



Convent of Jesus and Mary
Sixth Form



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Headmistress's Welcome

Choosing a place to study for Sixth Form is as important as choosing a career, or choosing where to live. It is one of the key life decisions that we have to make and therefore one that requires careful consideration and time. For students who have already studied at the Convent, these final two or three years in the Sixth Form represent the finishing touches to them as students and as individuals, shaped and nurtured by their time spent in this very special faith environment and taught by staff who are highly-qualified specialists in their field.

For students who are considering joining the Convent for their final years of school study, we extend a very warm welcome and can assure you that you will soon feel as though you have been part of our school community for years.



This is an exciting time to be a student at the Convent. We have an excellent and diverse curriculum offer, with courses covering a vast range of subject areas at both advanced and intermediate levels; there is a pathway for everyone. We are also able to extend and enrich the course offer via our partnership with the other South Brent secondary schools so, if a course is not offered at the Convent, a student may be able to study a subject in one of our partner schools.

Results at the Convent are exceptionally high. Students are encouraged to aim for the highest grades and many achieve these, moving on to study at Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group and other highly respected universities.

Some of our students move on to begin professional training ready to enter the workplace. The Careers Guidance that Sixth Form students receive is tailored to their individual aspirations. The Convent supports students in gaining places at international universities too. The unique USA programme opens doors of opportunities for students to study on fully-funded scholarships at some of the top universities and Ivy League colleges in the USA.

There are so many reasons to join the Convent of Jesus & Mary to continue your studies. I hope this brochure will provide you with the information you need to make the best choice and I warmly invite you to apply for your place.

Louise McGowan, Headmistress

Our Vision

To nurture each of our students to become confident, resilient and articulate young adults.

- *We challenge* our students to fulfil their potential academically, socially and spiritually.
- *Great care* is taken to build on the God-given gifts and talents of each student as they progress through the Sixth Form.
- *Expectations are high* for our students as they become leaders of the future, following our alumni to universities including Oxford, Cambridge and Ivy League US Universities



Our Aim

To provide a Sixth Form experience, which:

- In its breadth, introduces each student to the fullness of a life rooted in the love of God.
- In its balance establishes attitudes, which produce concern for truth and respect for others.
- In its relevance, enables each student to make their contribution to society with dignity and faith.
- Respects the uniqueness of each individual regardless of gender, race, faith, social background or ability.
- Serves to develop a sureness to stand against all that undermines dignity of self and of others.

Our School

Learning at the Convent of Jesus and Mary Sixth Form is rooted in the Gospel values in a warm, supportive, nurturing community that contrasts with a less spiritual approach found elsewhere.

Christ is placed at the centre of all we do, and the teachings and messages of Jesus are the foundation of our community. Excellence is promoted in every aspect of school life including academic achievement, conduct and citizenship. Prayer and worship are central to daily life and extensive fundraising for charities near and far is undertaken throughout the school year – our students' generosity of spirit is admirable. We work with parents to ensure every student reaches their full potential and that they feel safe and happy from the moment they join our family.



Our Support

The time that students spend in the Sixth Form represents their final preparations for moving onto university, apprenticeship or employment. Here at the Convent of Jesus and Mary we are proud of the way in which we support our Sixth Form students with their academic progress as well as their pastoral and spiritual development.



We are privileged to have such a diverse and comprehensive Sixth Form community here at the Convent. The rich variety of our students' backgrounds and experience brings life to all that we do as a group and provides opportunities for us all to learn from.

Our main aim is that students are able to progress from their studies with us and onto their chosen pathway. For those students choosing to go onto university, a programme of support is put in place from the beginning of year 12, exposing them to a range of different options for future study. We have a proven track record of supporting students to gain places at Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group institutions, as well as Ivy League schools in the USA. The guidance provided by Mr Colley to students applying to university is first class.

Studying in the Sixth form requires a high degree of self-motivation and the ability to study independently. We provide students with the space to develop this skill. Sixth formers have access to the common room where they are able to socialise comfortably during breaks from study. We also have a popular refectory. In order for students to enhance their independent study skills we provide a large study room equipped with computers where students can work

quietly during their study periods. The Sixth Form block has wifi throughout and students are able to purchase iPads through the school at a discounted rate.

Throughout our Level 2 and 3 programmes students and staff enjoy excellent working relationships. Our staff work hard to provide the best teaching for our students, as well as recognising them as young adults, all of which contributes to our sense of community, with staff and students working towards the common goal of success.



