



MOUNT

ST MARY'S | BARLBOROUGH HALL

# A Jesuit Education

at Mount St Mary's College  
and Barlborough Hall School



At Mount St Mary's College and our preparatory school, Barlborough Hall we continue a centuries-old tradition of providing a Jesuit education in the rural heart of England. The sole focus of our work is to help girls and boys, aged three to 18, to grow in compassion, competence and conscience so they become men and women for others.

# Welcome





# Introducing the Jesuits

Nearly five hundred years ago a group of intellectuals, visionaries and philosophers formed the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). They shared a belief that if a person fully develops every aspect of themselves they can give of their best to the world. This benefits the individual, their family, the wider community and even humankind. The friends believed that ultimately, all human endeavour is for the greater glory of God.



Today the Society of Jesus is renowned for its role in education. It is the largest religious order in the Roman Catholic Church, the leader of which, Pope Francis, is himself a Jesuit. There are many other prominent Jesuits in the fields of politics, science, the arts and, of course, education.



The Jesuits specialise in education. Their approach and expertise has stood the test of time and has influenced the shape and delivery of education in classrooms the world over. A global network of more than 3,700 Jesuit schools, colleges and universities make the Jesuits the single most successful provider of education in history.





# Defining a Jesuit School

A number of principles, shared across Jesuit schools and universities, underlie Jesuit education.

First and foremost is *cura personalis*, a Latin phrase which means care for the whole individual. Like parents, we want the best for each child in our care and provide plenty of opportunity for all to develop their rainbow of talents and interests and come to appreciate literature, aesthetics, music and the fine arts. We ask a lot of the children to help them realise their potential academically, artistically, in sport, technology, spiritually and socially. In turn, we work tirelessly to support their holistic growth.

The pursuit of excellence, what we call the *magis*, is another guiding principle of a Jesuit education. *Magis* means to do more, to be more, to go deeper. It is all-encompassing and by no means restricted to academic studies. It extends to the way pupils dress, their conduct, the way in which they represent the school and how they interact with peers, staff and visitors. Indeed the pursuit of excellence becomes a way of life for our pupils and is credited by many alumni as the mind-set that enables them to lead a life of integrity and achievement.

Our academic programme is robust and challenging and examination results are of great importance to us. The standard of teaching and learning and pupil attainment ranges from very good to outstanding, from nursery right the way through to sixth form. However, academic performance is not, for us, the only important measure of a successful education.

When a child matures into a well-rounded and balanced young person with a range of interests, an archive of experiences, an understanding of the world, both its joys and injustices, and a sense of him or herself, we know their education though not yet complete, has done what it should.

“Go, set the world on fire.”

*St Ignatius*



# The Jesuit Pupil Profile

As a Jesuit school we set great store on the values in the pupil profile.

We work hard to nurture these important virtues in all the children. At Barlborough Hall School there is a large display of the pupil profile and every time a child demonstrates one of the virtues their name is added to the display for all to see.

Pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be...

*Grateful* for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and *generous* with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.

*Attentive* to their experience and to their vocation; and *discerning* about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

*Compassionate* towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and *loving* by their just actions and forgiving words.

*Faith-filled* in their beliefs and *hopeful* for the future.

*Eloquent* and *truthful* in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

*Learned*, finding God in all things; and *wise* in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

*Curious* about everything; and *active* in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

*Intentional* in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and *prophetic* in the example they set to others.







# The Jesuit Way of Teaching

The process of teaching and learning in a Jesuit school is interactive and engaging. Teachers in a Jesuit school do not bombard their pupils with information, or want them to learn by rote. The class is actively involved in understanding what they are being taught by viewing it through the prism of their own experience of life.

Discussion and debate, independent thinking and critical reasoning are encouraged. As they develop, pupils are expected to form and articulate opinions and justify thoughtful conclusions.

Finally it is for the pupil to decide how what they have learnt, coupled with their personal experiences and belief system, will influence their behaviour and actions. The ultimate aim being that they grow ever closer towards maturity and independence, becoming men and women for others with the ability to bring about positive change, making the world a better place in small things or big.

Be **attentive** to *one's own experience*

**Reflect** on experiences and learning

**Discern** how to act, based on *reflection*





# How it Began

Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish knight who had a spiritual conversion while recovering from injury sustained in the Battle of Pamplona in 1521. Such was its impact that he abandoned his military life and devoted himself to God.

