

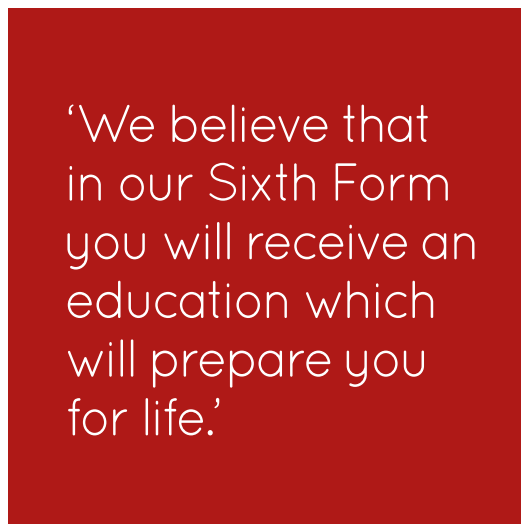


# St Joseph's Catholic College



## Post 16 Prospectus





It is my pleasure to introduce the St Joseph's College Sixth Form prospectus. The aim of this publication is to capture what is special about our Sixth Form.

The transfer to post-GCSE education is a period of change and choices are made which may well shape your future lives. This prospectus is designed to give an introduction to life in the Sixth Form and to help you to understand the range of courses and opportunities available with us.

We believe that in our Sixth Form you will receive an education which will prepare you for life. Christian values of love, care and respect form the basis of our community. Every person irrespective of their faith background should be nurtured and valued, thereby ensuring real progress in their academic, personal and spiritual development.

Small group teaching and strong pastoral support are just two of the reasons our students choose to study with us. We see our post-sixteen students as an invaluable asset to the College and want them to have a wide range of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

This is an important time in your educational journey and we would like to ensure you continue on the best pathway for your future.

*Paul Hughes, Principal*







# Why choose St. Joseph's?

## Results

We have helped many students realise their ambitions at A and AS Level, and through BTEC. Whatever your chosen career path we will work with you, tailoring support and guidance to suit your needs. Our August 2015 results speak for themselves:

- **96%** A Level pass rate
- **36%** of students achieved B grade or better
- Average point score **over 700**

## Developing independence

St. Joseph's recognises that the needs of Year 12 and 13 students are different to those of younger students at the College. The student week is structured in such a way to encourage and develop independent learning skills, to ensure they get the most out of College life.

## Higher education success

Over the last few years our students have gone on to study such courses as BSc degrees in Biochemistry, Medicine and Mental Health Nursing, LLB in Law and BA degrees in English Literature and Economics with International Relations.

Of those who left in 2015, **60%** went on to university either in the UK or abroad.

## Moving into work

For those students who choose to go into work, St. Joseph's offers a wide range of support: from help in writing their CVs and researching potential career options; to seeking apprenticeship opportunities and taking part in mock interviews with local employers.

Our dedicated Information, Advice and Guidance Coordinator supports students, assisting them in working out the best career path.

## Small group teaching

Post-sixteen students benefit from small class sizes, which helps prepare students for the focused learning experienced in tutorial groups at university. Such small numbers mean that staff know the students' strengths and areas for development, and ensure learners always have the opportunity to ask questions and develop their ideas and views.

## Range of course options

The College offers a wide range of Level 3 courses including A, AS Level and BTEC options, and works with other local schools and colleges to offer as varied a range of subject choices as possible.

## Tutor system

Every student is assigned a personal tutor, who will help you build your own study programme, plan your work, give you feedback, and support you in making higher education or work applications. You will have regular meetings with your tutor, giving you the opportunity to discuss how you're managing your workload and any issues or concerns you may have.