Alongside our academic programmes, we provide a structured programme of enrichment. The courses we are able to offer students are designed to develop students' self-esteem and confidence, as well as broadening their horizons and exposing them to new ways of thinking. This year we have been able to offer courses in popular psychology, film, current affairs and cooking.

I feel very proud of our Sixth Form and look forward to what we will go onto build with the input of our new students. Without doubt, our Sixth Form is the place where students are able to realise their full academic potential and become successful young adults.

Mr S Grant, Director of Upper School

Academic Mentoring, University Guidance

“I have worked at the Convent of Jesus and Mary in various roles for 25 years and have also worked for Oxford University.

Currently, my role involves tutoring students for entry into the most competitive courses (Law, Medicine, Engineering, etc.) at the most competitive universities, such as Oxbridge, Russell Group and Ivy League Universities. This role is unique to the Convent and means that students here are very well supported in their university applications. We are extremely proud of our success as students leave us and go to the universities that provide the best courses for them. Our success rate at Oxbridge is admirable.

I also work as a consultant for the Brunel Urban Scholars Programme and am involved in developing a specialist scheme with the Sutton Trust/Fulbright for students wishing to apply to top universities in the USA. This involves summer schools at Yale and Harvard at the end of Year 12, followed by the full application process in Year 13. Unsurprisingly, it is very competitive and is open to students from across the UK, but this year we have two students in the final stage of the application – testimony to the calibre of our Sixth Form students.



Nia-Patrice is applying for a range of Ivy League colleges this year. Mr Colley is guiding her through the process and we wish her the very best of luck!



The investment placed in having someone employed in my role demonstrates our commitment to supporting students beyond their life within the school. We are determined that our students are facilitated in accessing the *best* opportunities available to them so they are able to fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions as they prepare to compete with others nationally and globally.”

Mr J Colley, Oxbridge, Russell Group and USA University Programme Mentor

The Sutton Trust US Programme

At the Convent of Jesus and Mary, teachers encourage students to be ambitious, diligent and determined, instilling a work ethic that opens doors to the most exclusive universities. With the help of Mr Colley, our school's specialist Oxbridge and US College Mentor, students are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them and explore their true academic potential.



Abigail, right, speaking at an event with previous successful applicants Lizzie & Frankie

One example of this is the Sutton Trust US Programme, a programme that aims to provide state school students in Britain with the opportunity to study at American universities. It includes a one-week visit to the US, exploring introductory events at universities, speaking with admissions officers, and meeting students who have successfully gained scholarships to these places. This is then followed up with incredible application support that guides students through the process of obtaining a fully-funded scholarship to an American university.

I was elated to follow in the footsteps of three previous students who were accepted to their first choice US universities. These students, who have gained scholarships to elite Ivy League and Liberal Arts universities, have not only succeeded academically, but are also contributing to their universities through community work. This is a true testament to the Convent's tendency to push students to use their knowledge and wisdom beyond the classroom setting. The Convent Sixth Form has an outstanding reputation and an intimate relationship with the programme.

Despite the fear of losing my spot after the cancellation of A Level exams, my teachers and Mr Colley worked tirelessly to ensure that my place at Dartmouth was secured. It is easy to take for granted our teachers' genuine dedication to our success, but I can say without a doubt that I would not have been given this opportunity if I was not a part of the Convent Sixth Form; a community that creates lifelong learners and prepares students for their next steps in education. I believe that it is this that makes the Convent Sixth Form the best choice for you!

Abigail Yohannes, Dartmouth College, New Hampshire

Careers

We recognise that, at this point in your education, there are a number of different pathways open to you, and we work hard to ensure you have all the necessary facts to enable you to make informed decisions about your future. In the Sixth Form students have access to careers advice via our dedicated careers guidance professional, Ms Lawrence. In Year 12 you will be supported to find a work experience placement in a sector that interests you. This enables you to gain insights into the world of work and the expectations and rewards that come from it.

As well as UCAS support and information and guidance on higher education, Ms Lawrence can help with other post-18 options, such as applying for apprenticeships.

The Careers library is well-stocked with prospectuses and materials to help you explore your options and Ms Lawrence also has Google classrooms where she posts opportunities for virtual visits, talks and open days.



Teaching and Learning

Learning at the Convent of Jesus and Mary Sixth Form is cooperative: teachers and students work together to develop skills and understanding.

Our ambition is that every lesson should be engaging, challenging and enjoyable. Our teachers are approachable, well-qualified specialists, hand-picked for their expertise and academic background, who have incredible subject knowledge, a passion for learning and an understanding of young people.

Progress is monitored very closely and specific interventions are available to support all students to achieve their targets. Teachers and support staff strive to give every student the opportunity to experience success. Effort and achievement is praised and celebrated throughout the school year.



