

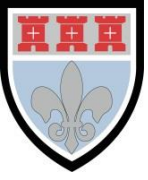


# St Mary's Catholic School

# Parent and Carer Information Session



## Preparing for Year 13



# Outline Of the Session

Outline of Year 13

UCAS

Examinations

Revision and Preparation

Celebrations





# Key Dates of Year 13

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025:** Term Starts

**November / December 2025 :** Year 13 Mock Examinations 1

**December 2025 :** Achievement 1 Summary and Parents Evening

**March 2026 :** Year 13 Mock Examinations 2

**March 2026 :** Achievement 2 Summary

**May 2026 :** All NEAs and Coursework Submitted to Examination Boards

**May 2026 :** Leavers Liturgy and Celebrations

**May 2026 (onwards) :** Study Leave

**May – June 2026:** A-Level and BTEC Examinations

**June 2026 :** Year 13 Prom

**August 2026 :** Results Day





# Advice for The Summer

Relax and recharge.

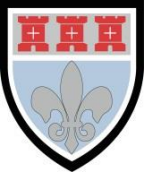
Start revising and preparing for subjects.

Read up on your subjects.

Start networking with people.

Take some time to reflect on goals and aspirations.





# Advice for Year 13

Start planning early.

Get organised and prepared at the start of the year.

Start revising early.

Get help when you need it.

Be aware of coursework and NEA deadlines.

Take care of yourself.





# UCAS

**UCAS is the application process for students to apply for courses at higher education institutions such as universities.**

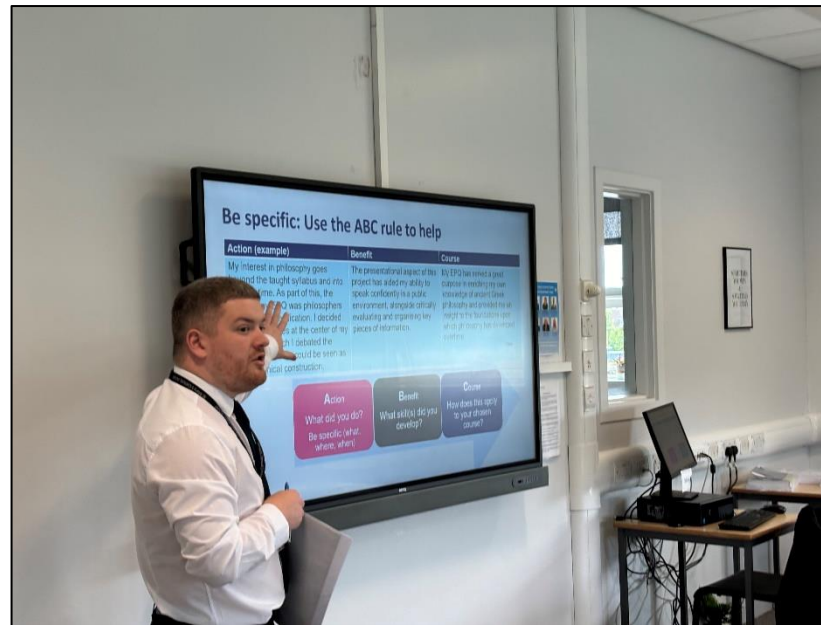
This academic year, students have been:

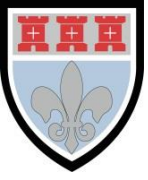
Educated in the understanding and timeline of the UCAS application process.

Attended seminars, workshops, talks and campus trips to be educated on the UCAS process and different universities/higher education courses.

Been given support and guidance on how to write personal statements.

Been given support and guidance on how to complete the application process on UCAS.





# UCAS

**UCAS is the application process for students to apply for courses at higher education institutions such as universities.**

At the end of the academic year, students should have:

- Expressed an interest to the school about upcoming plans for September 2026.
- Completed the personal details and qualifications in their UCAS application.
- Completed the first draft of their personal statement and received feedback on this statement.





# UCAS

**UCAS is the application process for students to apply for courses at higher education institutions such as universities.**

When we return in Year 13, students will need to:

Finalise their course choices for UCAS / their destination plans for after St Mary's.

Complete their personal statements (both second draft and final draft).

Complete their UCAS application and submit them to the school for approval.

Complete their student finance application (this is done independently of the school).





# UCAS

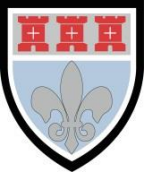
These are the firm dates for the academic year 2025 - 2026 set by UCAS.

**2 September 2025** Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS.

**15 October 2025** Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).

**14 January 2026** Applications for most undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on the equal consideration date.

**30 June 2026** Last date to send an application.



# UCAS

**These are the internal deadlines at St Mary's for the academic year 2025 - 2026.**

We have the following internal deadlines for the UCAS process.