## Support and advice

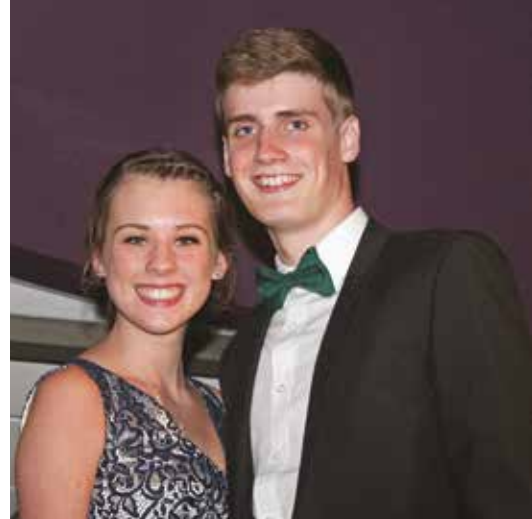
Alongside your own personal tutor, the College has a dedicated Head of Post-Sixteen Education plus a Student Advisor. The College's 'open door policy' means you will always be able to ask questions.

## Dedicated study area

As well as state-of-the-art learning facilities, Year 12 and 13 students at the College have their own dedicated study area, including computers, textbooks and learning resources. There is also a communal area where you can relax, listen to music and be with your friends.

## Enrichment

We know that having the opportunity to build your experiences outside the classroom is equally as important. Therefore the College offers a range of activities including the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, an active Chaplaincy Group, a Fairtrade Franchise and opportunities to support younger students through the reading programme or offering support in class.





## What else do we offer?



Students at St. Joseph's are offered many opportunities throughout their time in Year 12 and 13, to learn about and experience new places, activities and occupations through trips, work experience placements and extra-curricular activities. Some examples of visits that have taken place are:

- The Chemistry Labs at the University Of Bath
- Study Skills Day at the University of Gloucestershire
- Thorpe Park Education Centre
- Sesto Fiorentino in Italy
- The Eden Project
- Houses of Parliament
- @Bristol

Students have also taken part in the Swindon Big Arts Day; have been involved in events at Swindon Central Library and visited local businesses such as Dolby Europe and Origin Zone Printers.

The College also has on-going relationships with a range of employers. Every student is offered the opportunity to take up a work experience placement. In 2014 these included placements at BMW, Mercedes Benz, RWE, Headway and Infinite Communications.

All students have the opportunity to study for the extended project qualification (EPQ). This is highly regarded by universities.





# Supporting your studies

Your Personal Tutor will work with you to plan and manage your workload. You will meet with them regularly throughout your two years, and they will help you in a number of key ways:

- Settling in
- Planning your studies
- Supporting you to keep on track with coursework and deadlines
- Offering you feedback on your progress and helping you to set achievable targets
- Supporting you through university or work applications

As well as your own Tutor, Subject Teachers are often available to offer extra help and will give you detailed feedback on assignments.

All staff at St. Joseph's pride themselves on the help and support they offer. We are also proud of our Pastoral care and are here to help you. At St. Joseph's we view post-sixteen studies as a partnership between teachers, students and parents, where care and support is always available.

'As a post-sixteen tutor, it is a privilege to be able to help students contribute to the wider College, monitoring their academic progress, celebrating in their successes, discussing issues important to them, and guiding them through the process of applying to a university. Speaking with my tutees, I also know that they hold a deep appreciation of the pastoral care they have received from all the post-sixteen team during their time at St. Joseph's.'

*Current post-sixteen tutor*



# Decisions for your future

Deciding where to go from here can be tricky: whether you need to make your university choices or are still considering further education, a gap year or going straight into a career. At St. Joseph's we understand that careers guidance is a crucial element of post-sixteen education and, as such, we offer:



## Careers Library

Our well-stocked Careers Library gives you the ideal place to start discovering what might be right for you. Students are guided in using the internet to research career options, gap years and university courses. With careers software and an online application process for university applications, students can access a wide range of resources in the study area to ensure they make the choices that are most suitable for them.

## University choices and applications

The College has a number of initiatives and partnerships, preparing students for university and helping them make choices and understand what will be expected of them as they move into higher education.

We are part of the University of Gloucestershire Compact Scheme, which means students from St. Joseph's have priority access to a programme

of activities and events aimed at raising awareness of higher education. These include a summer school, which covers a range of subject areas from Broadcast Journalism to Law, Sports Physiology to Marketing, as well as discussions on careers, finance and student life.

