

CLOSE BOND

Profile of All Saints School by Duncan Robinson

Augustinians Cricket Club share a close bond with All Saints School, situated near the northern boundary of Kirklees, midway between Huddersfield and Brighouse. The club and the school have a unique connection because Augustinians evolved out of All Saints and, according to John Harold, have “always had a strong school tradition.”



Harold himself was one of the founder members of Augustinians, having been a teacher at the school. It was he and four other members of staff, as well as six pupils, who decided to create the club so that students at the school could carry on playing cricket after finishing at the school.

Augustinians did lose some of their connection with All Saints when they moved ground to Laund Hill, having originally played their matches at the school. This was a necessary step for the club to take as they enjoyed better facilities and improved the profile of the club.

Wandering around All Saints School today it is easy to see the prestigious history associated with the school. The site is particularly pleasing on the eye and the cricket connection is clearly evidenced by the huge playing fields. Immediately when entering the grounds it seems a tranquil environment and there is a sporty feel about the place.

Speaking to one of the headteachers, Liam Harron, it is clear how important sport still is to the school. He said, “We think it’s very important that the students express themselves either through sport, music or art. We like to see them reach their potential, not only academically, but also in non-academic roles.”

All Saints is a Roman Catholic School. The name 'Augustinians' is taken from St. Augustine. Harron explained the importance of religion to the school, "Approximately 50% of both teaching and support staff are baptised Catholics. The majority of students are baptised Catholics, with a small number of students of other faiths being admitted each year."

Harron also explained how the school helps the community and organisations such as Augustinians Cricket Club: "Central to our mission as a faith college is to work hard to develop our partnership with our parishes, local, national and international communities, to outreach, learn from and support those in greatest need. Our committed and lively staff team regularly enrich students' experiences with exchange visits, spiritual opportunities, collaborative music and arts activities and competitive sport."

The school's connection with cricket can also be seen by the participation of some of the All Saints' pupils last year in carrying out research for the Cricket Heritage Project at the University of Huddersfield on Fartown cricket ground.

It seems that the spirit of the school from forty years ago lives on and with some of the pupils at the school playing a very high standard of cricket this could be good news for Augustinians CC if these youngsters feel nostalgic and want to play for the club that originated at their school.