynamic. Students are going to make lifelong friendships in these groups, achieve amazing things together and hone their skills in a way that they can't just on their own. Music is an arena where students face different challenges from normal life, like facing their fears of failure, or mastering a tricky page of music. Often students who've learned music are more ready for the pressures of modern life because of what they've already faced in the concert hall.

## You're a very accomplished musician and singer. Putting modesty aside for a moment, would you speak a little about the instruments you play and share some of your musical accomplishments with us?

Thank you! Most of my work outside school is as a singer or choral conductor, but I play the piano and guitar reasonably often as well. I haven't picked it up in a while, but I used to play the flute too, and actually forgot to tell Ms Wilkinson this in my interview – she was a bit shocked when I found one in school recently and picked it up and started to play. My proudest musical accomplishment (so far) is my time as a choral scholar at university, singing in church services and concerts and going on tour with my college choir.



**How are you adapting to teaching music lessons remotely? What unique challenges does this pose? How are you rising to the challenge?**

Challenging is the right word! It's tough - there's no getting away from that! Music is, by its very nature, a collaborative art form and relies so much on individuals forming an ensemble, sharing the same space and being in the moment together. Added to that, we can't assume that students have musical instruments at home, in fact we know fine well that most don't, so we're adapting by teaching the listening/theoretical sides of the subject right now, and we'll follow that up with practical work when (God willing) we can come back to school again. I have had some fun teaching all of Year 8 in one go though, and got one of my housemates to pretend to burst in to my teaching room asking if he could use the washing machine, only to then pick up a guitar and join me in demonstrating the 12 bar blues. If any Year 8 students are reading this, consider the debate settled: it was indeed a set-up.

**Do you have any exciting musical plans up your sleeves for All Saints students to look forward to in the future?**

I think the number one thing you can do in order to form young musicians and foster musicianship in young people is have them play together in ensembles, so most of our future plans are about developing or starting new ensembles - we've got a string orchestra right now but we'd love to

have a full orchestra. We've also helped students start bands last term, and we're really excited to see what songs they play (and write) next.

**Now for some quick-fire questions...**

**If you could play/sing with any singer or instrumentalist, dead or alive, who would it be and what would you perform?**

A bit niche, but the Tudor composer William Byrd wrote a lot of music for secret Catholic Masses during the Reformation. Everyone had to be ready to pretend to do something else at a moment's notice in case the police came knocking - I'd love to have been in the choir when some of that music was performed for the first time.

**Very niche! What's your favourite song of all time?**

Ok, an actual quick-fire answer here: Stevie Wonder - 'As'.

**What's your guilty pleasure song?**

Linkin Park and Jay Z's collaboration: '*Numb/Encore*'.



# All Saints Day

As the March Band played, and the All Saints flags blew in the autumn breeze, the sound of *'When the Saints Go Marching In'* could be heard across Ladbroke Grove. It could only mean one thing: it was All Saints Day!

Our feast day is something we look forward to all year, a huge celebration of our school community. It is a day where we come together to rejoice in the unique qualities that God has given us. So, despite everything, this year was no different.

It began as always, with students being welcomed to school by staff singing our anthem. This carried on into the playground where the whole school joined together to sing as one. Students then enjoyed an online service, prepared by our School Chaplain, Mr. Sunny, and students from every year group. Here we reflected on the meaning and importance of the Beatitudes, listening to the teachings of Christ and how we should act towards those less fortunate.

The theme this year was 'Christian Virtues'. In particular, Fortitude, Temperance, Prudence and Justice. For this reason, form groups enjoyed different sessions, which allowed all students to understand the meaning and importance of these

Christian virtues. Students tested their courage in our 'bush-tucker trials' where brave students had to guess what was in a selection of boxes using only their hands! Our fearless students reflected on why courage is important in life and how our Saints demonstrated courage throughout their lives. Students also worked together to create fund-raising ideas for their House Charity, for Jesus himself taught us to show love for the poor and all those in need. Finally, students got the opportunity to debate different moral issues seeing who has 'Self Control' in difficult situations. Many of our Saints found themselves in difficulty, yet demonstrated the virtues of self-control in all they did and said. At All Saints, we pride ourselves on cultivating these virtues, working together to truly live life in all its fullness.