This year students have also attended conferences such as Mind the Gap, where students can find out more about the opportunities available to them should they decide to take a gap year. Visits to University Fairs and Open Days are also arranged to ensure all students have the opportunity to find out as much information as they need to make informed choices on courses and institutions.

Tutors offer support throughout the university application process and will write individual references. This is backed up by the Student Advisor and Assistant Principals, who will advise on writing your personal statements and ensure you are able to complete your UCAS form accurately.





## Applying to Oxbridge

Identifying students who want to apply to Oxbridge early in Year 12 means that we can offer extended guidance and support through the application and interview process.

We are part of the Villiers Park Educational Trust Scholars Programme, which offers comprehensive and cohesive support for able students from less advantaged backgrounds, helping them to get into leading universities and on to the best courses. Alongside this students also go on taster days to individual colleges and attend conferences and events.

## Moving into work

The College has a dedicated Information, Advice and Guidance Coordinator who works with students on career options and advice. She operates an open door policy for students throughout the College day, often meeting with parents and students to discuss different options. Students are offered help with their CV writing, encouraged to take up work experience placements and have access to an extensive careers library.

We work with local employers to give students the opportunity to do mock interviews and receive business mentoring. We help students realise their ambitions through one-to-one careers

interviews and advertise events and opportunities each week on the careers boards. Trips to careers events are arranged throughout the year, as are opportunities to visit local training providers for apprenticeship advice.

## Links with Business and Enterprise

As a College we have strong links with local businesses, schools, and community groups, as well as international partnerships in Europe, Africa and the southern hemisphere. Locally, these include BMW/Mini Plant, the Great Western Hospital, Mercedes Benz, Capita Partnership and NatWest.

# Destinations

In 2015 our Year 13 students achieved excellent exam results and a 96% A Level pass rate.

This has meant that many have been able to realise their ambitions, taking up places at university, going on a gap year, or accepting apprenticeships and moving into the world of work. Below is a selection of our students and the destinations they have chosen:



Naomi South  
A\*, A\*, A\*  
Mathematics  
Warwick



Gregory Winiarski  
A\*, A. A. B  
Maths & Statistics  
Bristol



Jennifer Jurga  
A\*, A. A  
History  
Exeter



Fiona Beaton  
A. A. B  
Computer Science  
Bristol



Kieran O'Daly  
Dis\*/Dis\*, B.B.B  
Sport Science  
Portsmouth



Lee-Ann Popowicz  
A. B. B  
Chemistry  
Bristol



Delvin Vaz  
Dis\*, Dis\*, Dis\*  
Accounting  
Gloucestershire



Andrea C-Charles  
A. A. B. C  
Gap Year



Kate Karpinski  
A. B. B  
Italian/Russian  
Exeter (2016)



Joseph Ouldrige  
Dis\*, Dis\*, Dis  
Sport Technology  
Sheffield



Venisha Fernandes  
Dis. Dis. C  
Child Nursing  
Buckinghamshire



Valentine Yohans  
Dis. Dis. B. E  
Adult Nursing  
Oxford Brookes



# What we offer our students

## The Post-Sixteen Contract

Every post-sixteen student at St. Joseph's enters into a contract with the College, which forms the basis of close monitoring throughout their time with us. Signed by the student, tutor and a member of the Senior Leadership Team (this contract creates a framework for our partnership with the student and their parent(s) or carer(s).

## Attendance

We believe attendance is key to every student fulfilling his/her potential and, whilst we aim to foster a growing sense of independence for post sixteen students, their regular attendance at all lessons remains essential, and is monitored by subject teachers and personal tutors.

## Close liaison with parents

At St. Joseph's we believe that a parent's involvement in their child's education is crucial. As such the College runs events throughout the year where parents can speak to staff and tutors. Parents can learn what is expected of their child throughout their time in post-sixteen studies at the 'Focus on the Future'

evening. We also have a dedicated post sixteen Student Advisor, who parents can contact to answer questions and queries.

'The pastoral care is brilliant, with our teachers and tutors always available to help. They really care and want you to succeed – I've felt supported throughout my time at St. Joseph's.'

