

## **The SEN Department**

The Special Needs Department at St Richard's Catholic College works hard to identify and support all the pupils with identified learning needs, across all areas of the curriculum.

We have an experienced, dedicated and friendly team which currently consists of a full-time SENCO, a part-time SEN Administrator, five Teaching Assistants/Year Co-ordinators and four additional Teaching Assistants, two specialising in pastoral work.

Most Teaching Assistants are subject specialists, with our current team of TAs specialising in supporting English, Maths, Science, Religious Education and Humanities. We work alongside teaching staff as part of subject departments, to ensure access for all pupils with identified SEN to an appropriate Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum.

At present we have 93 pupils on our Special Educational Needs register, which includes 13 with Educational Health and Care Plans. The pupils we support have a variety of needs, including those who are on the Autism Spectrum, Dyslexia, Social Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties and Physical Disabilities.

Interventions are offered on a bespoke basis for pupils who require this provision, including reading, social use of language, literacy, numeracy, handwriting and anger management. The department has a small dedicated space, the Learning Intervention Room. It also has an office where the SECO and SEN Administrator are based.

We work closely with a variety of outside agencies, including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychologists, CITES, ESBAS, and external providers including The Harbour, 180 and the TLP.

The SEN Department is a vital, valuable part of a successful school. There is an induction programme for new staff at all levels and an opportunity to attend a variety of training and continuing professional development opportunities.