Ignatius, along with nine like-minded companions, founded the Society of Jesus in 1540. At first, no single activity defined this new religious order. Early Jesuits preached in the streets, led men and women through spiritual exercises, taught theology in universities, instructed children in the catechism and cared for those on the edge of society. They discovered their mission by doing it, adapting to change, taking risks and learning by trial and error.

Nonetheless, the early companions were all graduates of the best universities of Europe and were innovative and visionary. They came to realise there was one emerging activity that connected their intellectual training, their world-affirming spirituality, their pastoral experience and their goal of helping others.



When citizens of Messina in Italy asked Ignatius to open a school for their sons, he seemed to have decided that schools could be a powerful means of forming the minds and hearts of those, who, because they would be important citizens in their communities, could influence others for the good.

The first Jesuit school opened in 1548. When it proved a success, requests to open Jesuit schools elsewhere multiplied. Education soon became the characteristic activity of Jesuits and two hundred years later there were some 850 Jesuit schools and universities across Europe and beyond.

The feast day of St Ignatius is 31<sup>st</sup> July.

# Part of a Global Network

There are 3,700 Jesuit schools and universities the world over, educating some of the world's poorest and most disadvantaged and some of the most privileged children. Despite the differences the network creates a multi-national family of children with a shared vision and common values at its heart. Because of the differences, it gives the children an understanding of life beyond their horizon and an appreciation of the benefits they have.

Cultural, sporting, musical, linguistic and spiritual trips are made all the easier for us as we have a ready-made network of partner schools overseas. Our pupils benefit from exciting sports tours, memorable concert performances and exchange visits to countries from Ireland to Australia, France to Nigeria.

The long list of Jesuit schools, colleges and universities includes:

- Boston College, USA
- Colegio San Estanislao de Kostka, Spain
- Georgetown University, USA

- Hochschule für Philosophie München, Germany
- Holy Name Seminary, New Zealand
- Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente, Mexico
- Lycée Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, France
- Massimiliano Massimo Institute, Italy
- Universidad del Salvador, Argentina
- University of Notre Dame, USA
- Wimbledon College, UK





# Your Family is Welcome Here

St Ignatius and his companions were inclusive and welcoming. They sought to make a Jesuit education available to as many children as possible and we follow their lead.

We welcome Catholic families, families of other faiths and families without any religious belief. We do not seek to convert or to preach and we respect the religious beliefs of all pupils and staff. What we ask of all who join us is that they value the characteristics of a Jesuit education and support our approach to the growth and development of their child. We are certain you will find ours a warm and friendly community with values common to all. These are the values expressed in the Jesuit Pupil Profile on page 9.

We are a Catholic school and proud of the Jesuit traditions that define us. We celebrate important dates in the Christian calendar, for example Easter, Christmas and feast days too. We have a modest but ample chapel at Barlborough Hall School and a grand and beautiful chapel at Mount St Mary's College. Designed by Adrian Gilbert Scott, it was dedicated in 1924 as a memorial chapel to commemorate the Old Mountaineers who died in World War I.

Our chaplaincy team offers guidance, care and support to all children and staff. This is highly regarded by pupils, not least the boarding community. Most of the small team are teachers but there is a Jesuit presence on campus.

The prayer over the page was written by Father John Twist SJ, a Jesuit priest and member of our governing body. It is traditionally said at the beginning of a school year, to help pupils prepare for the challenges ahead. Father Twist wrote the prayer to reflect the Jesuit Pupil Profile and its pairs of virtues.



## The Dedication of Studies

*God, our almighty Father,  
to you we dedicate our studies  
and the work that we do this year.  
Open our minds and our hearts  
so that together we may be grateful for our gifts and the gifts  
of others;  
generous to become men and women for others;  
attentive and discerning in the events of daily life;  
compassionate with the needy;  
loving towards others;  
faith-filled in our beliefs, with hope in the future;  
eloquent and truthful in our speech;  
learning to find God in all things;  
curious to know;  
engaged with the world;  
committed to change for the better.  
May we use the resources of the earth prudently  
and set a prophetic example by our conduct,  
so that we may employ our knowledge to benefit others  
and create one family of all nations  
to the greater glory of God.  
May Mary, the mother of your son,  
and our mother too,  
assist us in all that we do  
and make us more like her son,  
our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*





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