St Joseph's
SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

PROSPECTUS

2027



“I just want to say a huge thank you for all the support, care and educational excellence you have given my daughter throughout her time at St Joseph’s. You have truly taken the time to get to know her as an individual, nurturing her strengths and helping her to fulfil her dreams. She is off to Cardiff this September, and the world is now her oyster! I couldn’t be prouder or more grateful. Thank you for everything from one very grateful mum!”

Parent of a former student (August 2026)



St. Joseph's Sixth Form Centre

A Warm Welcome for All

Welcome to St. Joseph's Sixth Form

Choosing where to continue your education is an important and exciting decision. At St Joseph's Sixth Form Centre, we are committed to providing an environment where every student feels welcomed, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. Whether you are continuing your journey with us or joining from another school, we look forward to helping you take this important next step towards your future.

Our Sixth Form has a proud reputation for academic achievement, excellent pastoral care and a strong sense of community. As a relatively small Sixth Form, we offer something particularly special: a personal approach where every student is known, valued and supported as an individual. We recognise that no two students follow the same path, and we work closely with each young person to help them discover their strengths, develop their ambitions and achieve their full potential.

At St Joseph's, education is about much more than qualifications. Rooted in our Catholic ethos we seek to develop confident, compassionate and responsible young people who are prepared to make a positive contribution to the world around them.



Our dedicated teachers and experienced Sixth Form Tutor Team are central to this commitment. Through high-quality teaching, individual mentoring and regular guidance, we ensure that students receive the encouragement and



support they need to succeed. Our tutors know their students exceptionally well, working closely with teachers and families to celebrate achievements, identify areas for development and help every student make progress.

We are equally ambitious about what comes next. Our comprehensive programme of careers education, university guidance and apprenticeship support ensures that students are well prepared for life beyond St Joseph's. Year after year, we take great pride in seeing our students progress to university, higher apprenticeships, employment and other exciting opportunities.

Sixth Form life also offers countless opportunities to play an important role as leaders and role models within the wider school community, while a wide range of sporting, cultural, charitable and enrichment activities encourages everyone to get involved.

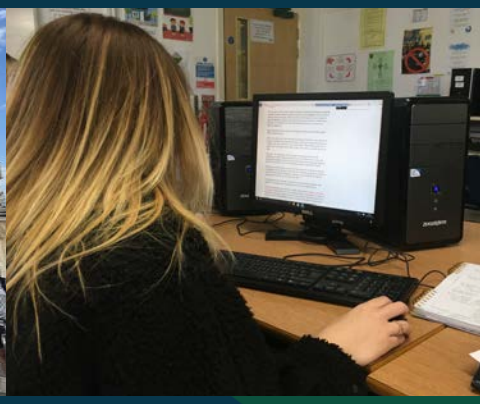
Above all, we want our Sixth Form to be a place where students feel they belong, where their achievements are celebrated and where they are encouraged to become the very best version of themselves.

We look forward to meeting you.

Steve Jones
Acting Headteacher

Jodie Gow
Head of Sixth Form





Why St. Joseph's Sixth Form?

At St Joseph's, we can offer students a challenging, varied and rewarding Sixth Form experience. Our Sixth Form is a place where students can seize a wide range of opportunities to develop themselves academically, socially, morally and spiritually.

High quality and personalised teaching is at the core of our Sixth Form and this is evident in the excellent results that all our students achieve. We prepare our students for the next stage of their lives, ensuring they have the necessary academic qualifications and wider social skills to make the next step.

We know that students making the transition from Year 11 to the Sixth Form are ready to take full ownership of, and responsibility for, their own learning. Our job is to support them in this process, providing the expert guidance and support that will allow them to increase awareness of their strengths and areas for development. In doing so, we help our students reach their goals for both the present and the future.

Our Sixth Form curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced and flexible, meeting the needs of every student. Every student's individual goals, aspirations and understanding of how they best learn, together with their Key Stage 4 results, will guide which courses and pathways are best for them.

At St Joseph's, our expectation is that every student will be fully engaged with their chosen subjects. A passion for the study of these subjects should be the drive for our students to explore them thoroughly, using a range of resources, including new technologies, to grasp the opportunities before them.

At St Joseph's we know that success in exams alone does not prepare young people to move from Sixth Form into higher education, apprenticeships or employment. That is why we offer information, advice and guidance from careers advisors, with many opportunities to discover what a range of universities have to offer, and what they want from their applicants. We will arrange taster sessions and talks from university admission tutors, personnel managers and former students.

Every St Joseph's Sixth Form student has the opportunity to develop the skills and the sense of community that will help them become a leader, whether that be taking on the role of a senior prefect, supporting younger students in developing their reading, working with other year groups as a Teacher Aid, supporting charities or contributing to the school and local community. All members of our Sixth Form, are encouraged to act as a role model and inspiration for the wider school.

We are committed to providing a full range of extra-curricular opportunities, including cultural enrichment trips to Paris and Brussels, a 500 mile Cycling Pilgrimage across Northern Spain, and a wide range of sporting activities.