*Year 12 student*

## Communication

We want the parents of our students to not only be always aware of what is happening with their child, but also what is going on in the wider College community. As such all our events are posted on our website and we also use Twitter:

@*SixthFormNews* to keep students and parents informed and reminded of key information and events.

## Money matters

Students who stay on into post sixteen education are able to apply for a bursary if they fulfil certain criteria.

This bursary can be used to cover the cost of textbooks, educational trips as well as the cost to get to and from College. If you think you may qualify please contact our Student Adviser.

*[jbaxter@stjosephscollege.net](mailto:jbaxter@stjosephscollege.net)*

## College Policies

St. Joseph's is a Catholic College with a clear vision which underpins our teaching, pastoral care and liaison with parents and students. As such we have policies in a number of areas, including Curriculum, Behaviour Management, Attendance and Gifted and Talented. All of our policies are able to view on our website:

*[www.stjosephscollege.net](http://www.stjosephscollege.net)*



# What courses can I take?

There are some major changes taking place in post sixteen education. Currently at St. Joseph's you can take up to five courses in Year 12, with students usually taking three of these subjects onto Year 13.

Current subject choices include:



- Ancient History
- Art and Design
- Biology
- BTEC Applied Science (Medical Science)
- BTEC Engineering
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- BTEC IT
- BTEC Performing Arts
- BTEC Sport
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- EPQ
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Italian
- Mathematics
- Music Technology
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Photography
- Physics
- Politics
- Product Design (Graphics Products)
- Sociology
- Textiles



Further Mathematics, Music Technology, Psychology and Politics are delivered through our partnership with The Ridgeway School. Students taking these subjects have some lessons at The Ridgeway school and support from staff at St. Joseph's.





# What other activities are on offer?

The College offers a wide range of extra-curricular courses, which play a significant role in the personal development of our students.

Whilst qualifications are important, the College recognises that it is often what students do above and beyond their studies which can make them stand out on university or work applications. Post-sixteen students have the opportunity to become involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, with many achieving the Gold Award whilst in Year 13.

They can get involved in mentoring younger students, taking part in 'enhancement' activities such as becoming an active member of the

Fairtrade Franchise, or become a 'reading buddy'. Such activities develop key skills such as working with others, communicating effectively and problem-solving.

The sixth form student also plays a key role within the College and this year we have appointed senior students, including a Head Boy and Girl. These students represent the sixth form at St. Joseph's on a daily basis around the college and also at events such as open evenings. They also support the Student Council, chairing meetings and listening to students views.

The College strives to offer as many activities as possible and is always keen to hear from students if they would like to start something new. We recognise that it is often what you do outside of the classroom that you remember most when you leave and we are keen for all Year 12 and 13 students to make the most of their time at St. Joseph's.





# Application Criteria

As a fully inclusive, multi-cultural College, St. Joseph's considers all applications. We have an intake that derives from a wide catchment area across north Wiltshire.

St. Joseph's welcomes students who fulfil their entry requirements and wish to continue their studies in a supportive environment, playing a part in College life whether they are members of the Catholic Church or not.

Entry is also subject to the programme of study requirements listed.

## How does the application process work?

You can apply to St Joseph's either online by visiting the College website or by completing the accompanying application form. You will then be invited to meet with a member of the senior leadership team, where you will discuss your application.

In order to guarantee your choices you must complete your application before Christmas 2015.

Once you have your place we will contact you to arrange a date for a guidance interview, where you will discuss your study choices and meet your personal tutor for the first time. Final changes can be made after your GCSE results, and even into the beginning of the College year, and your tutor will work with you to ensure you're on the right track from the start.

Entry requirements for the programmes of study

**A minimum of five GCSE subjects at grades A\* to C** is normally required for entry to programmes of study.

However, for many AS / A2 subjects a **GCSE grade B** in the subject or a related discipline may be required.

Our full admissions policy is on our website [www.stjosephscollege.net](http://www.stjosephscollege.net)





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 @SixthFormNews  
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