

Alpha Plus Group Acquires St. Anthony's School in Hampstead, London

Alpha Plus continuing to seek opportunities for expansion

London, 24 June 2009 – The Alpha Plus Group has acquired St. Anthony's School in Hampstead as part of its ongoing development strategy.

The acquisition of St. Anthony's is part of Alpha Plus's growth and development strategy, which has also seen the Group recently establish Chepstow House School in Notting Hill and secure a new and larger location for Wetherby Preparatory School at Bryanston Square in Marylebone. The Group is continually seeking opportunities for further expansion, demonstrating its confidence in the growing need for independent education.

St. Anthony's was originally founded by Richard Patton in the Victorian era. The school moved to its current location in Hampstead in the 1950s and has been run successfully by the Patton family since then. Today, St. Anthony's is a highly successful preparatory school for boys between the ages of 5 and 13. The School is Roman Catholic but welcomes boys of other denominations and faiths.

Under the terms of the agreement, St. Anthony's will retain its own identity, with the Head continuing to lead the school, but with the benefits of financial security and the sharing of best practice by belonging to one of the country's leading educational groups.

The Headmaster, Chris McGovern and the Bursar, Sarah Anderson, who is also a member of the family who founded the school, will be continuing in their positions, ensuring a seamless continuity for pupils and parents.

The Alpha Plus Group is fully committed to ensuring the maintenance of the strong Catholic ethos of the school and is being supported by the Diocese of Westminster in this regard. This will be achieved through the establishment of a Catholic advisory committee, which will have responsibility for ensuring that the School is managed in accordance with the principles and aims of Catholic education. The members of this committee will be Monsignor Phelim Rowland, the school's parish priest; Gerrard Tyrrell, a former parent of the school and current member of the school's Board of Visitors; Nadine Waddell, also a former parent; and Sarah Anderson.

Demand for places at St. Anthony's is extremely high and enrolments for September have increased compared to last year. The school's ownership by Alpha Plus will see further investment in its future development with an initial programme of works already planned for the summer holidays.

Headmaster of St. Anthony's, Chris McGovern, said:

"I am delighted that St. Anthony's has become part of the Alpha Plus Group. It shows the school's strong commitment to further enhancing the quality of education it offers pupils. Not only will it provide for long-term investment and development, it will ensure the continuity of the Catholic ethos of the school. It represents a statement of real confidence in the future."

Paul Brett, Chief Executive of the Alpha Plus Group, said:

“We are delighted to bring a school of the quality of St. Anthony’s within the Alpha Plus Group. Our commitment to a ‘gold standard’ in education provision and to the values which have made St. Anthony’s such a great school will ensure its continued success and development. This acquisition is an example of our growth strategy as a Group and a sign of our confidence in the growing need for independent education.”

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