## **Personal Statement – Early Entry**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2025** : Second Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)

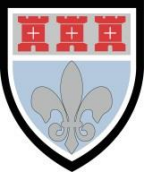
**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025** : Final Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)

## **Personal Statement – Normal Entry**

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2025** : Second Draft (Submitted on Teams)

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2025** : Final Draft (Submitted on Teams)





# UCAS

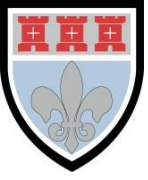
These are the internal deadlines at St Mary's for the academic year 2025 - 2026.

## Applications

**10<sup>th</sup> October 2025:** Early Entry

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2025 :** All Other Entries





# Admissions Tests

**Some courses and universities require admission tests to be taken during the application process to courses.**

## **University of Cambridge**

Most courses will have a college admissions test.

Students do not need to be registered for this type of assessment. If students are shortlisted for interview, they will take the relevant assessment. The Cambridge College that interviews the student will make arrangements for the test. They will provide the student with details of when and how you will take this assessment.

Courses that require an admission test before application are:

Computer Science, Economics (Test of Mathematics for University Admissions [TMUA])

Chemical Engineering, Engineering, Natural Science, Veterinary Medicine (Engineering and Science Admissions Test [ESAT])

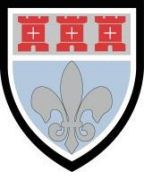
The deadline to register for each assessment is **September 29<sup>th</sup> 2025**.

There is an entry fee for the assessment.

The ESAT will be sat on October 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>.

The TMUA will be sat on October 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

Further information on each assessment can be found on the University of Cambridge website.



# Admissions Tests

**Some courses and universities require admission tests to be taken during the application process to courses.**

## **University of Oxford**

All admissions tests will be run by Pearson (EdExcel), they will be online and there will be no charge to students.

This year's tests will take place as follows:

AHCAAT (Ancient History and Classical Archaeology Admissions Test) – Friday 24 October

BMSAT (Biomedical Sciences Admissions Test) – Tuesday 21 October, Wednesday 22 October, Thursday 23 October, Friday 24 October and Monday 27 October

CAT (Classics Admissions Test) – Wednesday 22 October, Thursday 23 October and Friday 24 October

MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test) – Wednesday 22 October and Thursday 23 October

MLAT (Modern Languages Admissions Test) – Friday 24 October

PAT (Physics Admissions test for Physics, Engineering and Materials Science) – Wednesday 22 October and Thursday 23 October

PhilAT (Philosophy Test) – Friday 24 October

TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) – Tuesday 21 October, Wednesday 22 October, Thursday 23 October, Friday 24 October and Monday 27 October

The deadline for registration is 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

In 2025, candidates applying for any course with History do not need to take a History admissions test.



# Admissions Tests

**Some courses and universities require admission tests to be taken during the application process to courses.**

## **The LNAT**

The Natural Admissions Test for Law (LNAT) must be taken if students wish to apply for Law at the following universities:

*The University of Bristol, the University of Cambridge, Durham University, the University of Glasgow, King's College London, the London School of Economics (LSE), the University of Oxford, SOAS University of London, and University College London (UCL).*

The University of Nottingham no longer requires the LNAT to be taken.

The LNAT can be taken from September 1<sup>st</sup> until October 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Registration is open now for the test, the final day for registration is September 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

The assessment can be taken at any LNAT test centre.

The closest test centre is on Collingwood Street.

The LNAT tests your verbal reasoning skills, your ability to interpret information, and your analytical abilities.

More information on the LNAT can be found on the LNAT website ([lnat.ac.uk](http://lnat.ac.uk)).



# Admissions Tests

**Some courses and universities require admission tests to be taken during the application process to courses.**

## **The UCAT**

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) must be taken if students wish to apply for Medicine (or its equivalent course) include the following universities:

University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Cardiff University, Edinburgh University, Glasgow University, Hull York University, Newcastle University, Sheffield University, Nottingham University, Liverpool University, Leeds University and the University of Sunderland. The University of Oxford (and the other BMAT universities) now asks the UCAT to be taken – not the BMAT.

The UCAT can be taken from now until September 26<sup>th</sup> 2025.

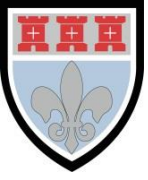
Registration is open now for the test, the final day for registration is September 19<sup>th</sup> 2025.

The assessment can be taken at any UCAT test centre.

The closest test centre is on Collingwood Street.

The UCAT tests your verbal reasoning, decision making, quantitative reasoning, abstract reasoning and situational judgement.

More information on the UCAT can be found on the UCAT website ([ucat.ac.uk](http://ucat.ac.uk)).



# Advice for UCAS

Check entry requirements for different courses.

