



TRAIN TO TEACH WITH GROBY AND PARTNERS



ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

St. Martin's is situated in the historic and beautiful Leicestershire village of Stoke Golding. We were founded by the Dominicans over sixty years ago and we continue our commitment to providing an outstanding education founded upon a strong Christian ethos and a traditional Liberal Arts Education for all students.

Our aim is for our pupils to realise their God-given potential; to provide pupils, from all abilities and backgrounds, with an ambitiously academic curriculum where all succeed through excellent teaching, uncompromising standards of behaviour and relentless care. The culture of Saint Martin's is one where pupils are polite, thoughtful and where kindness is the highest virtue. Our staff go the extra mile to support and help pupils, especially children who are struggling or vulnerable.

At Saint Martin's we have a very specific approach to education and learning. Our mission is twofold: for pupils to learn about 'the best that has been thought and said' and for students to know that they are loved.

'Knowledge is Power' Thomas Hobbes

Matthew Arnold, a 19th Century Educationalist, Thinker and Poet considered that the primary purpose of education was to enable all to learn about 'The best which has been thought and said'. The great cultural heritage we share, from literature and history, to music and art, is the rightful inheritance of all. Our curriculum is heavily influenced by these principles and consequently, we consider that our pupils should learn about their history, read classic novels, appreciate great art, learn a foreign language and participate in 'The Best Which Has Been Thought and Said'.

We therefore, unashamedly, use the expert teacher in the classroom to impart their subject knowledge and expertise to our students in a lesson. At Saint Martin's the teacher is the focus for pupils, desks are in rows, group work is rare, misbehaviour is never tolerated and, consequently, pupils learn extraordinarily well. Pupils are also expected polite and well-mannered at all times. We as teachers model this behaviour.

We have a Knowledge rich curriculum, designed to develop memory and a student's ability to recall information. We now know that intelligence is malleable, in other words, pupils who put in more effort, who practise, who learn and memorise more ideas and knowledge, become more intelligent than those who do not. Individual facts are of little use, however, if you acquire more factual knowledge, you are able to build a mosaic of information that is a prerequisite for deep understanding. In essence, the more you know, the more you are able to learn and understand.

'Higher-order thinking is knowledge-based: The almost universal feature of reliable higher-order thinking about any subject or problem is the possession of a broad, well-integrated base of background knowledge relevant to the subject'. E D Hirsch

We believe that all pupils, from **whatever background or ability**, can learn at this level. Through intensive instruction and support for the least able, and raising the bar even higher for the more able, we strive to provide all students with an exceptional education as part of a compassionate and loving Christian Community.

MR C WRIGHT MA - PRINCIPAL