



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

Thursday 3rd September 2026: Term Starts

November 2026 : Year 13 Mock Examinations 1

December 2026 : Achievement 1 Summary and Parents Evening

March 2027 : Year 13 Mock Examinations 2

March 2027 : Achievement 2 Summary

May 2027 : All NEAs and Coursework Submitted to Examination Boards

May 2027 : Leavers Liturgy and Celebrations

May 2027 (onwards) : Study Leave

May – June 2027: A-Level and AAQ Examinations

June 2027 : Year 13 Prom

August 2027 : 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.

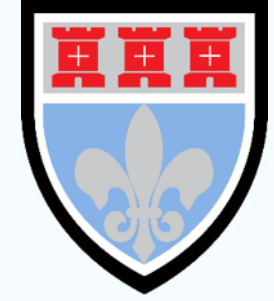
Start revising early.

Get help when you need it.

Be aware of coursework and NEA deadlines.

Take care of yourself.





The Mindset Shift into Year 13

Greater independence

Consistent routines

Early preparation

Taking ownership

Balancing ambition and wellbeing

Asking for help early





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 2027.

Completed the personal details and qualifications in their online 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 2026 - 2027 set by UCAS.

1 September 2026: Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS.

15 October 2026 (18.00 UK time): Early deadline for all Oxford and Cambridge courses, as well as most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science programs.

13 January 2027 (18.00 UK time): Main equal consideration deadline for the vast majority of undergraduate courses.

30 June 2027 (18.00 UK time): Final date to submit applications with choices before going directly into Clearing.





UCAS

These are the internal deadlines at St Mary's for the academic year 2026 - 2027.

We have the following internal deadlines for the UCAS process.

Personal Statement – Early Entry

18th September 2026: Second Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)

2nd October 2026 : Final Draft – Early Entry (Submitted on Teams)

Personal Statement – Normal Entry

6th November 2026 : Second Draft (Submitted on Teams)

4th December 2026: Final Draft (Submitted on Teams)





UCAS

These are the internal deadlines at St Mary's for the academic year 2026 - 2027.

Applications

9th October 2026: Early Entry

18th December 2026 : 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 28th 2026**.

There is an entry fee for the assessment.

The ESAT will be sat from October 12th – 16th.

The TMUA will be sat from October 12th – 16th.

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

If you are applying for 2027 undergraduate entry, Oxford has significantly overhauled its admissions tests, discontinuing older tests like the PAT and MAT in favour of shared, standardised assessments administered by UAT UK and delivered by Pearson VUE.

To register for UAT-UK assessment you must create an UAT-UK account and book the assessment by September 28th 2026.

The assessment must be sat between October 12th – 16th .

The dates for the different assessments are:

ESAT: Monday 12th or Tuesday 13th October

TARA: Wednesday 14th October

TMUA: Thursday 15th or Friday 16th October

The UAT-UK assessment are in addition to the existing LNAT and UCAT tests for Law and Medicine courses.

Courses that require an UAT-UK assessment are biomedical sciences, computer science, engineering science, economics and management, history and politics, physics, mathematics and psychology.



Admissions Tests

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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 1st until October 15th 2026.

Registration is open now for the test, the final day for registration is September 15th 2026.

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).



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 'traditional' BMAT universities) now asks the UCAT to be taken.

The UCAT can be taken from now until September 24th 2026.

Registration is open now for the test, the final day for registration is September 16th 2026.

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 and situational judgement. Abstract reasoning is no longer on the assessment.

More information on the UCAT can be found on the UCAT website (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 apply correct revision techniques badly.

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

Students struggle to use technology appropriately.

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.



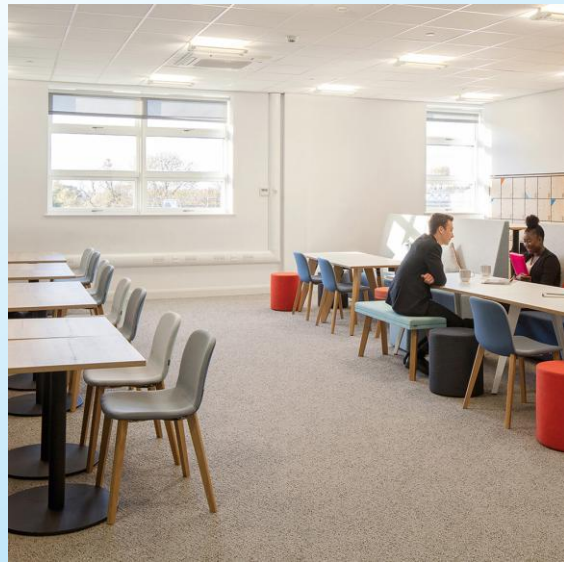
Preparation for Examinations in Year 13

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 Exam Preparation

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 Exam Preparation

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.





How Parents and Carers Can Support

Encourage regular routines

Talk through deadlines and plans

Ask about revision, not just homework

Support sleep, meals and breaks

Encourage early communication with school

Stay calm during pressure points





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 whole year group picture.

Students will participate in the Leavers Celebration of the Word and Celebration Assembly.

Students can attend Year 13 Prom at the Vermont Hotel in June 2027.



Sixth Form Outreach Trip

Outreach work with Edinburgh-based charities.
Visits to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, Arthur's Seat.
Cultural tours: Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh Dungeons.
Group activities and team-building

Dates: Wed 18th – Fri 20th November 2026

Cost: £250

Includes travel, accommodation, entry fees, and meals

Deposit: £100 by 6 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 24th 2027. 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.