Double check information on forms.

Consider firm and insurance offers.

Review personal statements clearly.

Consider deferred entry.





# Mock Examinations

**Year 13 is an important time for students and there will be two mock examination periods (November/December and March).**

Completing mock examinations allow:

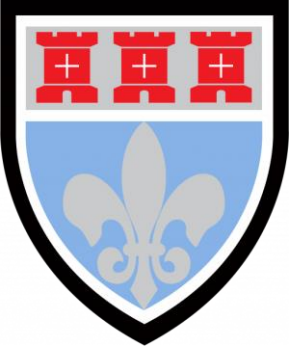
Students be aware of the standards and expectations of protocols in external examinations.

Students to review how to prepare for examinations effectively.

Students to consider their areas of strength and development in a subject.

Students an understanding of what the external examinations will be like in structure and content.

Teachers the opportunity to review areas of strength and developments for students to provide bespoke support moving forward.



Students are overconfident on what they have learnt, revised and remembered.

Students struggle to manage time effectively.

Students struggle to use technology appropriately.

Students apply correct revision techniques badly.

**What are the main hurdles students face when it comes to revising?**

Students tend to cram near the time of their examinations.

Students can work out whether they have understood something correctly.

Students do not know how to revise.



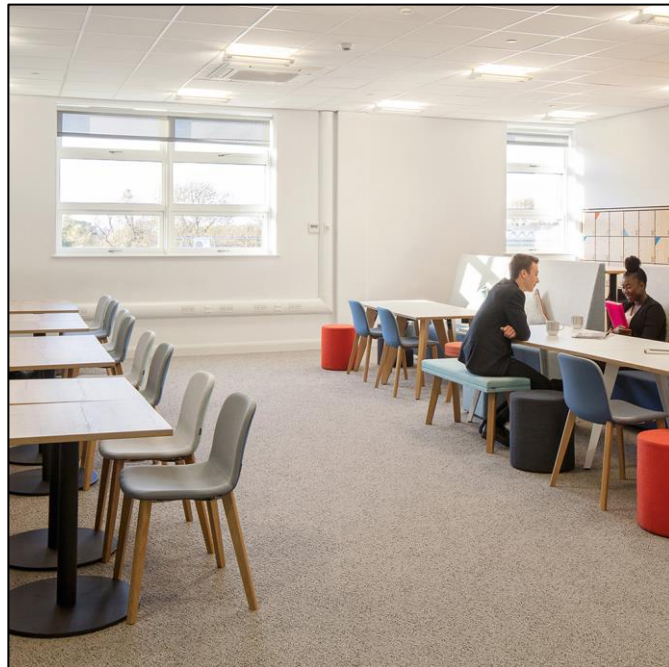
# Preparation for Examinations in Year 13

Students may struggle to revise at home for their examinations.

Our Sixth Form Area is open 8.00 am - 5.30 pm throughout the week.

Newcastle City Library is open 10 am to 4 pm on a Saturday and 10 am to 5/7 pm Monday-Friday.

Philip Robinson Library (Newcastle University) is open 24 hours a day. To access this library, students will need to complete a form from the Sixth Form Pastoral Team.





# Advice for Year 13 Examinations

Create a study schedule well ahead of time.

Review notes of key concepts of the courses.

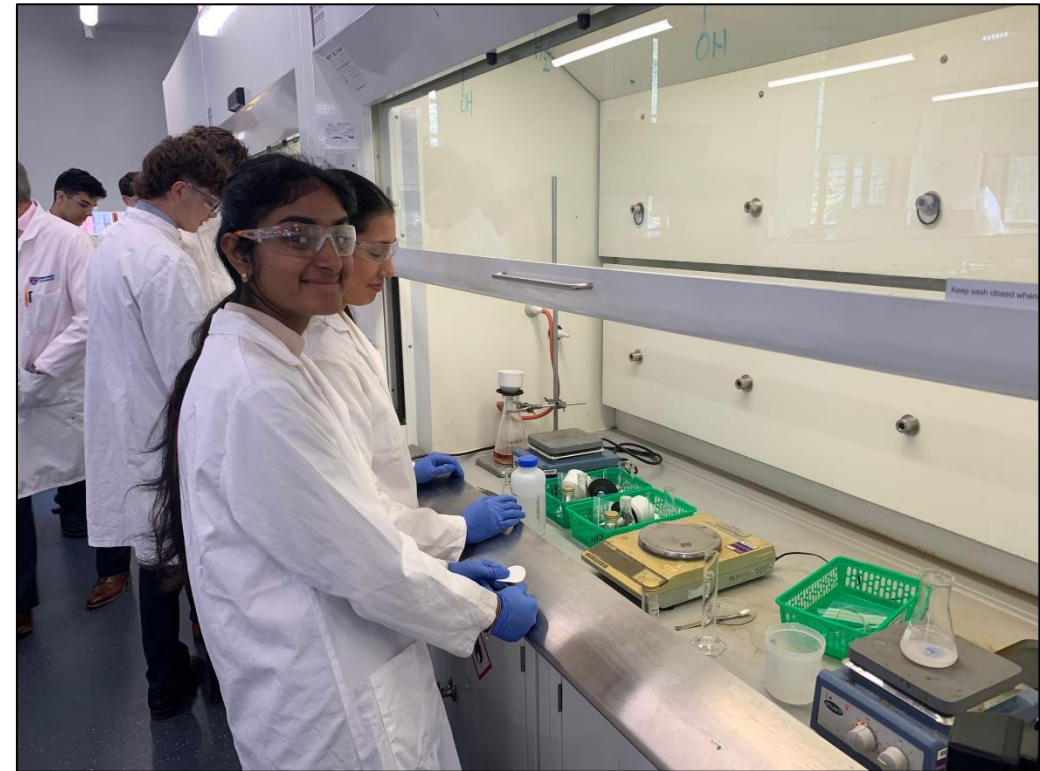
Practice with past papers when key knowledge learnt.

