

As a college committed to equal opportunities, we positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. The college and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people. All posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The College

Aquinas College is a large and successful Catholic sixth form college. The college has about 2400 full time 16-19 year old students with about 120 full time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff and 55 FTE support staff. The college has grown to this size from modest beginnings -in 1980 it was opened in the premises of a former high school. In 2011 the old buildings were demolished and the college moved to a state-of-the-art new facility on the same site. The college is in a strong financial position and continues to grow modestly year on year and is expanding its facilities further with a new teaching block providing 10 further classrooms and a learning hub.

The college draws students from its four Catholic partner schools (three in Stockport and one in Buxton) and from many other schools in Stockport and neighbouring areas. It has become one of the most over-subscribed colleges in the country, receiving applications from over twice as many students as there are places available. Our admissions policy gives priority to Catholic students, others from Catholic schools, and to siblings.

We have refused to become academically selective, welcoming all students for whom we have space and suitable courses. This is fully in keeping with the college's ethos and the importance we place on personal relationships. We believe that it is these aspects of the college which keep its reputation high, rather than our success in league tables and against national criteria. Nevertheless, and in spite of our comprehensive intake policy, the college has always been amongst the highest rated colleges in the country ever since the league tables were first introduced.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection rated the College as "Good" in its overall effectiveness, its leadership and management, and the personal development of students. The inspectors also stated that students are ambitious and motivated to learn and take pride in producing work of a high standard.

About 75% of each year's intake follow A level courses with the remainder undertaking a combination of A levels, BTECs and other level 3 courses together with some level 2 courses and resit GCSEs. There is provision for some level 1 literacy and numeracy, as well as entry level courses in our Pathways department for students with moderate learning difficulties. We offer about 40 subjects at A level with all of our students undertaking a core skills programme including general religious studies, tutorial and enrichment opportunities. In addition to the 16-19 year-old students, the college has around 1,000 part time adult students who attend on Monday and Tuesday evenings following a wide range of courses.

In common with other sixth form colleges, the college is centrally funded by the Skills Funding Agency. However, as a designated college, the premises remain the property of the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury. All staff are employed directly by the college. The terms and conditions of employment are, in common with all sixth form colleges, those nationally negotiated by the Sixth Form Colleges' Association (SFCA). In broad terms, salaries and contractual arrangements parallel those in secondary schools.

Concerning the present appointments, applications from practising Catholics would be particularly welcome, although all applications will be considered on their merits. Intending applicants who will be newly qualified (ECTs) should note that it is possible for them to complete their period of induction at Aquinas College.