

### **Introduction:**

Bon Secours is a French private Catholic school, founded in Perpignan in 1871. The institution has trained generations of students and is part of the local history of the city, in the South of France.

Nowadays, Bon Secours is a Secondary School/Sixth form college (Seconde, Première, Terminale). After obtaining the baccalauréat (general or technological) a pupil has the opportunity to enroll as a student on a two-years or three-years higher education course.

The reputation of the school is well-established in Perpignan, it is one of the biggest private secondary school in the regional district *Occitanie Pyrénées Méditerranée*. We work with the local university (Université de Perpignan Via Domitia) as well as other regional universities. We have a long tradition of organizing exchanges and trips both in France and abroad.

### **Milestones in the history of Bon Secours:**

**1871:** Three sisters, *Les Demoiselles Guinard*, open a school in Perpignan for the Christian Education of young girls.

**1881:** It is such a success that the school moves to new premises in the suburbs. The architecture of the building is inspired by the sisters' Norman roots. This is quite unusual in Perpignan.

**1914-1918:** Bon Secours becomes a military hospital.



**1942:** Two Dominican Congregations from Mortefontaine and Pensier (Switzerland) take over the school.

**1957:** Notre-Dame de Bon Secours becomes part of La Congrégation Romaine de Saint Dominique.

### **1968: several revolutions...**

- **Under Contract with the French Ministry of Education (Debré Law)**
- Setting up of a secondary school approved by the Ministry of Education
- The school becomes co-educational with 450 pupils
- Soeur François d'Assise Pesle is the new Head. Under her dynamic headship, Bon Secours expands rapidly: two new buildings, introduction of science courses (microbiology) and technological courses (paramedic and secretarial).

**1972:** Now up to 1000 pupils.

**1980: Opening of the first post baccalauréat course:** BTS Bureautique Trilingue (Assistant de Manager from 2008).

**1986:** Secularization of Bon Secours. The first lay headmaster arrives.

**1989:** Creation of a second BTS course in International Trade

**1989/1990:** New library. First Lecture Room. New dining room.

**1993:** Opening of the prestigious Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Ecoles de Commerce

**1994/1995:** New sports grounds, the park is now smaller.

New science building, an old building is demolished.

**1997:** Creation of a specific course for future medical students.

**2000:** The school comes under the Diocesan Tutelage.

Latest development: a pre-engineering course for teenagers.

**2011:** Bon Secours organises a « ceremony of light » : *140 ans, à la lumière de Bon Secours... »*. This is the wish of André Pelras, headmaster from September 2010. With his administrative and his teaching staff, his aim is to show where we come from and where we are.

**2012:** We are concluding an unprecedented partnership with Coventry University, 12<sup>th</sup> in the British rankings. Through the RenaSup French higher education network (575 units) we now train in management, 100% in English and at an undergraduate level, young people who receive a British diploma, in global marketing or international tourism.

**2014:** The institution obtains a second Erasmus charter. With Erasmus+, the focus is on the organization of teacher mobility.

**2015:** Bon Secours is still innovating, through the leadership of a new headmaster, Jean-Marc Dantony. To meet the expectations of many families, he is launching a **vocational training center**: *Bon Secours Business Campus*:



**2017-2018:** More than 100 *student-employees* are now preparing various higher education degrees in Social Management, Sales and Negotiation or Business Units' management. From September, they will be able to continue *on site* training, in marketing and sales under a bachelor degree delivered by the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (the CNAM). Some will also undertake training in tourism.

The **cultural project** is broad and diversified and the school pursues its **policy of international reception** and access to **various certifications or specific courses**: *the TOEIC in English, the VOLTAIRE certification (French spelling) the preparation for Sciences Po. competitions, the preparation for Cambridge certifications, a new partnership with Montpellier Business School...* We now have five school exchange programs with Denmark, China, United States, Quebec and Vietnam.

High school students are involved in a **sustainable development scheme** and the teams are working towards obtaining an **E3D label**.

(E3D means *Établissement en Démarche de Développement Durable* or Establishment in a Sustainable Development Approach).

Major construction works are now starting to house a new training in Sciences, from the beginning of September 2018, in Bioanalysis and Control.