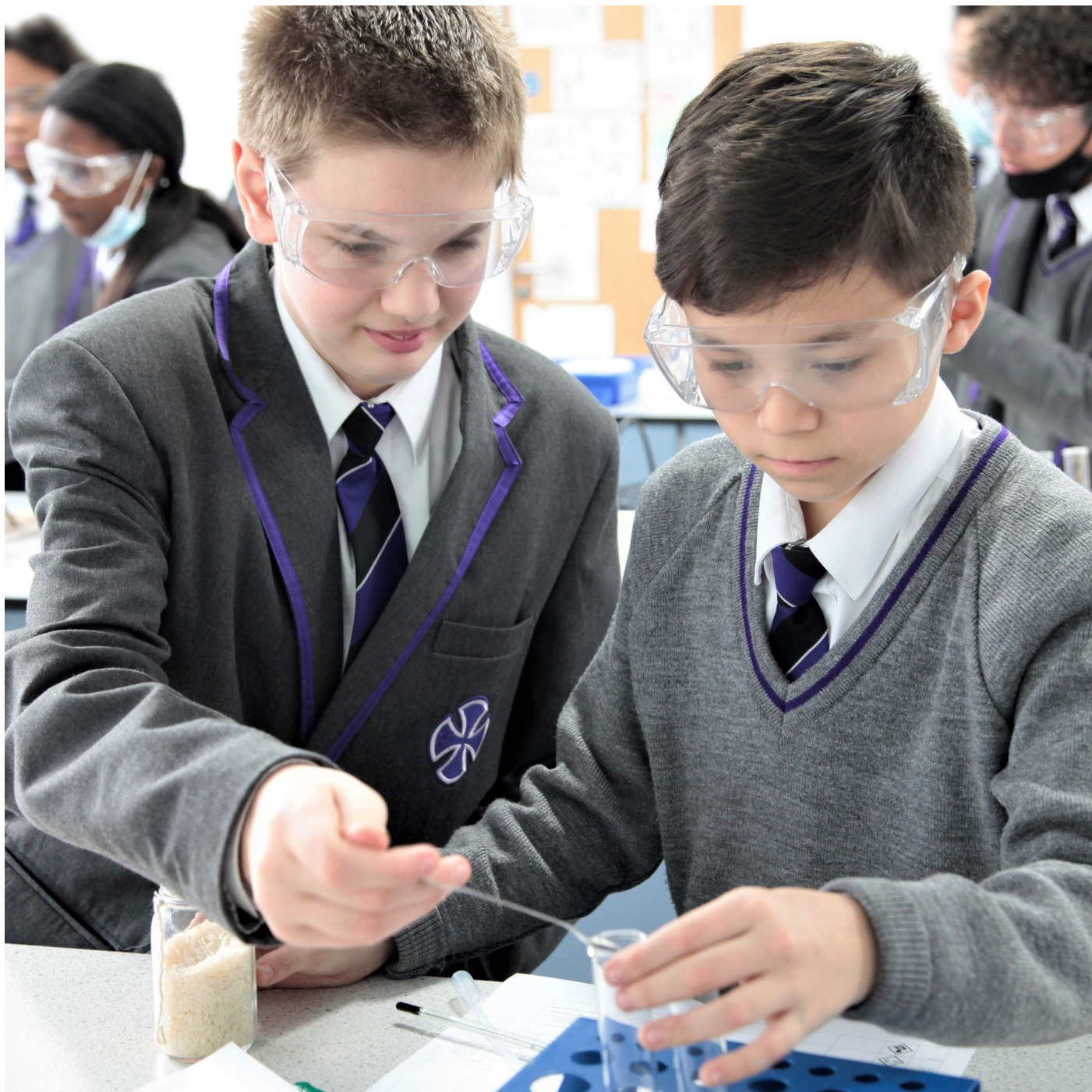
Orare

Laborare

Servire







After a shared lunch in which students served one another, we held our Rewards Ceremony. This year, although the ceremony was virtual, it was certainly one to remember. With Mr. O'Neill on camera and making his way around the school, he was 'live streamed' into every classroom as he hand-delivered each award to deserving students. Sara Hasan (Year 11) became the worthy winner of the *Laborare Award*, for her unwavering hard work throughout her time at All Saints. Iris Ahmed (Year 10) became the deserved winner of the *Servire Award* for her service to our school community, to both students and staff. Ruth Taddy (Year 10) became the proud owner of the *Orare Award*, for her continued dedication towards the Catholic Life of the school. Finally, Bradley Massamba (Year 8) received the highly prestigious *Mike Murphy Cup* for being a supportive, positive influence throughout our school community during the Lockdown. Celebrating these individuals, and their virtues was a perfect way to end the day. [Congratulations again to Sara, Iris, Ruth and Bradley.](#)

We cannot wait to celebrate All Saints Day 2021!

'It is better, much better, to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.'

Proverbs

# Pastoral Care

In this edition of the Review, we wanted to put the Pastoral Team in focus, allowing you to gain insight into one of the most integral departments within the school. The team is led by Assistant Headteacher, Ms Dalton, and the article gives a perspective on the role of the pastoral team within our school community.

## Assistant Headteacher in charge of Pastoral Care - Ms Dalton

Growing up in South West London and attending an all-girls Catholic school, meant that I received a solid education, gaining good grades which allowed me to study Theology at my chosen university. After finishing my degree, I wasn't one hundred percent certain on the career path I wanted to take but I found myself working in a school for children with special educational needs, as a Teaching Assistant. From here I developed my practise and really understood the importance of good relationships with parents and students. After this experience I knew that my vocation was in education and I went on to study for my PGCE. When asked to reflect on where I wanted to go in education, I always envisaged that I would be part of the pastoral team. But why? When I look back at my own education and my experience at school, rarely did my parents receive communication from school, nor do I think I truly understood the importance of the pastoral system at my school or the lasting impact it would have on me. But what do I remember from school? And what mattered to me? Quite honest-