The St Joseph's Curriculum

St. Joseph's has a flexible curriculum offer including courses that can be tailored to match our students' personal abilities, prior learning and choice of career. It is possible for a student to study a combination of AS/A Levels alongside vocational qualifications and, if necessary, some GCSEs.

LEVEL 3 PATHWAY



The vast majority of our students study at Level 3. These courses comprise AS/A Levels and vocational equivalents such as BTEC Diplomas. Students with at least five C grades at GCSE are expected to pursue three/four AS subjects, in addition to the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification.

Some Level 3 courses have particular entry requirements - as a general guide students should achieve an A*-C grade in the subjects they wish to study but it's suggested students contact the Sixth Form Team to discuss this.

Selecting the best possible courses is a key decision for Year 12 students to make, and it is often a challenging one. It is helpful for students to consider what they are really interested in, what is important to them, their career prospects and the courses available with the GCSE/Level 2 grades they have achieved. Students should also remember that the right combination of courses is important to make the most of the opportunities beyond Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to use university websites to research courses and their entry requirements.

LEVEL 2 / GCSE RESITS

We also offer students the opportunity to resit GCSE English and Mathematics through taught sessions and access to dedicated study periods to assist with specific destinations.



THE ST. JOSEPH'S CORE

The St Joseph's Core is the combination of all qualifications that are studied by all students in the Sixth Form. All students in Year 12 and 13 study the Advanced Skills Baccalaureate Wales. The qualification is graded A*-E and is equivalent to an A-Level. Students participate in three challenges over a two-year period including Global Community and Future Destinations along with a mini-dissertation through the Individual Project.

The 'core' also brings together the extra and supra-curricular activities that the students take part in to make them stand out from others when applying for these future opportunities.

Support, Wellbeing & Transition

We recognise that the transition into sixth form is demanding. We aim to support you not only in adapting to the rigour of Post 16 study but in becoming more independent and resilient in your own learning. You will begin each school day in the company of your form tutors, and also benefit from the robust and comprehensive pastoral support of the Sixth Form Management Team on a regular basis.

Personal Guidance

At the start of Year 12 you will be assigned a form tutor who will be seen daily in Morning Care, the starting point for each day. This means that you will get to know your tutor very well during your time in the sixth form. It is the tutor's role to monitor the day-to-day welfare of students in their form, as well as their academic and social progress.

Wellbeing Support

At St Joseph's, we care very much about student wellbeing and personal development. Sixth Formers experience many pressures and we all; the dedicated Pastoral Team, including Safeguarding Officers, School Counsellors, management team and subject teachers, are here to ensure you are happy, safe and successful.

YOU AT THE CENTRE

Transition and Induction

We will hold a number of Open Evenings and taster days throughout Year 11. These opportunities will give you the chance to speak to teachers about the subjects you are thinking about stuyding, talk to current students about their experiences and spend time in the Sixth Form environment during a normal school day.

Academic Monitoring

We want you to reach your full potential and we will support you to do this! Your subject teachers and the Pastoral Team will monitor your progress closely and you and your parents will receive regular feedback through a designated parents evening; as well as three Progress Checks throughout the year.

The Head of Sixth Form and other staff spend time speaking to Heads of Year 11 in all our feeder schools, including our own, to find out more about you and what best supports your learning.

The following key aspects are in place to support your wellbeing:

- Extensive pastoral support for wellbeing and achievement
- A dedicated Sixth Form Pastoral Team
- An induction and transition programme for all students
- Open Evenings for parents and student
- A unique 'Health & Wellbeing Base' to support your wellbeing
- Dedicated school counsellors for individual guidance and support

Opportunities & Enrichment

Discover new interests, develop your talents and make a difference.





Leadership Opportunities

You will be given the opportunity to volunteer as a Sixth Form Ambassador. These ambassadors will work with pupils in Years 7 -11 in the school in a variety of different ways; this could be in Teacher Aid, as an academic mentor to Year 11 pupils or as part of the Charity Team organising events such as the Stay Awake, and many more! There is also the chance to work with primary school pupils as part of the Paired Reading Scheme or as a sport coach. We also encourage our sixth form students to take on leadership roles and provide a wide range of opportunities such as applying to be Head Boy, Head Girl or Deputies.

Visits and Trips

Our students benefit from opportunities throughout the year to experience life and learning beyond school. These include visits to Art Galleries, our partnership with Swansea University enables our A Level Chemists and Biologists to gain hands-on experience of work in a micro-biology laboratory and Chemistry labs. For future lawyers and politicians who study Law and Sociology a visit to the Houses of Parliament. Other previous trips have included visits to New York, Llangrannog, West End theatre shows, Brussels, the Tower of London along with our Cycling Pilgrimage across Northern Spain.

STEM Opportunities

We offer a wide range of opportunities for students interested in STEM subjects and/or pursuing a STEM subject at Higher Education. Opportunities have included STEM workshops, STEP masterclasses, tissue engineering workshop, attending genetic conferences, Physics Oxford Olympiad, 'Chemistry in a Suitcase', Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, UKMT individual and team maths challenges, Maths Olympiad, DT's Arkwright Engineering Scholarship and Engineering Education Scheme Wales.



