



LORETO
COLLEGE
ST ALBANS



MISSION STATEMENT

Loreto Catholic Schools and Colleges are centred in God, rooted in Christ and animated by the spirit of Mary Ward, the foundress of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We are proud to be part of an international network of Loreto schools and colleges and we will work to interpret and apply the international guidelines for Loreto Education within the context of England in the early 21st century.

Within our schools and colleges the story of Mary Ward will be re-interpreted to, and by, each new generation. Her vision and values will find expression in the experience offered to, and shaped by, our students, parents, staff and governors.

We are ambitious for our students not just in the context of academic excellence but also in the context of human possibilities, and as educators we will stretch hearts as well as minds.

We invite our students to be women and men who use their gifts and talents to make a difference both globally and locally; men and women of courage who will challenge accepted notions and modes of society when they are at odds with the values for which we stand.

We will strive rigorously for the achievement of both personal and academic excellence within learning communities that:

- introduce students to a reflective way of thinking and living and encourage seekers of **truth** who will search critically for answers to the great questions of life;
- encourage doers of **justice** who will stand with those on the margins of life and become responsible global citizens and agents of social change, committed to building a better world;
- allow all the **freedom** to become their best selves and to take charge of their own lives and futures within environments that celebrate diversity and nurture independence of spirit;
- develop relationships that are marked by a Christ-like respect and compassion and characterised by integrity and **sincerity**, and
- are **joyful** places where students enjoy their learning and flourish in a safe and healthy environment where the value of each individual is celebrated.



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HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL

Loreto College is a Catholic Academy in the trusteeship of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have five forms of girls in Years 7-11, and four forms of girls and boys in Year 12 and three forms in Year 13.

Loreto was founded in St Albans in 1922 by members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Religious Order of women founded by a Yorkshire woman, Mary Ward, in the seventeenth century, for the “care of the faith” of Catholics in England. Since 1609, Mary Ward’s Institute has spread all over the world: Loreto schools are to be found in England, Wales, Ireland, Gibraltar, Spain, Australia, Africa, including South Africa, Mauritius, India, South America, Canada and the U.S.A.

When it opened, Loreto provided the first secondary schooling for girls in St Albans. Since then it has made a considerable contribution to Catholic education in the city and surrounding areas. It has changed character several times over the years, in 1978 becoming a comprehensive school for girls, with an open Sixth Form.

The site is a pleasant mix of old and new buildings set in landscaped gardens of considerable interest. The original building, “The Elms”, was the Convent. St Joseph’s, now housing the MFL department, is a large house bought in 1923 from Samuel Ryder, the seed merchant, founder of the Ryder Cup and former mayor of St Albans.

The 1930’s saw the building of the Chapel and what are now the Library, the History, Geography and C.D.T. department areas. In 1959 the present Science, IT, Mathematics and Food Technology rooms were added. The Dining Room was built in 1969, and then the Music and Art departments. The Administration area was added in 1981. The school has since taken over what was the Convent, and this now houses staff accommodation and the Careers and Sixth Form area. In September 2000 a purpose built gymnasium was created and in September 2002 Hurstlea opened for the RE and Learning Support departments. In 2009 we were delighted to open the Mary Ward building.

The buildings themselves thus record the steady development of the school for 100 years, from its original seven pupils in 1922 to the current average of nine hundred and sixty. With adjoining hockey pitch, and courts for tennis and netball, the school provides an attractive environment for both study and recreation, while being within easy walking distance of the town centre, bus stops and railway station.

The mission of Loreto College is primarily for Catholic girls, and we are committed to helping them to grow in the knowledge and love of their faith, developing principles that reflect the values presented to us by Jesus in the Gospel. The teaching and living of the Catholic faith are fundamental to life at Loreto; we celebrate our faith in all we do, particularly through the Religious Education programme, followed by all students, and in personal and community prayer, worship and service.

The school aims to provide a Christian, caring environment within which each girl is helped to develop her talents to the full and to use these talents for the good of others. The pursuit of academic excellence is our aim, and we have a highly qualified staff committed to equal opportunities for all. We acknowledge that each student is an individual, and our educational provision is centred on the whole person, encouraging each to achieve her potential in academic studies while developing other interests and abilities.

The unique worth of each person is valued in Loreto, where we strive to promote open, trusting, supportive relationships, marked by mutual respect and the acceptance of human weakness and differences. In this way we aim to create a tolerant, celebrating, forgiving community.

Loreto seeks to attract staff who support our stated aims and the pursuit of these ideals.