



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

Press release

September 26th 2019

British Council International School Award success for

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy in Sunderland has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

St. Anthony's international work includes

- Teacher training working in partnership with the University of Linnaeus, Vaxjo and Kalmar, Sweden.
- Continuing professional development work working with Manzini Youth Care, Swaziland.
- Links with schools in China as part of Sunderland's partnership with Harbin and our own links with schools.
- Links with schools in Gujarat, India, including Panchshil School Rajkot.

On hearing the news that St. Anthony's had received the award, Mrs. Monica Shepherd (Headteacher) said:

“At St. Anthony’s we hope to expand horizons by linking with global partners and inviting them to visit us in Sunderland. We have developed strong links with the University of Linnaeus in Sweden. Student teachers from the university undertake aspects of their teacher training here in school. We have also developed links with several schools in China, as part of Sunderland’s link with Harbin, and also schools in India and schools and nearer to home in France and Spain.

The teaching of Modern Foreign Languages is a great strength of our school community. As well as meeting the challenge of rigorous academic study, students are enriched by learning about varied cultures in an increasingly globalized world.

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved this award on European Day of Languages which is always a fun and inspiring day at St. Anthony’s”

Sir Ciarán Devane, CEO of the British Council, said: ‘The school’s fantastic international work has rightfully earned it this prestigious award. The International School Award is a great chance for schools to demonstrate the important work they’re doing to bring the world into their classrooms. Embedding an international dimension in children’s education ensures that they are truly global citizens and helps prepare them for successful lives and careers in an increasingly global economy.’

The award, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year, is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Over 6000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

To interview the school or for images.

The media are welcome to join us on European Day of Languages Thursday 26th September.

Please contact enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com or ring the school (0191 5658904) today Wednesday 25th September.

For more information about the International School Award, please contact our team at schools@britishcouncil.org

Notes to Editors:

The **British Council International School Award** started in 1999 to recognise the schools leading the way in instilling and developing a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. It is managed by the British Council and celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2019.

The **British Council** is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 65 million people directly and 731 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

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