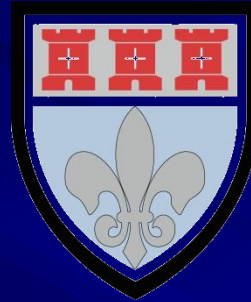


St Mary's Catholic School



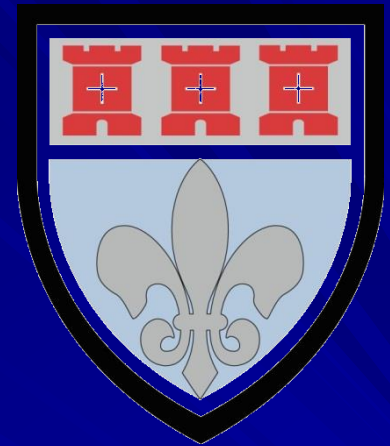
# **Sixth Form Open Evening**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

# Why St Mary's?

## Continuity

- Friends
- Teachers
- Pastoral care



*"Students have excellent attitudes to learning and enjoy the opportunities they are given to learn independently" Ofsted*

# Why St Mary's?

## Pastoral Care and Guidance

### Structure

- Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form
- Head of Year 12 (Mr Spurr) and Head of Year 13 (Miss Lowry)
- Experienced team of Form Tutors

### Balance between independence and support

- Good communications with home
- Regular monitoring and progress checks
- Study support
- Support for progression to university
- Support for progression to employment

# Why St Mary's?

## Oxbridge Programme

- Links with Oxford and Cambridge Universities
- Visits
- Academic mentoring to support application / interview preparation
- Support students with applications to UNIQ, Oxford summer school

## Durham University – Supported Progression

- Summer school at Durham University – Yr12
- Completion of assessed work
- Result: a reduced offer of up to two grades

## Newcastle University

- Strong links with university
- Mock interviews
- Outreach – Students Ambassadors visit and support students

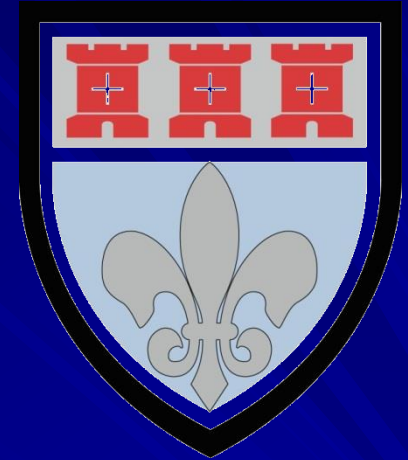
## Work Experience

- Support and guidance in securing work placements  
*"The school has good links with local employers and universities" Ofsted*

# Why St Mary's?

## Performance in 2015

- 100% pass rate at A level
- 32% grades A\* - A
- 83% grades A\*-C
- c.64% of Voc entries are Distinction or better



*"Students' achievements are outstanding, as is their personal development and well-being" Ofsted*

# How is the Sixth Form different?

- You can study more specialised subjects
- Smaller number of subjects studied, chosen from a wider range
- More independent learning
- More adult relationships with staff
- Sixth Form identity/ separate facilities
- Student Voice

# What will I study?

- Changes nationally to post-16 assessment and curriculum
- Some subjects linear, some remain modular
- Linear subjects AS-level marks no longer count in final A-level grade
- Modular subjects - marks at AS-level will still count towards A-level grade



# AS-level Exams in Linear Subjects

- In linear subjects, students will sit the AS-level
  - A key indicator of students' progress
  - Universities such as Cambridge, UCL have expressed support for AS-levels as a useful indicator in UCAS process



# Curriculum

## A-level

- Wide range of A-Level choices
- Students achieving 7-10 A\*-B grades in traditional GCSE subjects
- GCSE English & Maths at least Grade C
- Select 4 AS-levels
- Drop 1 subject after AS-level

## Vocational

- Mainly Bs and Cs at GCSE
- Prefer practical work and coursework
- It is possible to do a mix of A level and Vocational courses
- Students currently studying vocational courses

# What should I study?

- Strong performance at KS4
- Strong performance in most challenging units
- Career goals
- Passion/interest
- Combination of subjects
- Core curriculum

# A-Level Pathway

- Art & Design (LINEAR)
- Biology \* (LINEAR)
- Business Studies (LINEAR)
- Chemistry \* (LINEAR)
- Computer Science (LINEAR)
- 3D Design
- Drama (LINEAR)
- Economics (LINEAR)
- English Language (LINEAR)
- English Literature \* (LINEAR)
- Film Studies
- French \* (LINEAR)
- Fashion & Textiles
- Geography \* (LINEAR)
- Government & Politics
- History \* (LINEAR)
- Photography (LINEAR)
- Maths \*
- Further Maths \*
- Music (LINEAR)
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physics \* (LINEAR)
- Psychology (LINEAR)
- Russian \* (LINEAR)
- Spanish \* (LINEAR)
- Sports Studies (LINEAR)
- Textiles

\* Facilitating Subjects

Subject to viability

# Vocational pathways

- Science
- Business Studies
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Sport Studies
- Media Studies
- Performing Arts

Subject to viability

# What else will I study?

- Core PE
- Core RE
- Pastoral Programme

# Sixth Form Students

- **Patrick Hill** (Year 13)
- **Julia Marsh** (Year 13)

# Wider Opportunities at St Mary's?

## Sixth Form opportunities

- Sixth Form Leadership Team / School Council
- Amnesty International
- Classics Society
- John Paul II Award
- In-class support/paired reading
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Charity fundraising / RAG committee
- Educational visits
- International Expedition
- Careers Academy UK
- Work Experience
- Young Entrepreneur Competition
- Peer Mentoring
- Sports Leaders
- Spirituality group
- Sixth Form Retreat
- EPQ
- Reece Scholarships
- Sixth Form Prom
- National Citizenship Service

*"Students make an outstanding contribution to the local community in many ways, including a large number of charitable and voluntary activities" Ofsted*



# EPQ

- Project qualification
- Self managed but with a mentor
- Topic of own choice
- 5,000 words or equivalent
- March Y12 to December Y13
- Universities really value it – excellent preparation for university
- EPQ tutor who oversees students' work
- In UCAS weighting, worth more than an AS-level

# Career Ready (Careers Academy UK)

- A structured programme
- Workshops
- E-Mentoring
- Paid internships
- Access to lectures
- Only school in the North East affiliated to Career Ready

# What next?

- Students meet with senior staff
- Guidance to match subject choices to likely GCSE performance
- Senior staff work on option blocks
- Taster day in July
- GCSE results August 2016
- External Applicants – application form on website, apply 27 February 2016

*"Guidance and support at key transition points between schools and the Sixth Form are strong and help students settle in quickly" Ofsted*

# Thank you for listening

- Please make your way to the Atrium where you can visit the different subject stalls
- Subject staff are available to answer any questions you may have
- The Sixth Form is clearly sign posted – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Refreshments available