Get organised with equipment and resources.

Use mnemonic devices.

Review what areas need to be revised.

Study with a group.





# Advice for Year 13 Examinations

- Use planners and apps to keep track of key deadlines.
- Carry out a regular review of work covered in Year 13.
- Ask questions and for help from teachers.
- Consider the mark schemes of assessments.
- Review time managements skills in examinations.





# Advice for Year 13 Examinations

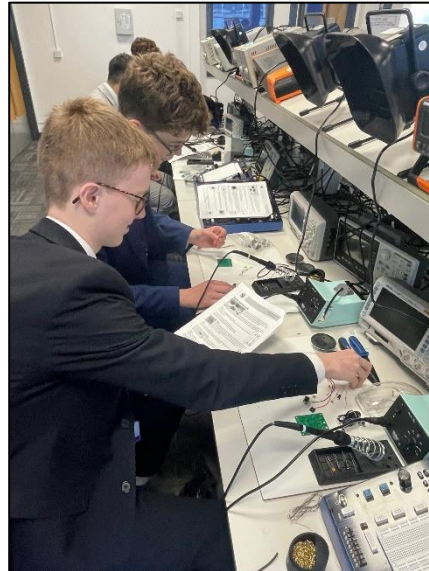
Take breaks during revision sessions.

Stay healthy – both mentally and physically.

Identify strengths and weaknesses in concept knowledge.

Start early with preparing for examinations – early and often.

Stay motivated throughout the process.





# Student Support

**Year 13 is an important time for students and there will be plenty of support offered to students through this time.**

Students can see any member of the Sixth Form Pastoral Team or their Form Tutor if they are worried or concerned.

Students can see their subject teachers if they require further help and support with work in individual subjects.

Students are provided with lessons in Personal Development and Tutor Time on how to cope with the stresses of Year 13 and how to prepare effectively.

Students have access to our Sixth Form Library which includes a well-being section.

Students have access to resources (both academic and pastoral) on Teams to provide support independently.





# Celebrations

**Year 13 is also the end of our student's time here at St Mary's and we provide plenty of opportunities to celebrate their experiences with us.**

Students will have the opportunity to purchase school hoodies.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase yearbooks.

Students will have the opportunity to purchase a year group picture.

Students will participate in the Leavers Liturgy and Celebration Assembly.

Students can attend Year 13 Prom at the Vermont Hotel in June 2026.



# Sixth Form Outreach Trip

Outreach work with Edinburgh-based charities.

Visits to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, Arthur's Seat.

Cultural tours: St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh Dungeons.

Group activities and team-building

**Dates:** Wed 15 – Fri 17 October 2025

**Cost:** £250

Includes travel, accommodation, entry fees, and meals

**Deposit:** £50 by 31 July

**Max:** 50 places available

Make new memories.

Develop your CV & personal statement.

Help others and build character.

Experience something completely different.

Last school residential.





# Celebrations

Students can attend Year 13 Prom at the Vermont Hotel on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2026.

The Prom is a celebration of the past 7 (or 2) years at St Mary's and takes place after examinations.

Students will have a three-course meal, disco, shimmer wall and photobooth at the event.





# Thank You

Thank you so much for attending this 'Sixth Form Parent and Carer Information Session' exploring how your child can prepare for Year 13. We really hope that the information shared has been helpful and informative.

If you do have any questions, please feel free to contact school anytime or pose a question in the chat facility. Please ensure questions do not mention any students or staff by name.

If you have a question regarding this important time for your child, please contact school. We are here to help. Thank you for your continued support.