Guest Speakers

We will broaden your horizons and experiences by inviting in a range of guest speakers. These include talks from health care professionals, lectures from leading academics and drama workshops run by professional actors and practitioners, to name but a few. We also have links with a variety of different organisations including Dementia Care, the NHS, engineering companies and Tata Steel.

Sports

Sixth formers play pivotal roles in securing sporting success at local and national level. Opportunities include senior football, rugby, netball, and hockey teams, cross-country, coaching opportunities, access to the newly created gym and the chance to gain sport coaching qualifications whilst working with younger pupils in school and in partner primaries. Another opportunity is to complete the Duke Of Edinburgh Gold, Silver and Bronze awards.



Fulfilling Your Potential



St Joseph's Sixth Form is part of a Catholic school, and as such our commitment to our faith is central to each decision that we make and everything that we do. We believe that our Sixth Form students play a fundamental role in building and sustaining our ethos as ambassadors of our school and local community.

We are committed to the provision of an inclusive and wide-ranging education for all our pupils in accordance with the teachings of the church. The learning experiences of our students are intended to embrace a comprehensive education: academic, social, moral and spiritual. Within the Sixth Form we are dedicated to developing as individuals to "become fully human in Christ" – to help our young people get the most out of their lives and to be the best that they can be.

Pastoral support is an area we pride ourselves on and the Sixth Form Tutor Team plays a crucial role in this aspect of our students' life. Tutors meet with their students once a day, either as individuals or as a tutor group, for a professional discussion, mentoring session or just a chat. The tutors will get to know each member of their tutor group extremely well and can help the students make the transition from GCSEs to the more independent world of post-16 education.

Students are monitored closely by their subject teachers who feed data and information directly to form tutors and Head of Sixth Form. The Deputy Headteacher responsible for the Sixth Form then provides teachers and students with bespoke intervention and improvement programmes to ensure that each student achieves their potential and beyond. Tutors are also a key element in the link between the school and home and will contact parents to update them on progress and any issues.

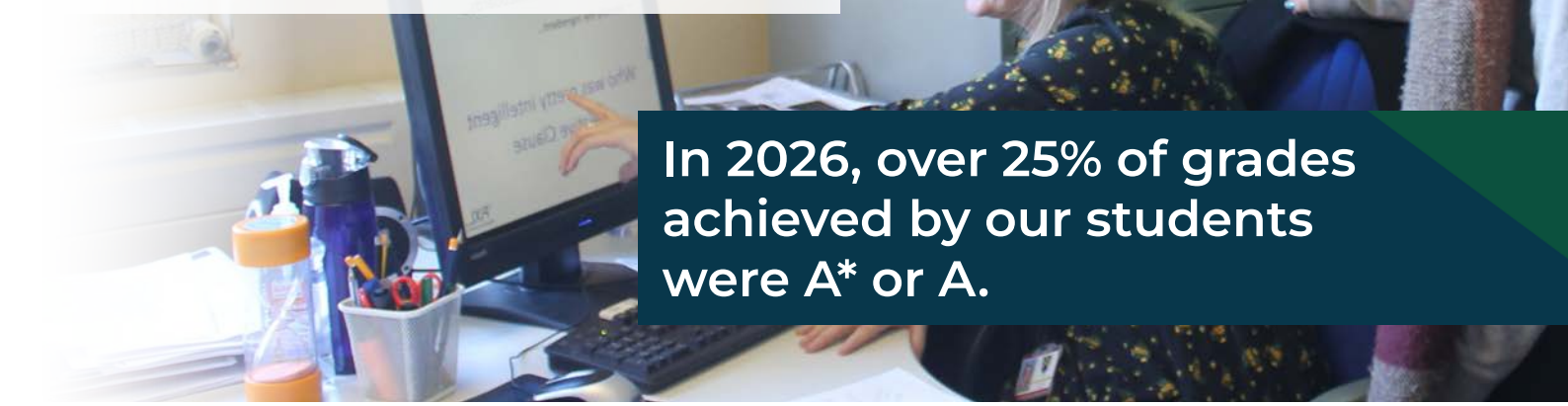
The Sixth Form Tutor Time Programme is diverse and evolves as the challenges that face our students change. Session can consist of classroom based activities and presentations by visiting speakers, alongside the core programme which includes: personal finance, CV writing, interview practice, careers planning, time management and the development of self-reflection skills.

Extra-curricular activities broaden the range of skills and qualifications, and give students the opportunity to meet and socialise. Within St. Joseph's Sixth Form each and every student has the opportunity to become involved in a wide variety of extra and super-curricular activities. These not only provide useful additions to personal statements and application forms but help develop our students as individuals.

All students are offered the opportunity to broaden their studies with specialist study visits and cultural trips to a variety of locations both within the UK and abroad, such as a Business Studies visit to Brussels and Paris, Geography field work in Mid-Wales, Politics and History visits to London and many more. Students also have the opportunity to take part in the bi-annual 500 mile cycling pilgrimage across Northern Spain to Santiago.







In 2026, over 25% of grades achieved by our students were A* or A.



