



St. OSCAR ROMERO CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

An Outstanding Learning Community



Welcome from the Headteacher

“Our aim is simple: we want to be the best school in the country. This means that we can, ‘hand on heart’, say that our students get a better deal than if they attended another school.”

Academic rigour within a caring Catholic community

I am extremely proud to introduce and welcome you to St Oscar Romero Catholic School.

We recognise that there are no limits to a child’s potential.

Our culture of academic rigour, alongside strong pastoral care, ensures that every child achieves exceptional GCSE results which enable them to leave school with every door open in terms of their future opportunities.

In March 2018, we were judged by Ofsted as ‘Good’ in all categories. This report is overwhelmingly positive about the journey the school has been on and confirms the staff, governors, students and parents’ absolute commitment to reach ‘Outstanding’ within one year.

This was then confirmed in our Diocesan Section 48 Inspection in July 2019, which judged the school as “Outstanding” in every category; this is a first for the school and a proud moment in the school’s 60 year history.

This is an exciting time for the school and our recent success is already breeding further success and aspiration.

As a Catholic School, St Oscar Romero’s is founded on Gospel values. We provide a nurturing environment of love, respect and discipline, where every individual is highly valued, and our care and concern for others is central to our mission.

We expect our students to work hard, behave well, dress smartly and pursue excellence in all that they do inside and outside of the classroom. Our culture is one of high expectations in all that we do.



I now invite you to experience St Oscar Romero’s Catholic School first-hand by having a tour of our school, and I look forward to meeting you in the future.

Mr Byrne
Headteacher

Teaching and Learning Together in a Catholic Community

The highest quality of teaching and learning lies at the heart of our success and outstanding academic results, hence our team of excellent teachers keep up to date with new developments and innovations in education.

Teachers are research active and each teacher works within a learning community of colleagues to ensure the effectiveness and improvement of lessons. Focus is placed on developing key areas of pedagogy known as the Romero 8: high expectations; every student challenged; thinking, learning and practice time; differentiation; feedback; modelling; questioning; intervention. Teachers work collaboratively; sharing their ideas and the very best practice through weekly briefings and a continual professional development programme. As a strategic partner in the Inspire & Bosco Teaching School Alliance, we are at the forefront of good educational practice and teacher training.

Our day is organised as six fifty minute lessons. This allows greater flexibility and ensures that all lessons have pace and a high level of challenge. Lessons are structured and well planned with an emphasis on independent and active learning for students. Our creative approach to education ensures student engagement and progress. Taught in classes according to ability, students are challenged to learn at an appropriate pace, allowing them to develop their knowledge and understanding. There are numerous school visits to support this learning.

Academically we challenge students with a comprehensive range of subjects, exceeding the requirements of the national curriculum by offering at Key Stage 3: Art, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, English, Food Technology, French, German, Geography, Graphics, History, Maths, Music, Personal Health and Social Education, Physical Education, Religious Education, Resistant Materials, Science, Spanish and Textiles.

At Key stage 4 we offer core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Personal Health and Social Education.

EBACC options include: Computer Science, French, Geography, History, and Spanish. GCSE options include: Art, Creative iMedia, Dance, Drama, Enterprise, Food Technology, Media, Music, Resistant Materials, Textiles and Physical Education.



Outstanding Pastoral Care

*“Pastoral care for the whole student body and for staff constitutes a significant strength for this Catholic school”
- Diocesan Section 48 Inspection 2019*

St Oscar Romero Catholic School is a safe, caring and well ordered school in which every member of the community is valued and respected for who they are.

New students participate in our well established and comprehensive induction programme that ensures that the transition from primary to secondary education is smooth and enjoyable. Our youngest students settle in quickly, becoming confident and productive members of our learning community.

The school is organised into horizontal tutor groups for morning registration and Person Health and Social Education. Each tutor group contains approximately 27 students from their year group. The tutor takes responsibility for the welfare and development of every student in their tutor group.

Each tutor group belongs to one of four houses, led by a Head of House. The houses are named after Saints or other inspirational figures, these are: Attenborough, Kolbe, Malala and Teresa.

On entering, each year group is assigned a Head of Year, who is charged with the academic and pastoral care of students. They ensure the wellbeing of all within the year group and are a key point of contact for parents, together with the tutor. We work in close partnership with parents and encourage them to be actively involved in their children’s education.

Regular and clear channels of communication mean our parent body is well informed and able to make a positive contribution. Our weekly Head of Year emails and school newsletters give a regular insight into school activities and news. Frequent parent meetings and forums give the opportunity to raise issues, air opinions and influence decision making. Our Parent Focus Group meetings provide opportunities for in-depth discussions between parents and the Headteacher.

Commitment, aspiration, resilience, prayer, excellence, dignity, integrity, effort and mercy are the nine principles that provide a simple but sharp focus on the qualities we are looking for from students at St Oscar Romero Catholic School.

By themselves, they are not a measure of success, but they are tools that create a path towards a bright, positive and fulfilling future.



Welcome to the Sixth Form at St. Oscar Romero Catholic School

At St Oscar Romero, our aim is simple: we want to be the best Sixth Form in the country. This means that we can, 'hand on heart', say that our students will get a better deal than if they attended another college.

The new Sixth Form at St Oscar Romero opened in September 2024.

In our Sixth Form, we will live this out in three ways:

Academic Excellence

Sixth Formers can expect outstanding teaching and learning in their chosen subjects. We will ensure that all sixth formers have access to bespoke academic support to enable them to reach their full potential in their A-Levels or BTEC courses.

