

EDUCATION MATTERS



ST DAMIAN'S: A CONSISTENTLY HIGH ACHIEVING PROUD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Over the past few years St Damian's GCSE outcomes have been some of the best in Tameside. This year is no exception. The percentage of pupils achieving Grade 4 or above was 87% in English and 85% in Maths whilst the percentage of pupils achieving Grade 5 or above in English was 67% and 64% in Maths. Importantly, the percentage of pupils achieving Grade 7 and above in Maths and English was 21%. These outcomes achieved by the pupils are the foundations of future progress and success.

Across a range of subjects including Religious Education, Sciences, Triple Science, History, Geography and Languages St Damian's achieved great exam successes with these subjects all achieving better than expected grades. Within these, many pupils achieved grades 8 and 9. For example, in Chemistry 70% of pupils entered achieved a Grade 8 or 9 and in Religious Education, in which the whole cohort was entered nearly 25% achieved a Grade 8 or 9. These are outstanding results and all areas of the curriculum broke all previous records. Our vocational subjects, including

BTEC PE, ICT, CPLD also excelled in their achievements with many pupils surpassing high targets.

The question for many parents is "Why send my child to St Damian's?" St Damian's strongly believes that great schools genuinely have children at their heart. We foster excellent relationships with pupils to ensure pupils become the very best they can be. Importantly, the safety of your child is our number one priority. As Ofsted said, we are "rigorous in keeping all pupils safe" and are "meticulous in ensuring that pupils receive superb pastoral care". Our pastoral support is a prime reason for our successes.

Our ongoing success at St Damian's is simple. We believe in the potential of every child. All staff; leaders, teachers and support staff genuinely care for all the children. Ofsted, 2017, said that "the close-knit staff believe that all pupils can achieve, and echo a culture of high expectation". Our school community is based on relationships, and our core values are respect and tolerance. Indeed, our unofficial motto is 'Believe to Achieve'. This is instilled in all the children from day one. Our

excellent Pupil Learning Forum [PLF] ensures that pupil voice has an impact on the quality of learning within school. This forum, led by a range of pupils, develops pupils' leadership skills and confidence. There are already exciting plans for the forthcoming academic year. Our ambitions for your children are limitless and this is supported by a strong and comprehensive careers program which aims to raise aspirations about their futures.

I look forward to meeting you on **Monday 30th September at 5.30pm**. I will be doing two talks, one at 5.45pm and one at 6.45pm. Furthermore, you are more than welcome to visit the school during the working day to see St Damian's at its very best. Please contact the school for an appointment.

Finally, we are an ambitious school. Ambitious in the best sense, making sure that YOUR child achieves their potential in all they do. We hope that parents will continue to support the school and up-hold our simple values and rules and watch this space for August 2020 where our aim is to be one of the best achieving schools in the country!

