

St Mary's Catholic School

Parent and Carer Information Session



Transition to the Sixth Form

Outline of the Session

Why St Mary's

Expectations

Course Choice

Further Courses

Awards

Independent Study Periods

Super-Curricular

Student Leadership Scheme

Mentoring and Volunteering

Enrichment Sessions

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Next Steps



Why St Mary's

Continuity

Friends

Teachers

Pastoral care

Climate to learn, improve, aspire

Academic development

Enrichment

Personal attribute enhancement



Pastoral Care and Guidance

Structure

Assistant Headteacher- Sixth Form.

Head of Year – Mrs Francis

Experienced team of Form Tutors.

Balance between independence and support

Regular monitoring and progress checks.

Support with study and subject achievement.

Support for progression to university.

Support for progression to employment.



Careers Advice and Guidance

Students are given lots of support from the Sixth Form Team to decide on their next destination.

There are lots of different resources available:

Online Resources like Unifrog, SpringPod, dedicated Teams tiles.

Sixth Form Groups such as the Pathway to University Group.

Strong links with employers for our Employer Experience Presentations and Workshops.

Rigorous application support programmes such as mock interviews and UCAS mentors.

Opportunity to complete in person and virtual work experience throughout the year.

Opportunity to participate in university campus trips.

Opportunity to attend our Higher Education and Careers Fairs.



Sixth Form Extra-Curricular

We offer many different Sixth Form specific activities to both support students in their aspirations but also channel their passions and skills in different ways.

Aspire to Oxbridge Group

Medicine and Dentistry Society

Law Society

STEM Club

Debate Club



Is St Mary's Right for Your Child?

High expectations of students.

Full time attendance.

High expectations regarding student dress.

High expectations of how you use your independent study periods.

High academic demands.

Distinctive Catholic ethos – students play an important role in this.

Active involvement in school life.

Role model for other students in the school community.



Expectations

Students must arrive at school by 8.40 am and stay until at least 3.10 pm. Students may not leave site except for lunch.

Form time, Personal Development lessons, Super-Curricular activities, Student Leadership activities, RE and PE are compulsory.

Students must carry out at least **two** enrichment activities / workshops in each half term.



Expectations

Sixth Form students must wear their Sixth Form ID badge at all times.

Students must sign in and sign out when they enter/leave the school site.

Students may leave the school site at lunchtimes but must be back on the school site by 1 pm at the latest.

Students must enter and leave via the student entrance, not reception.

Students cannot use the car park.



Expectations – Dress Code

Male

Compulsory

Plain dark smart tailored/suit trousers

Dark suit jacket or blazer jacket

Plain formal shirt with **formal collar** in white, black, grey, blue or cream

Tie

Dark formal shoes

Optional

Plain dark V-neck jumper or plain dark cardigan

Outdoor coat

Only one pair of stud earrings, no other facial piercings.

One ring.



Reasonable adjustments to the uniform may be made in exceptional cases and could only be made following discussions with the Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form

Expectations – Dress Code

Female

Compulsory

Plain dark smart tailored/suit trousers or skirt, or plain dark knee length dress

Dark suit jacket or blazer jacket

Plain formal shirt/blouse **with formal collar** in white, black, grey, blue or cream

Dark formal shoes

Optional

Plain dark V-neck jumper or plain dark cardigan

Tie

Outdoor coat

Only **one** pair of stud earrings, no other facial piercings

One ring

Reasonable adjustments to the uniform may be made in exceptional cases and could only be made following discussions with the Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form



Expectations – Dress Code

PE Kit

Navy polo shirt with sky blue stripe and St Mary's badge

Navy shorts or Navy tracksuit bottoms

Navy mid-layer with St Mary's badge (this is an optional item)

Sturdy training shoes (not boots, plimsolls or fashion/leisure shoes).

White sports socks.

Students who attended St. Mary's Main School prior to this academic year can still wear their Physical Education uniform from Key Stage 4 if they wish.



What Will Your Child Study?

Subjects that are challenging, rigorous content.

Most are linear assessment.

Therefore, students ***choose 3 subjects.***

Opportunity to supplement studies with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or AS-level Thinking Skills / Core Mathematics.



What Should Your Child Study?