Destinations

We have a long and proud tradition of supporting our students in gaining access to further education or on to their chosen career pathway. In 2026, 100% of students were accepted at their first or second choice university, with 97% having achieved their first choice place.

Our experienced tutor team and Sixth Form management team work with students during every stage of the university application process. The daily contact with the form teacher means we can work with students closely to maximise their chances of success, from advice and support on choosing the right course and institution, to completing the personal statement. Visits to open days at local universities are also encouraged and supported.

Seren Network & Honours Programme

For those students considering applications to the Russell Group and Oxbridge universities, our partnership with Seren and own in-house Honours Programme opens up a range of experiences and support to enable this: visits from Oxbridge admissions tutors, tutorials on completing application forms and workshops to prepare for interviews.



We are proud to have sent many of our students to Russell Group universities along with having past students currently studying at both Oxford and Cambridge, and have high ambitions for our current and future students to continue this tradition.

The St Joseph's Honours Programme aims to enhance students' post sixth form aspirations and opportunities by providing a programme of additional study, range of extra and supra curricular activities, tailored destination support and fast track academic pathways. The programme this year current includes; additional tailored support, visits to Oxford and Bath universities, subject masterclasses and admissions test seminars and interview techniques.

Where are they now?

Thea Jenkins achieved 3 A grades and 2 B grades in Biology, Chemistry, Maths, Theology and the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate. She is now studying Medicine at Exeter University.



Corey and Theo studied Business Studies together for two years after their time at St Joseph's. Corey is now at Cardiff University and Theo has an apprenticeship with First Cymru.





Henri, Grace and Munachismo joined Year 12 from Ysgol Cwm Brombil, Cefn Saeson and St. Joseph's and now have higher apprenticeships with the Department for Work & Pensions.

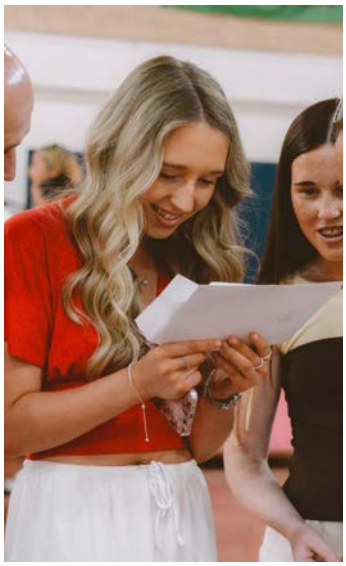
Chen Wu achieved 2 A* grades in Computer Science and Maths with 2 A grades in Physics and the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate. He has now gone to study Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh.

Gracie Radmore achieved 4 A grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and the Advanced Skills Challenge, along with a B grade in Maths. She was so pleased to be accepted by Cardiff University to study Medicine.



Isabel is off to Cardiff University to study Pharmacology. She joined Year 12 from Ysgol Cwm Brombil and studied Biology, Chemistry and the Welsh Baccalaureate.

"Going to sixth form is a decision I will never regret. I joined knowing no-one but have made life-long friends."





Fleur joined the Sixth Form from Ysgol Cwm Brombil and after studying English Literature, Law, Psychology and Welsh Bac will progress to University of Exeter to study Law.







Choosing the right course

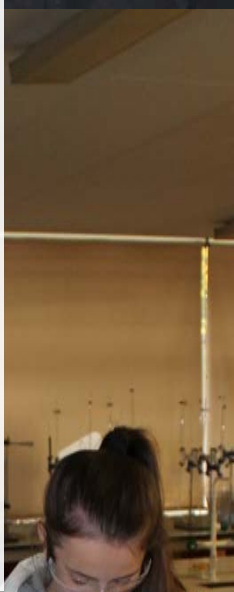
Choosing the right Sixth Form courses can be a daunting process. The most important thing is for students to choose courses that they enjoy and feel passionate about. The choice of courses will also be guided by GCSE results. Please do contact us to discuss the entry requirements for any of our courses.

We pride ourselves on supporting our students to make the right choices. During the application and enrolment process, we will talk to our students about their options, and about possible pathways through post-16 education and on to higher education, apprenticeships or the world of work.

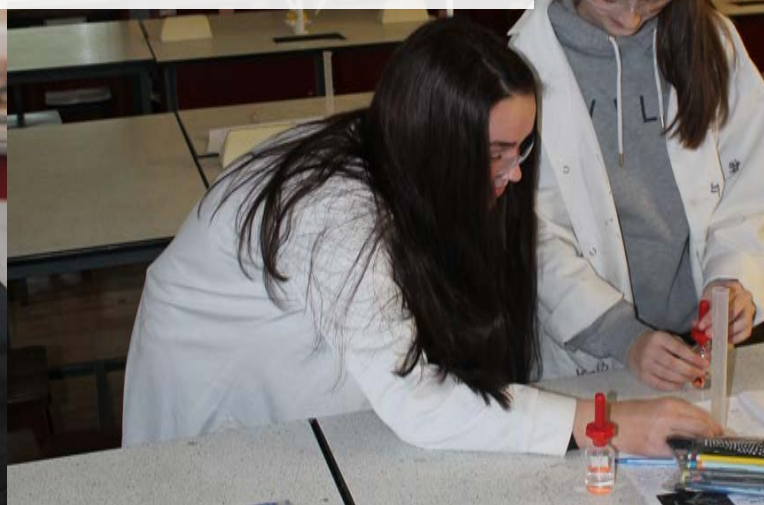
The following pages outline our most popular courses and subjects we hope to offer next year. They are all Level 3 qualifications, either BTEC or GCE A Level. There are a range of other courses that may be available, either in school or in partnership with other institutions. If there is a course that you are interested in that is not listed in this prospectus, please contact the school so that we can discuss your options. We will publish our option blocks for September 2027 entry in March 2027. The details of these courses are provisional, and will run subject to demand.











