

# St. Joseph's College

## Sixth Form Prospectus



*"The Sixth Form is outstanding. Students leave the Sixth Form ready to make a contribution to the world around them."*

*(Ofsted, February 2014)*

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## Mission Statement

St Joseph's College seeks to develop the whole person. We are a Catholic School inspired in our mission by the vision of life that is found in the teaching of the Gospel, the Church, and in Jesus, who came that we 'may have life and have it to the full.'

In striving to fulfil this mission we continue the work of the Christian Brothers and its founder Blessed Edmund Rice. In practice this means that we seek to:

1. **Encourage, support and inspire young people and the wider school community in the journey of faith.**
2. **Create a well-ordered community where everyone is valued and respected.**
3. **Develop the intellectual, creative, physical, spiritual and religious potential of every pupil and encourage involvement in extra curricular activities such as sport, music, drama and community service.**
4. **Work in partnership with parents, parishes, local industry and commerce, and the wider community in a spirit of mutual service for the benefit of all.**
5. **Prepare our young people for life beyond school and in particular develop personal integrity, moral values and a sense of justice so that they *'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God'*.**

(Micah 6:8)



## Religious Life of the School

*Education at St Joseph's College is more than just an end in itself* (Mission Statement).

Inspired by the teaching of the Gospel, the Church and Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers we seek to build a community where all can develop their religious, spiritual and moral values. Opportunities for this development go beyond students' Religious Education lessons and can be found in all subjects, a wide range of extra curricular activities and the everyday life of the school.

Prayer is central to community life at St Joseph's. Students attend one sixth form assembly each week. These assemblies begin and end with prayer and create opportunities for students to reflect on their personal experiences, share common concerns and show respect for the rights and beliefs of others. Prayers are also said each day during form time where students are given the opportunity to lead and say prayers with their class.

School masses are held on Holy Days of Obligation and on other special occasions such as the beginning and end of the academic year. These liturgies offer an opportunity to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school and thus aid the further religious development and growth of all members of the community.



All sixth form students make a commitment to complete 50 hours of enrichment over the course of year 12. Throughout the year students are encouraged to have a sense of responsibility to those in both our local and global community. Last year students at St Joseph's raised in excess of £23,000. This money was used to support the work of CAFOD, Young Minds, the Dougie Mac and the work of the Christian Brothers amongst others. Students can become part of an S.V.P. programme, which requires them to visit local primary schools to help and support teachers with extracurricular activities and literacy activities. Sixth form students also work as volunteers on our annual Edmund Rice camp as well as taking part in La Sallian projects in Africa and India and visiting our partner Christian Brothers' schools in Sierra Leone and India.

Students at St Joseph's can take part in an annual sixth form retreat as well as having the opportunity to lead the annual 'Encounter' retreat for their peers. These retreats provide students with a unique opportunity to relax together, enjoy sport and recreation, reflect on their wealth of experiences, strengthen friendships and begin to understand the place of God in their lives. Large numbers of students take up the opportunity to go on retreat and they find it a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

*"Catholic life is clearly the very heartbeat of the college. Its paramount concern is with performance in relation to its aims as a Christian community in the Catholic tradition and as a Christian Brothers' Foundation. The core values have been developed into a concise document to which all involved in the college, including governors, parents and pupils have contributed". (Section 48 - Diocesan Inspection 2014)*

# Sixth Form Life at St Joseph's College

## Tradition

The academic experience at St Joseph's is in the traditional mould. Students are expected to be in school throughout the school day whether or not they have classes. Sixth form assemblies are held each Monday morning at 8:45am. Students are members of a tutor group which meets from Tuesday and Thursday at 8:45am. Directed time for study is used effectively and provision is made for this in well equipped and supervised sixth form study areas on both sites.

## Pastoral Care

Sixth Formers may encounter a range of difficulties during their time with us. Advanced level study is different from studying for GCSEs and the process of adapting to new demands can cause problems. Success at A level requires greater independence from students as well as the need to understand and apply new and sometimes complex ideas. It can also be daunting for students who are joining a new school and are meeting so many new people for the first time. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming school and we work hard to provide the advice and support young people need to manage the transition to sixth form study successfully. There is always an open door for those who may be unsure if they have chosen the right course or who are experiencing problems which are not directly related to their academic abilities. This facility has been an important support for many students over the years. In addition to their daily form period, form tutors also have regular one-to-one meetings with each student in their tutor group to discuss progress.

## Role Models

As a vital part of our community at St Joseph's, we ask that sixth form students:

- Form good relationships with others, built on mutual trust and respect.
- Develop a positive attitude towards sixth form life.
- Take initiative and lead by example.
- Assist in the smooth running of the school.
- Be a positive, mature role model at all times.

## Monitoring Progress

Sixth form students are set minimum expected grades (MEGs) during the first half term of their course. Progress in relation to these MEGs is then monitored formally each half term with regular communication of progress going home. Comprehensive support is provided for students who are identified as not progressing well in their A level subjects. This support ensures that no student lacks the help they need to achieve their potential.