Strong performance at KS4.

Strong performance in most challenging components.

Career goals.

Passion/interest.

Combination of subjects.

Core curriculum.



A-Level Pathway

- (Fine) Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- (Product) Design
- English Language
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- Photography
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sports Studies

Subject to
viability

Vocational Pathways

Science (AAQ)

Vocational Business Studies

Health and Social Care (AAQ)

ICT (AAQ)

Early Childhood Development
(AAQ)

Subject to viability



What Else Will I Study?

Core Sport

Core RE

Personal Development

Super-Curricular



Entry Requirements

Subject	GCSE (Minimum) Grade Entry Requirement
Art	Grade 5 in Art
Biology	Grade 7 in Biology or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science, and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Business Studies (A-Level)	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 5 in Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science, and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Computer Science and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Design Technology: Product Design	Grade 5 in DT or Art
English Language	Grade 6 in English Language
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature
Extended Project (EPQ)	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 5 in Mathematics
Film Studies	Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature
French	Grade 6 in French
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography
History	Grade 6 in History
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics and Grade 7 in Physics
Core Mathematics (AS Level)	Grade 5 in Mathematics
Photography	Grade 5 in Art
Physical Education	Grade 6 in Sport

Entry Requirements

Subject	GCSE (Minimum) Grade Entry Requirement
Physics	Grade 7 in Physics or Grade 7-7 in Combined Science, and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Politics	Grade 5 in History
Psychology	Grade 6 in English Language and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 6 in RE and Grade 6 in English Language or Literature
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish
Thinking Skills (AS Level)	Grade 7 in Mathematics and Grade 7 in English Language
Vocational Business Studies	Merit in Business or Grade 4 in English Language or Literature
Health and Social Care (AAQ)	Merit in Health or Grade 4 in English Language or Literature
Science (AAQ)	Grade 4 in Science or Grade 4-4 in Combined Science
Children's Play, Learning and Development (AAQ)	Merit in Health or Grade 4 in English Language or Literature
IT (AAQ)	Merit in IT or Grade 4 in English Language or Literature

Option Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Biology	Applied Science (AAQ)	Art	Biology
Chemistry	Design & Technology	Business (A Level)	Business (AAQ)
Film Studies	English Language	Chemistry	Computer Science
French	Further Maths	English Language	Core Maths (AS Level)
<i>GCSE English Resit</i>	<i>GCSE Maths Resit</i>	Early Childhood Development (AAQ)	English Literature
History	Geography	IT (AAQ)	Health & Social Care (AAQ)
Physics	Maths	Maths	Maths
Psychology	Physics	Philosophy & Ethics	Sport
Sociology	Politics	Photography	
	Psychology	Spanish	

Sixth Form Awards

Students can participate in various awards whilst in Sixth Form such as:

Sixth Form Enrichment Award

Sixth Form and Trust Competitions

John Paul II Award



Sixth Form Events

Students can participate in various Sixth Form specific events.

Sixth Form Day of Aspiration.

Sixth Form Culture Day.

Sixth Form sports activities.

Sixth Form charity events e.g., Christmas Jumper Day.

Sixth Form Prom.

Sixth Form Enrichment Days.

Sixth Form Life Skills Day



Independent Study Periods

Students will have several Independent Study Periods on their timetable.

These are spent in the Sixth Form Area completing work.

Students should spend these study periods productively.

Students can work in the Year 13 Study Room, Sixth Form Library or Sixth Form Activity Room in addition to the main study areas.

Sixth Form Chromebooks, Laptops and PCs available to use.



Super-Curricular

Students will also have **one** Super-Curricular hour each week on their timetable.

Super-Curricular activities extend student's learning outside the classroom and go beyond the curriculum.

These include wider reading, watching lectures, university talks and independent research.

There are resources on Teams and the Sixth Form Library to support students with their Super-Curricular activities.

Structured tasks are given weekly for students to complete.



Student Leadership Scheme

Through the compulsory 'Student Leadership Scheme' students are entrusted with leadership roles in various aspects of school life.

This scheme involves students helping around the school via three main areas:

Spirituality

Example

Helping run celebrations of the word.