APPLIED SCIENCE

Explore science in action. Develop practical laboratory skills and apply biology, chemistry and physics to real-world problems.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The applied science sector is diverse and wide¬ranging, including, for example, biomedical, forensic, physical and chemical sciences. There are approx. 5.8 million people employed in applied science occupations in the UK. This equates to approximately 20% of the workforce. The applied science sector has a crucial role to play in delivering economic growth in the UK and allowing companies to compete in a rapidly enlarging global market.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Principles and Application of Science (external exam)
- Practical Scientific Procedures (coursework)
- Science Investigation Skills (external exam)

Including physiology of human body systems, biological molecules and metabolic pathways, applications of chemistry and electrical circuits and their application.

WHY STUDY APPLIED SCIENCE?

- Practical laboratory experience;
- Links to science careers;
- Develops investigation and
- Analytical skills
- Exciting opportunities.

ART & DESIGN

Explore your creativity through drawing, painting, 2D and 3D media. Develop a personal artistic style and produce an ambitious portfolio.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Learners begin with practical workshops exploring 2D and 3D media before developing an individual Personal Creative Enquiry project. The course explores visual recording, creative processes, contextual studies and a range of artistic techniques and materials. Students benefit from gallery visits, university trips and workshops through our partnership with Swansea College of Art. We also welcome students with related GCSE qualifications, including Product Design, Textiles and Graphic Design.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will complete two coursework units and an externally assessed examination unit, following a similar structure to GCSE. All work is marked by the teacher before being externally moderated. Most follow the Fine Art pathway. Alternative pathways, i.e. Textiles and Fashion, may also be available.

WHY STUDY ART & DESIGN?

- Creative independence;
- Gallery and university visits;
- Experiment with diverse materials
- Opportunities to exhibit work
- Build a creative portfolio for future opportunities

BIOLOGY

Discover the science of life.

Explore living organisms, investigate biological processes and develop practical scientific skills. A-Level Biology helps you understand the natural world.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Biology explores the living world and provides a foundation for careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Biomedical Science, Forensics and Marine Biology. Building on GCSE knowledge, the course examines biological processes, including gaseous exchange in mammals, fish and invertebrates. Practical investigations, including dissections and microscopy, support learning and develop scientific skills. Students will also explore genetics, evolution, ecosystems and the complex processes that sustain life.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Biochemistry: Biomolecules, cell structure, bacteria and viruses. (Examined at the end of Year 12)
Unit 2 – Biodiversity and Physiology: Anatomy, physiology and gaseous exchange in mammals, fish and invertebrates. (Examined at the end of Year 12)
Unit 3 – Energy and Ecosystems: Energy transfer, ecosystems, respiration and photosynthesis.
Unit 4 – Variation, Inheritance and Evolution: Reproduction, Mendelian genetics, dihybrid inheritance, co-dominance and gene linkage. (Examined at the end of Year 13)

BUSINESS

Develop skills for the future.

Discover how businesses operate, make decisions and succeed in an ever-changing world. From marketing and finance to entrepreneurship and management.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Business Studies is a broad, practical qualification that develops valuable skills for a wide range of future careers. Students explore how organisations operate, including marketing, finance, accounting, legal responsibilities and effective communication. The course combines business theory with real-world applications, allowing you to investigate actual organisations and develop practical skills. The course provides an excellent foundation for further education, employment or entrepreneurship.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – ***Exploring Business;*** including how businesses make their money, their place in the economy, advertising techniques and an introduction to accountancy
Unit 2 – ***Marketing Campaign;*** including how businesses advertise themselves and their products
Unit 3 – ***Personal and Business Finance;*** managing accounts, profit & loss and balance sheets
Unit 4 – ***Recruitment and Selection Process;*** including how businesses manage their staff and employ.
The course is assessed through a mixture of structured internal assignments and a written examination.

CHEMISTRY

Discover the chemistry.

Explore elements, reactions and chemical processes, develop practical laboratory skills and unlock exciting future opportunities.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will explore the fundamental principles of Chemistry, including atomic structure, chemical reactions, energy changes and rates of reaction. The course develops understanding of physical, inorganic and organic chemistry, including carbon compounds and chemical analysis. Practical investigations are an important part of the course, allowing students to develop laboratory techniques, analyse experimental data and apply their scientific knowledge to real-world situations.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter and Simple Reactions
Unit 2: Energy, Rates and Carbon Compounds
Unit 3: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
Unit 4: Organic Chemistry and Analysis
Unit 5: Practical Chemistry

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

- Develop laboratory skills.
- Explore everyday chemistry.
- Strengthen problem-solving skills.
- Unlock exciting career opportunities.
- Discover how substances react.