ly, when I think about school the people that are ingrained in my memory are the teachers that were firm but fair, but also those who forged positive working relationships with pupils, and showed through their actions that they cared. Quite often those teachers were part of the pastoral team. Not only do I remember certain teachers, but I can also remember vividly every school trip, particularly those that were abroad. Never before had I boarded a plane, until my school skiing trip in Year 10, an opportunity that outside of school I would never have been given. This is how I see our pastoral team. Of course, the pastoral team is the engine of the school. But apart from the daily operations, the team are also the drivers of the bit about education that you simply can't measure. The bit that makes the pupils love and appreciate school. Education, for our team, is not just about the academics, it is also about the formation of the child. The pastoral team at All Saints is integral to the development of each child and for them to be able to fulfil Jesus' hopes for us all to "live life in all of its fullness".

In order to live life in all of its fullness it is important that students are challenged intellectually, spiritually and morally, but also given opportunities that will help them do this. This is what our team aim to do. It is our hope that each student will leave All Saints with a strong moral compass, knowing the difference between right and wrong and also having the strength of character to stand up for what is right, having had some fun along the way!





Through our daily practices we bear witness to the teachings of Christ, throughout the gospels we see that Jesus presents us with a clear ethical framework of how to live, and that is what our team aim to educate our students on, so we can support them in becoming well rounded, positive members of society. Our job is to praise but also to hold students to account, and ensure they are challenged to grow in the likeness of God. I know that this is what I witness from our pastoral team on a daily basis, from their work it is clear the passion and love that they have for each individual child. What we want for each child is to have positive relationships that will have a lasting impact. Relationships that they will remember for their whole lives and that they can leave All Saints having been given opportunities that they otherwise may not have had.