There will be opportunities for students to be challenged and pursue their passions through the Extended Project Qualification.

We will also ensure that we give Sixth Formers time to pursue their passions within their lessons and the enrichment programme.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

We will have outstanding pastoral provision and care from tutors, teaching staff and support staff. All Sixth Form students will be 'known and loved' by all of the staff at St Oscar Romero.

Spiritual Flourishing

It is important to us that when you leave us in Year 13, you not only leave with the very best exam results, but also with the moral, spiritual and social skills you need to take your place in an ever-changing world.

Romero's students will be equipped with the skills they need to be successful in life in their chosen path, and there will be lots of opportunities to take on leadership roles across the school.

Our Sixth Formers will be very much part of the school, mentoring and supporting younger students, whilst enjoying increasing independence. The step up to Sixth Form is significant and very exciting.



Curriculum and Courses



Choosing the right courses is essential to success in the Sixth Form. For some students, this will be easy, as your talents lie in a particular area of the curriculum. But for others there could be a range of subjects, all of which appeal to you.

When you choose Sixth Form at Romero's, a member of staff will talk with you about your higher education and/ or employment aspirations, then advise you about suitable courses in the Sixth Form. Nevertheless, this task is a shared one: if you have a particular university course in mind, then look at the entry requirements for a number of universities.

Anyone wanting to study medicine, for example, will need A Levels in subjects such as chemistry, biology and mathematics. If the course is less prescriptive – law, for example – then consider the sort of subjects in which you can demonstrate logical thinking, good communication skills or the ability to evaluate evidence.

Remember too, that some university courses are so oversubscribed that even having four A* grades might not be enough to secure a place - so choosing a subject which you like, but do not usually score very highly in, could damage your chances of getting in. These are exactly the kind of issues and options we will discuss with you before you make your final choices and look forward to these conversations, at your Sixth Form Interview.

The courses that are likely to make up our initial curriculum offer are:

- A Level Art and Design including Textiles
- A Level Biology
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Criminology
- A Level Computer Science
- A Level Dance
- A Level Drama
- A Level Economics
- A Level English
- A Level French
- A Level Geography
- A Level History
- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Further Mathematics
- A Level Music
- A Level Physical Education
- A Level Physics
- A Level Politics
- A Level Psychology
- A Level Religion and Philosophy
- A Level Spanish
- BTEC Level 3 Applied Science
- BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care
- BTEC Level 3 Sport

Additional course:

- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

All courses will be run subject to demand; if there are high levels of demand for other subjects, they may be offered.

Enrichment and Learning through Experience

Acquiring self-confidence, resilience and fulfilment of individual talent

At St Oscar Romero Catholic School, we believe that learning takes place everywhere. School life is therefore enriched by diverse activities designed to encourage experiential learning and foster enjoyment. A broad spectrum of sporting, musical, artistic and technological clubs are offered every day.

Students may join the school orchestra, choir, various bands, ensembles, or composition club, with opportunities to perform to audiences in numerous settings, fostering innovation and creativity are at the heart of our art and design clubs. In addition to their music lessons, all students in year 7 have a choir lesson and every student in year 8 learns to play a musical instrument.

We also teach dance in a wide selection of styles and offer opportunities to perform to a range of audiences.

The school participates in, and hosts, a multitude of sporting fixtures and encompasses many sports over the year, these include multi-sport matches against local schools, and national competitions.

In 2021, we setup The Saints Netball Academy, an elite netball team based at St. Romero's, who compete against other schools and netball clubs.

All students in Year 8 complete the John Muir Award, which helps students connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places. Taking part in the award allows students to discover, explore, conserve, and share their learning with others.

Students may also be involved in a variety of teams, committees, and groups, aimed at encouraging leadership, democracy, and active citizenship. We offer a programme of events at which inspiring and influential speakers and groups address and engage students in local, national and global issues.

Travel and residential visits are an integral part of broadening student experience. We regularly offer visits to Rome, Iceland, Spain, France and Austria.

We run a thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme and are delighted by the large number of students who complete this each year.



“I wanted my daughter to go to the best school and I am confident she does” - Year 8 Parent



“I love being at St.Romero’s; there are so many clubs and opportunities to take part in” - Year 7 Student



Developing a Love of Christ, of Learning, and of Each Other

“This is an outstanding Catholic community in which every member of the school community is valued, and treated with dignity and respect” - Diocesan Section 48 Inspection 2019

As a school we are aware that you trust us with the most precious thing in the world, your children. At St Oscar Romero Catholic School, our students are provided with an education that challenges their intellect, gives spiritual growth, and offers abundant opportunity for personal development, so that they may “Aspire not to have more but to be more”.

As a community, we take great pride in our students and their achievements. We find opportunities as a worshipping community to turn to God daily in prayer, giving thanks and asking for His blessing on all that we do.

We strive to create a community in which every student knows that they are valued, and that they have the ability to contribute in diverse ways by taking up personal responsibility and roles of leadership within the community, in order to build up the Kingdom of God.

We are blessed to have a School Chaplain, who leads the Spiritual Life of the school and works closely with our RE Department and our Pastoral Team, as well as supporting the many enrichment activities in school.

Each year, our students raise over £10,000 for local and international charities including Guild Care, St Barnabas House, Turning Tides and CAFOD.

Our students and their families are always generous and reach out to those in need.

We encourage every student to follow their dreams and aspirations and develop a Love of God, Love of Learning and a Love of Each Other.





St. OSCAR ROMERO CATHOLIC SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

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