CRIMINOLOGY

Investigate crime and justice, uncover causes of criminal behaviour and examine society's responses. Develop analytical, investigative and critical thinking skills while exploring the fascinating world of criminology.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Criminology explores the causes of crime, criminal behaviour and the criminal justice system. Students investigate different types of crime, media representations, criminological theories and crime prevention. The course also examines criminal investigations, courtroom processes and how society responds to crime. Students develop analytical, research and evaluation skills, exploring real-life criminal cases and examining the roles of different agencies within the justice system.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Changing Awareness of Crime: *Types of crime, public perceptions, media influence and crime prevention campaigns.* ***(Coursework)***
Unit 2 – Criminological Theories: *Exploring biological, psychological and sociological explanations of criminal behaviour.* ***(Exam)***
Unit 3 – Crime Scene to Courtroom: *Criminal investigations, forensic evidence, prosecution processes and courtroom procedures.* ***(Coursework)***
Unit 4 – Crime and Punishment: *The criminal justice system, social control, punishment and rehabilitation.* ***(Exam)***

WHERE NEXT?

Criminology opens doors to careers in Policing, Law, Forensics, Criminal Justice, Probation, Social Work and Psychology, alongside opportunities for university study and specialist training. Students develop valuable analytical and investigative and skills, preparing them for diverse career opportunities.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Discover the power of language, develop your creativity and communication skills, and discover how words shape our world.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

English Language encourages students to explore how language works and how it shapes communication in different contexts. The course develops a deeper understanding of language structures, patterns and uses, while examining how language influences society and everyday life. Students will develop analytical, creative and independent thinking skills, exploring a wide range of spoken and written texts. The course includes opportunities for creative and language writing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Exploring Language
Unit 2: Language Issues and Original and Critical Writing
Unit 3: Language over Time
Unit 4: Spoken Language and Creative Re-casting
Unit 5: Language and Identity (Non-examination assessment: 2500-3500 words)

WHERE NEXT?

A range of further study and career paths, including the following: English Literature and English Language courses, journalism, law, advertising, theatre, television, teaching, accounting, business management, civil service,and media.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Explore timeless stories, discover powerful ideas and develop your understanding of literature, language and humanity.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

English Literature is ideal for students with a passion for reading and exploring the works of great writers. This engaging course examines poetry, prose and drama, encouraging creative and critical responses to a range of texts. You will develop your understanding of historical and cultural contexts, explore different interpretations and analyse literary language. Through lively discussions and detailed study, you will strengthen analytical and communication skills while discovering the richness of literature.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Prose and Drama
Unit 2: Poetry Post 1900
Unit 3: Poetry Pre 1900
Unit 4: Shakespeare
Unit 5: Individual Prose Study (Non-examination assessment: 2500-3500 words)

WHERE NEXT?

Highly regarded by universities, the course independent thought, creativity and effective written and verbal communication. It provides an excellent foundation for careers in teaching, journalism, media, law & politics and more!

GEOGRAPHY

Explore our changing planet, understand global challenges and discover how people, places and environments shape the world around us.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Geography explores the processes, patterns and systems that shape our planet and the people who live on it. Students will investigate major global challenges, including climate change, migration, tectonic hazards and environmental sustainability. The course develops an understanding of physical and human geography, encouraging students to apply geographical knowledge, theories and practical skills to real-world issues.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Glaciated and Tectonic Landscapes
Unit 2: Changing Places
Unit 3: Global Systems and Governance
Unit 4: Development in Africa

WHERE NEXT?

Geography opens doors to university courses and careers in Environmental Science, Engineering, Law, Teaching, Urban Planning and many other fields.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Discover the power of care, develop essential skills and make a positive difference to people's lives, health and wellbeing, both now and in the future.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Health and Social Care explores the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to support individuals across a range of care settings. Students will develop valuable practical and transferable skills, preparing them for careers in health, social care and related professions. As a vocational qualification, learning is closely linked to real-world situations. Students will also explore the importance of communication, safeguarding, equality and wellbeing. Students can choose between Single and Double Award pathways, **with the Double Award including significant work placement opportunities to gain valuable practical experience.**

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Developing Effective Communication
- Equality, Diversity and Rights
- Development through the Life Stages
- Caring for Children and Young People
- Health, Safety and Security
- Sociological and Psychological Perspectives

Assessment is through mostly assignments completed in class and a written examination.

WHERE NEXT?

Health and Social Care provides excellent opportunities for further study and careers in nursing, medicine, social work, education and healthcare. Students can progress to university or employment within the NHS, hospitals, residential care and community settings. The qualification develops valuable skills and knowledge sought by employers across a range of professions.