*“Achievement in the sixth form is strong”*

*(Ofsted, February 2014)*

## Sport

Games is considered to be a very important part of the school curriculum and this applies to the Sixth Form as it does to the Lower School. We consider it an honour for students to be selected to represent the College and, thus, expect full co-operation from students and their parents when teams are chosen. Without doubt, a successful team at any activity enhances the spirit of the Sixth Form, the reputation of the College and the enthusiasm of the younger pupils. All our teams are highly successful. Sporting opportunities include rugby, basketball, hockey, netball, tennis, and football.

## Independence

Sixth form students have some non-contact time each week when they are free to use the dining areas and sixth form study areas on each site. This transition in time-management takes place to better prepare students for university life and to provide the time for students to meet the greater independent study requirements of A level. Students are also provided with detailed guidance on the university applications process, starting with a week dedicated to this topic in July of year 12.



Sixth form students have access to dedicated, well equipped study areas at both the Olsen Building and in the Fideliter Building.

# Curriculum

## Subjects available at A level:

Art & Design  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Computing  
Design & Technology  
(Food technology)\*  
Design & Technology  
(Product design)  
Design & Technology  
(Textiles technology)  
Economics  
English Language & Literature  
English Literature  
French



Geography  
History  
Mathematics  
Further Mathematics  
Music  
Performing Arts (Music)\*  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Politics  
Psychology  
Religious Studies  
(Philosophy + Ethics)  
Sociology  
Spanish  
Theatre Studies

\* Level 3 course (not A level)

## How Many Subjects Do I Take?

- All students take 3 subjects in Year 12 + 13 from the list above (4 subjects in exceptional circumstances)
- The AQA extended project is available in year 13.

*“The teaching in the sixth form is outstanding. This was confirmed in discussion with students and from direct observations. Nearly all go on to the university or a vocational course of their choice”.*

*(Ofsted, February 2014)*



## Entry Requirements:

Please see detailed guidance on the separate sheet in your folder for a full explanation of both the general entry requirements and the entry requirements in each subject.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

A level subjects will be assessed entirely at the end of Year 13 as a two year linear qualification. Students will be rigorously monitored throughout the year and all Year 12 students will be assessed during the spring and summer terms. These assessments are internal assessments and will be marked according to external examination requirements.

At the end of Year 13 all students will sit external A level examinations in May – June.



## Enrichment Activities

### Student Induction Programme

During their first week at St. Joseph's students take part in team-building activities which include orienteering, archery and bushcraft. Students are also encouraged to reflect on their role as a sixth former and to build relationships with each other based on mutual trust and respect.

### Careers Guidance

Our head of careers liaises with the Staffordshire Careers and Connexions Services to provide students with advice regarding university and employment choices. A comprehensive programme is provided for students in order to guide them through the university and employment application processes. This includes writing a fully researched 'career plan report' explaining and justifying the student's aims after they leave the sixth form. Students are also encouraged to gain experience of 'the world of work' via work experience and work shadowing.

### Use of Study Facilities

Students are encouraged to use the dedicated, supervised sixth form study areas in the Fideliter building and the Olsen building. Supervised private study sessions are part of the timetable of all year 12 students, a minimum of 5 hours per fortnight is allocated to each student.

### Sixth Form Student Leadership

Student representatives have responsibility for organising social occasions such as the Leavers' Prom and developing facilities within the Sixth Form, as well as playing a key role in fund - raising activities such as the sponsored walk. Here, students can utilise skills of communication, problem-solving, and team-building in addition to demonstrating positive citizenship.

### Prefects

Leadership, motivation, organisation, communication and empathy are skills required by students who opt to become a prefect. Prefects are directly involved in the smooth-running of the school community in the monitoring of younger pupils around the school, in the mentoring of pupils in form groups, or in the assistance of special needs provision for pupils. Prefects act as role models and carers for younger pupils.



### Service

All sixth form students make a commitment to serve the school community or the local community. Within school many sixth formers act as mentors or teaching assistants to younger pupils, helping in a wide range of different subject areas. Students have given their time to the wider community in mentoring of primary school pupils, sports coaching, instructing cycling proficiency and visiting the elderly. Provision is made for these opportunities during Wednesday afternoons and throughout the school week. NCS is also offered.

## Religious Education

As part of their entitlement to RE in the Sixth Form, all year 12 students receive one hour per week of General RE. The course is designed to develop their personal skills as well as enabling students to develop understanding of key documents of Catholic Social Teaching in the area of Human Rights. Students are encouraged to apply the principles of catholic social teaching to present day social issues.

This course develops and assesses students' skills in the following areas:

- taking part in discussions
- delivering presentations
- researching a moral issue
- working with others
- problem solving
- improving own learning & performance

## Other Enrichment Activities Include

- Medics Club
- Music
- Sport
- Drama Productions
- Retreats
- Visits to university open days including those at Oxford & Cambridge.
- Sixth Form Newsletter.
- British Sign Language Club
- Debating Society.



*“The Sixth Form community work reaches out to many local institutions, such as hospitals and the hospice. Being at the forefront of education development the college supports other schools and many education projects, including teacher training in Africa as part of the visit to Sierra Leone”. (Section 48 – Diocesan Inspection 2014)*

## How To Apply

- ◆ Please complete and return the appropriate application form or download it from our website to St Joseph's College by Friday 18 December 2020. (We do not accept applications via UCAS).
- ◆ You will then be invited to St Joseph's for a course discussion meeting with a senior member of staff. These course discussion meetings will begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- ◆ After this meeting we will contact you by letter regarding your application.