“Students in the Sixth Form are engaged and enjoy their learning because teachers plan effectively.” OFSTED 2017

Our students succeed!



In the summer of 2020:

82% of all A level grades were A* to C

25% of all A-level grades were A* to A

99% of students passed and went on to the university of their choice

Every year, the vast majority of our Year 13 leavers are able to take up their first choice place at renowned universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and Russell Group. Our students are accepted on an impressive range of demanding and competitive courses including Medicine, Veterinary science, Law, History, Nursing, Psychology, Politics, Drama, Maths, Languages, Engineering, Biochemistry and many more (for further detail on last year's destinations please see separate sheet provided).

We successfully support and guide students towards achieving their ambitions of attaining the highest grades, studying the most competitive degree courses and attending the most prestigious institutions.

Pastoral Guidance

Ensuring your happiness and safety is our highest priority.



We know that, in order to succeed, our students need to be happy. At the Convent of Jesus and Mary Sixth Form, we have a strong pastoral system designed so that someone is always looking out for you and identifying any signs of stress or worry that might affect your learning. Our experienced team of pastoral staff work alongside teaching staff to make sure any issues students face are addressed.

Mentors, counsellors and our school chaplain are also available to provide a further layer of support and to guarantee the emotional and spiritual needs of our students are met as they face the challenges of growing into independent adults.

My specific role as part of the Pastoral team is to ensure that we are taking care of your whole wellbeing, the 'you' outside of your studies. I am your first port of call for any issues you may have that you feel are impeding your progress in the Sixth Form. My door is always open if you need to have a chat; come and see me!

Ms Easton, Pastoral Support Manager

Catholic Life

The Chaplaincy at the Convent continues to support students in Years 12 and 13. Together we build on our openness with God and hope to grow in friendship with one another. The Chaplain is available to students to provide a listening ear during challenging times. We believe in looking after the whole person and support is offered as life can sometimes be tough.

Masses, retreats and trips are open to all sixth form students, allowing them to strengthen their relationships with friends in environments that promote reflection and calm. These opportunities also allow students to temporarily step out of the pressure and stresses of life and focus on their mental health and well-being, allowing them to regain the energy needed to be their best selves and achieve success.

The Liturgical Senior Prefects help prepare the liturgies and Masses, take a lead in the organisation of different charity events and volunteer their services to support our community. All of this allows them to share their talents and skills in service of others. Throughout the year we help those who have needs, whether here in our local area or abroad in our charitable endeavours. We put our faith into action, undertaking St Claudine's value of service; we serve others. The students in Year 12 can also apply to join us on the Westminster Diocese pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Mrs A Sylvester- Charles, Lay Chaplain and Teacher of Religious Education



Enrichment

Your life is enriched with meaning when you allow yourself to become inspired, set goals and have passion.

Young people are leaving school to enter an increasingly competitive world of further education, training and work. We provide enrichment opportunities to enable our students to develop personal, creative and life skills.

Enrichment is a compulsory session and options are run on a termly or yearly basis, depending on the activity. Sports, visual arts, performing arts, singing and volunteering with children are examples of some of the opportunities on offer this academic year. Activities can be based at our site, at one of the Consortium schools, or out in the wider community. The curriculum experience is further enriched through trips to universities, theatres, lectures and retreats that allow students time to reflect on the values, passions and aspirations that drive them.



Throughout Years 12 and 13 students are encouraged to visit academic conferences and seminars, UCAS exhibitions and careers fairs, where representatives from different vocational fields and universities give us tailored advice on how we can best achieve our individual long-term and short-term goals. Recent trips have included theatre productions, the Houses of Parliament and Germany.

Additionally, guest speakers are invited to the school to share their experiences and insights, to inspire and enlighten our students on professional opportunities, social affairs, literature and politics.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Sixth form students are given the opportunity to study for an additional qualification in research, the EPQ, which is offered in Year 13 as an Enrichment course over one year. This gives students a qualification in research that is equivalent to 28 UCAS points, or one AS Level. The course enables students to choose a topic that is personally interesting to them and to develop a small scale research project. The outcome can be a dissertation, an event that they have arranged, or an artefact they have created.

This important qualification is something that sets Convent students apart from others, especially when they are ready to make their applications to university or employment. This exciting and innovative course leads students through a firm foundation in the principles and practices of academic and professional research.