HISTORY

Explore the past, uncover fascinating stories and discover how historical events, people and decisions have shaped the world we know today, and continue to influence tomorrow.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

'The past is never dead. It's not even past.' The words of William Faulkner sum up the importance of the study of History. How it resonates with the present and is a part of everything we do. Therefore, studying History is fundamentally important and incredibly enjoyable. A Level History aims to develop interest and enthusiasm for History, and aims to imbue students with an understanding of different identities within society, and an appreciation for social, cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

1 - Government & Rebellion in Wales&England c. 1485-1603
2 - Religious Reformation in Europe & The Reformation
3 - The American Century 1880-1980
4 - The European Reformation (coursework)

WHERE NEXT?

History opens doors to diverse careers, including Teaching, Law, Journalism, Politics, Archaeology, Management, Heritage and the Civil Service.

MATHEMATICS

Unlock the power of Mathematics, develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills, and understand how numbers, patterns and equations shape our world, influence everyday life and create exciting opportunities.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Mathematics is practical and beautiful. It is not just about finding answers but learning to ask the right questions. It is not just about mindlessly crunching numbers but forming new ways to see problems so that we solve them by combining insight with imagination. Mathematics helps us to perceive realities that are otherwise tangible to us. Mathematics is a sense for patterns, relationships, and logical connections, Mathematics is a whole new way to see the world! This A Level allows you to learn about multiple areas of Mathematics including Pure, Statistics and Mechanics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN YEAR 12?

Unit 1 Pure Mathematics A *including Proof, Algebra and Functions, Co-ordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors*

Unit 2 Applied Mathematics (Statistics and Mechanics) *including Kinematics and Forces and Motion, Newton's Laws, Forces in context, Probability, Hypothesis, Binomial Distribution, Poisson Distribution, Data Presentation, and Interpretation.*

WHERE NEXT?

Mathematics is highly valued by universities and employers, opening doors to higher apprenticeships and careers in Medicine, Engineering, Computer Science, Finance, Statistics and Software Development. As a facilitating subject, it provides an excellent foundation for study, particularly in Medicine and other science-based degrees, where mathematical and analytical skills are essential.

DRAMA

Step into the spotlight, unleash your creativity and build confidence through performance. Develop imagination, communication and teamwork while bringing stories to life.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Drama and Theatre develops creativity, confidence and practical performance skills, preparing students for university and future careers. Students explore theatrical texts, experience live productions and develop skills in acting, performance or technical design. This exciting, practical course encourages collaboration, communication and creative thinking, both on stage and behind the scenes. Students also gain valuable experience working on diverse theatrical productions.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN YEAR 12?

Unit 1 = Theatre Workshop : Learners will be required to create a piece of theatre based on an extract from a text.
Unit 2 = Text in Theatre : Learners will be required to study one text, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of interpreting a text to complete a written examination.

WHERE NEXT?

Drama develops skills for diverse careers, including business and education, alongside opportunities in Acting, Musical Theatre, Production and Design.

MUSIC

Unleash your musical creativity, develop your talents and build confidence through performance, composition and listening. Turn your passion for music into exciting future opportunities.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Music develops creativity, performance skills and personal wellbeing while preparing students for future opportunities. Students will develop their performing abilities, compose original music and explore a variety of musical styles through listening and analysis. The course encourages independent thinking, collaboration and self-expression, helping students build confidence and develop valuable transferable skills for future careers. Students will also gain a deeper appreciation of musical techniques and traditions. The WJEC AS Level course includes three components: Performing (12%), Composing (12%) and Appraising (16%).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN YEAR 12?

Students will study the Western Classical Tradition, focusing on either **The Symphony (1760–1830)** or **Religious Choral Music** (1730–1800). This includes detailed analysis of selected works by Haydn or Mozart, exploring their musical, historical and cultural contexts. Students will also study an additional genre, choosing between **Rock and Pop** or **Musical Theatre.**

Assessment includes practical performances, original compositions and a written examination.

WHERE NEXT?

Music develops valuable transferable skills recognised by universities and employers, opening doors to careers in Performing Arts, Teaching, Journalism and Music Production, alongside further study at leading universities and apprenticeships. Students develop creativity, confidence, communication and teamwork skills, providing excellent preparation for a range of careers.

FRENCH

Unlock the beauty of French, develop your language skills, embrace new cultures and build confidence communicating in a global world full of exciting opportunities.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

A Level French develops confident communication skills and a deeper understanding of French-speaking cultures, societies and history. Students gain valuable language skills highly regarded by universities and employers. The course encourages independence, cultural awareness and global understanding, opening doors to international opportunities, further education and a wide range of exciting careers. Students also develop essential skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 (AS) and Unit 4 (A2): Speaking: 12-15 minutes
Unit 2 (AS) and Unit 5 (A2): Listening, reading and translation
Unit 6 (A Level): Critical and analytical response in writing

WHERE NEXT?

French complements many subjects, opening doors to international careers in Business, Medicine, Education, Tourism, Politics, Finance and global organisations.