Extra-curricular

Example

Helping to run STEM club

Lesson Assistant

Example

Helping in Year 7 Spanish lessons

Mentoring and Volunteering

The Sixth Form has strong links with local hospitals, charity shops, primary schools and care homes, and works with these institutions to allow students to volunteer their time at these places.

In addition, Sixth Form students act as both pastoral and academic mentors to students in the Main School from Year 7 to Year 11, providing support and guidance throughout the year.

This includes supported reading with students and helping students in the school intervention programmes.



Student Leadership Team

Sixth Form students are also encouraged to become involved in leadership, by taking on key roles and responsibilities within school. The Sixth Form Leadership Team is a visible and respected group of students whose presence can be seen across a huge variety of school events.

Students can work or lead a sub-committee, which includes diversity and inclusion, academics and the environment.

Schemes have included the school prayer book, a sunflower competition, organising Culture Day and completing charity fundraising.

Students will work with link members of staff to complete different activities and tasks across the school.



Charity and Fund-Raising

Each week, Sixth Form students donate spare change, collection for food banks and sell food for charity.

Students also raise funds for charity at bespoke events throughout the year.

The student-run Sixth Form Café also raises money throughout the year by selling items at break and lunchtime.

Students select a charity at the start of the year based on a cause close to their hearts.



Enrichment Sessions

Our Enrichment programme at the Sixth Form gives students an understanding of all opportunities available to them to further their work experience and understanding of the working world so they are fully prepared for life after Sixth Form.

This includes general and subject specific taster sessions from universities.

There are annual campus trips to local universities and a residential trip to an Oxbridge university.

There are weekly 'Employer Experience' sessions from local employers and apprenticeship providers.

Various workshops are held throughout the year as part of our 'Life Skills' and 'Learning Skills' programmes.

Higher Education and Careers Fairs



Extra-Curricular Clubs

The Sixth Form hosts several key KS5 only extra-curricular clubs which are run in the Sixth Form Activity Room. These include:

The Aspire to Oxbridge Club

The Medicine and Dentistry Society

The Pathway to University Group

The KS5 STEM Club

The Law Society

The KS5 Debate Club



Outreach Trip

Opportunity to take place in Sixth Form Outreach projects.

Previous years included destinations such as the Philippines, Zambia, Peru and India.

In October 2025, fifty Sixth Form students travelled to Edinburgh for a community outreach visit rooted in service and social action.

Worked alongside local Catholic parishes to support vulnerable people and communities and enhance their cultural awareness of the city.

Next Outreach trip takes place in November 2026.



16-19 Bursary

This is a scheme that provides financial assistance to young people aged 16 to 19 who may face financial barriers to participation in education. This support is available to eligible students, provided they meet the required standards of attendance and behaviour.

The school may award the bursary to students to help with the cost of meals, books and equipment, including stationery and help with travel to and from school. This award can vary due to the individual circumstances of the student. The basic eligibility criteria for this Bursary are for those students in Year 12 and Year 13 who are currently in receipt of free school meals.

What Next?

Students complete the Sixth Form Transition Work for your selected subjects ahead of September. This will be placed on Teams in the Year 11 Transition Tile and on the school website in the 'Sixth Form' section.

Contact the school if you have any questions regarding the start of Sixth Form in September.

GCSE Results Day on August 20th 2026.

Sixth Form Enrolment takes place online from **Thursday August 20th until Thursday August 27th** .

In person enrolment will also take place on GCSE Results Day where students can discuss their options with a senior member of staff and enrol on courses.



What Next?

External Students

Students should contact the school after GCSE results day with their results.

Confirm their course choices.

Internal Students

Students complete the Sixth Form Enrolment Form on the Year 11 Transition Tile after your GCSE results.

All students can complete enrolment in person on GCSE Results Day.

Term starts 8.40 am **Wednesday September 2nd 2026.**

Any questions regarding the transition to Sixth Form, please either contact Mr Turnbull via Teams Chat or contact the school via e-mail at:

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk or sixthformadmissions@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

Thank You

Thank you so much for attending this 'Sixth Form Parent and Carer Information Session' exploring the transition into the Sixth Form. 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 the enrolment process for the Sixth Form, please contact school. We are here to help. Thank you for your continued support.