### Meet The Team:

#### Year 7 – Ms Fulla – Head of Year

This is my 3rd year as a Head of Year and it really is a role like no other. It is different every day and I have learnt so much during my time as Head of Year 7. I wanted to join the pastoral team to give me an opportunity to get to know students and their families better and to learn new skills. This role has helped me in building relationships with students, parents and staff; and helped me to grow in confidence and feel I am really having an impact on my year group. It is a hugely rewarding role as you get to know the students outside of

the classroom setting and make a difference to them.

#### Year 8 – Mr Burke – Head of Year

I am the Head of Year 8 and have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role. Having previously supported the pastoral team and witnessing the work they do with the students, I knew this was the role for me. Although it is a very challenging and fast paced role, it is a privilege to serve the young people in my year group and help them achieve their best.

#### Year 9 – Ms Henry – Head of Year

I joined the pastoral team as I wanted to support the wellbeing of the students at All Saints. Our school is guided by the gospel quotation 'I have come so that you may have life; life in all its fullness.' (John 10:10) I wanted to be a part of the team that encouraged and supported the school ethos of developing the holistic child. The rewards that come with being a Head of Year most certainly outweigh the challenges. It is wonderful to see the students change and develop over time; witnessing their good manners in and around the school; seeing them help a vulnerable person in the local community; making a positive shift in their attitude or behaviour. The part of the role I enjoy the most is developing relationships with students and their families. It is a blessing to build these relationships and watch students grow academically and socially alongside their families.

## Mr Williams – Deputy Head of Year

I joined the pastoral team, as I firmly feel that I can be a positive and influential role model to the students. As somebody who attended a Catholic school and having grown up in the local area, I embody both community spirit and Catholic values. Ultimately, I see our role as inspiring pupils to make progress and become valued members of society not just academically but morally as well. We achieve that through daily interactions around the school and liaising with parents and guardians on their journey.

## Year 10 and 11 – Ms Burke – Head of Year

I am the Head of Year 10 and 11 at All Saints Catholic College. As Head of Year it is crucial that I continuously embody the ‘formatio’ of our school mission statement and ‘form each child in the “image and likeness” of God with a deep appreciation of themselves as well as others around them’. I am constantly conscious of the fact that our jobs, as teachers, do not start and finish in the classroom. It is not only important to provide our students with an outstanding education, it is also important to demonstrate that we are relentlessly bothered. Working within the pastoral department has provided me with the opportunity to foster positive relationships with students within my year groups; cultivating an atmosphere of certainty. Children thrive when there is struc-

ture, stability, predictability and consistency and as a Head of Year, I endeavour to establish routine and certainty within KS4 in order for the student to flourish.

## Ms Stewart – Deputy Head of Year

I am the newly appointed Deputy Head of Year 10 and 11. I wanted to join the pastoral team at All Saints Catholic College, as it is my belief that with trust and perseverance; even the most challenging of students can reach their full potential. My favourite part of the role is having strong student – teacher relationships with pupils and being able to inspire them beyond the classroom. I feel that by working alongside Ms Burke, we can ensure that the students leave All Saints Catholic College with a drive and passion to succeed in their next steps on their journey into adult life.



Orare  
Laborare  
Servire





‘Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others.’

John Paul II

### Ms Boland – Student Services Support

I enjoy working in the pastoral team because I get to be part of ensuring that the child's whole self is cared for. Checking attendance in the morning is the first way to identify potential issues or concerns about children, and I really love working with the Heads of Year to ensure that the students are being given the best opportunities to develop here at All Saints Catholic College.

### Ms Carter – Behaviour Support

I love being part of a team that has a supporting presence for the students. Knowing that I can be a positive influence for them to listen to any issues they may have, be it emotional, behavioural or just wanting a chat leaves me with a great sense of accomplishment. Having the students know that I am available throughout the day, is something that I am delighted to see the students utilise. The students know that I am always available and it helps build positive relationships with them, making it easier for them to seek help and advice when needed. This in itself makes me immensely proud of the role that I have in the pastoral team.

“I have come so  
that you may have  
life, life in all its  
fullness.”

John 10:10



[www.allsaintscc.org.uk](http://www.allsaintscc.org.uk)