“I did the EPQ because I knew it would make me stand out from other students when applying for University. I later found out that some universities reduce entry grades if a student has done an EPQ, as it is worth UCAS points. I enjoyed the fact that I could choose my own topic, because it encourages independence and curiosity about the world. My EPQ was about the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and all the information I acquired has been very beneficial when it comes to understanding the context and impact of international events in my A Levels in History and Politics. Not only does EPQ help build research skills vital for academic study, it develops your organisation, time-keeping and essay-writing skills.”

Vanessa, Year 13 Student

Staff and students working in partnership

“Year 11 and Sixth Form almost feel like two completely different worlds, but, with the amazing support of our teachers, we are made as comfortable as possible in our new environment. Despite the massive jump from GCSE to Advanced Level, we are motivated by the adults around us and one another, which not only allows us to grow as a collective, but also embrace the words of encouragement given by the supportive Convent staff.”

Our teachers in Sixth Form trust us to organise our study materials, as well as study independently. We are fortunate enough to have classroom sizes that are smaller than many large colleges, allowing us to grow closer as a class, and independently flourish through one-to-one support from our teachers. It also means we have more opportunities to share our opinions and discuss our lessons with classmates.

One of the main reasons I decided to stay at the Convent is because I feel education must be thought-provoking, passionate, raw and truly an experience. I have not been disappointed. The level of political and social consciousness among my peer group is truly moving.

I feel blessed to be able to launch my journey into higher education with the Convent being my first stop. I am very aware that the world of education is complex, but it has been the mentorship, teacher support and at-home support that allows me to say that I am truly excited for what the future holds for myself and my peers.”

Hannah, Year 13 Student and Head Girl



From left: Himashi, Hannah, Jasmina, Nia-Patrice and Shafa

Collaborative Partnership

The Convent of Jesus and Mary is a member of a collaborative Sixth Form Partnership with Capital City Academy, Newman Catholic College, Queens Park Community School and Crest Academy.

Each partner school has developed a broad curriculum offer and courses taught at each school are available to all our students. Lessons are taught in extended blocks, allowing time in between for students to travel from one school to another for their chosen subject.

Our students will remain on roll at the Convent. This is their 'home school'. Most of our students will study their full course programme at the Convent, but they are also able to choose to study one of their courses at one of our partner schools if we are unable to accommodate it here, or if there is a clash on the timetable.

The Collaborative Partnership broadens the curriculum offer further and enables each student to study their chosen course combinations in order to pursue their academic ambitions to the full.



Testimonials

“I am glad I chose to continue my studies here at the Convent. It has enabled me to grow as an individual with an effective support system and a team of teachers who push me to achieve my full potential. I study Art, Photography and Spanish and have a strong bond with the teachers who offer advice whenever needed.” **Cheneille Mae**

“I decided to remain at the Convent for Sixth Form because here I had the opportunity to do all the subjects I wanted, as the Convent is part of a Consortium with other local schools. As well as studying Italian and Maths here I also study Computer Science at Newman. The wider range of subjects offered allowed me to find my passion and what I want to do in the future.” **Oana**

“The environment here encourages us to grow as individuals, both intellectually and emotionally. I have really understood the importance of my voice and the significance of becoming politically conscious, as well as becoming an advocate for social change. I can confidently say that my decision to stay at the Convent was greatly beneficial to my wellbeing and I would recommend it to any student.” **Shafa**

“Being here in the Sixth form has impacted me so positively. My teachers have encouraged me to grow and become much more confident and outspoken about the things that matter to me. I’m incredibly lucky to also have other strong and sophisticated women around me who I can learn with and gain inspiration from. The Convent Sixth form has brought out the best in me and made me understand that there is so much we can do if we are determined to make things happen.” **Jasmina**

“I felt at home in Sixth form immediately. What has most impressed me is everyone’s enthusiasm and willingness to learn. We help each other along as this is a journey we are going through together.” **Anonymous**

“I decided to stay at the Convent Sixth form to continue my studies in my favourite subjects. I study Art and Photography and the facilities and equipment are amazing; excellent cameras, a new darkroom and photography studio and a workspace specifically for Sixth formers. Our teachers are inspirational and encourage us to do our best.” **Ayisha**

“One of the things I’ve found most helpful about Sixth form is our dedicated Study Room. We go there for independent study, to catch up on our coursework and revise for upcoming tests. It’s nice and quiet to help us concentrate so we can get the amazing grades we want!” **Shahrazad**

“The Convent Sixth form is a home for people of all races, religions and cultures. Creativity is such an important part of Convent life and we are encouraged to grow more than educationally. Activities such as music, art and expressive literature remind me how as an individual I am more than my grades, as well as allowing me to see alternative perspectives.” **Himashi**



“With God’s grace, we excel and lead”

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