LAW

Discover the world of Law, explore justice and human rights, develop critical thinking and debating skills, and understand how legal systems shape society, protect individuals and influence the world we live in today.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Law encompasses nearly everything we do from birth, employment, families, medicine, crime and even something as simple as buying a bus ticket. To study Law is to study life itself. This means that on this course we will be looking at not only how our justice system works but you will also study two substantive areas of law, namely Human Rights and Criminal. You will learn what it means to represent a defendant on a charge of murder, the difference between theft and robbery, how to sue a newspaper when they ruin your client's reputation and the powers of the police to arrest, detain and charge you with an offence.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS Unit 1: The Nature of Law and the Welsh and English Legal Systems

AS Unit 2: The Law of Tort

A2 Unit 3: The Practice of Substantive Law

A2 Unit 4: Substantive Law Perspectives

WHERE NEXT?

Law opens doors to careers as Solicitors, Barristers and Paralegals, while developing valuable transferable skills for careers in Teaching, Journalism, Policing, Banking, Management and Insurance. Studying Law provides an excellent foundation for university and future employment, developing critical thinking, communication, analytical and problem-solving skills highly valued by employers.

PHYSICS

Discover the forces that shape our universe, investigate the mysteries of space, matter and energy, and develop skills to understand the world around us and shape our future through science.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This exciting A-Level builds on the Physics GCSE course, extending this to a more detailed understanding of Physics and the ways in which it governs the world around us. In Year 12 students will complete modules on “Motion, Energy and Matter” and “Electricity and Light”. Moving into A level, students will complete units called “Oscillation and Nuclei” and “Fields and Options”. Throughout all of the modules, students will carry out specified practical work in preparation for the practical examination in Year 13 .

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Year 12: two external exams (40% of the qualification)

Year 13: two external exams (50% of the qualification) and a practical assessment (10% of the qualification)

WHERE NEXT?

Physics opens doors to university courses and careers in Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, Scientific Research, Cosmology, Technology and Construction.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Push your limits, discover the science behind sporting performance and develop your understanding of fitness and health while unlocking exciting opportunities in sport and beyond.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course is designed for students who are interested in exercise and sport in terms of human anatomy, health and achievement. It is also about improving the individual’s personal skills and performance(s) in a range of sports/exercises, which will then allow them to also lead others in developing their personal skills and performance in sports/exercises. This A-level offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of and participation in sport, play, leisure and recreation, allowing you to study movement, performance and behaviour in relation to PE. Students will also explore the psychological and physiological factors influencing sporting success, developing analytical, leadership and practical skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Exploring Physical Educatio : *Exercise physiology, performance analysis, training, sport psychology, skill acquisition and sport in society.* ***Assessed through a written examination.***
Unit 2 – Improving Personal Performance : *Practical sporting performance, coaching or officiating, and completion of a Personal Performance Profile.* ***Assessed through practical coursework.***
Unit 3 – Evaluating Physical Education : Advanced exercise physiology, biomechanics, sport psychology, skill acquisition and contemporary sporting issues. ***Assessed through a written examination.***
Unit 4 – Refining Personal Performance : *Practical performance as a player, coach or official, alongside an investigative research project.* ***Assessed through practical coursework.***

PSYCHOLOGY

Uncover the mysteries of the human mind, understand what drives thoughts, emotions and behaviour, and develop insights into how people think, feel and interact with the world around them.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Psychology explores the relationship between the mind, brain and human behaviour. Students investigate five psychological approaches, including biological, cognitive and behaviourist perspectives, before examining addiction, criminal behaviour, stress and schizophrenia. The course develops analytical, research, numeracy and critical thinking skills. Students will also undertake independent investigations, exploring psychological theories and applying scientific research methods to real-world situations.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Year 12 Unit 1 – Psychology: Past to Present
Year 12 Unit 2 – Psychology: Using Psychological Concepts
Year 13 Unit 3 – Psychology: Implications in the Real World
Year 13 Unit 4 – Applied Research Methods

WHERE NEXT?

Psychology opens doors to careers in Healthcare, Education, Forensics, Sport, Policing, Nursing, and other professions involving other human behaviour.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Make a difference, serve your community and develop the leadership, teamwork and resilience needed to succeed in the emergency services, armed forces and shape a safer future for everyone.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course develops essential skills in discipline, teamwork, leadership and communication while exploring criminology and professional development. Students gain an understanding of the uniformed protective services, including the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Armed Forces and Prison Service. Through practical activities and real-world scenarios, students develop problem-solving, decision-making and organisational skills. The course explores the responsibilities, challenges and expectations of working within protective services, preparing students for further education, training and exciting careers within this diverse and rewarding sector.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services

Unit 5: Teamwork, Leadership and Communication in the Uniformed Protective Services

Unit 10: Skills for Outdoor Activities and the Uniformed Protective Services

Unit 13: Introduction to Criminology

WHERE NEXT?

Public Services opens doors to careers in the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Armed Forces, Prison Service, Probation Service, Emergency Services, Criminal Justice and other public sector organisations. Students can also progress to university, apprenticeships or specialist training, developing valuable skills for rewarding careers in public service and communities.

THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Explore Faith, Question Beliefs, Discover Life's Meaning.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Theology, Philosophy and Ethics explores life's biggest questions, examining beliefs, moral choices and human behaviour. Through Christian Theology, Philosophy and Ethics, students develop critical thinking, analytical and evaluation skills while gaining a deeper understanding of different perspectives and societies. The course encourages independent thought, thoughtful debate and reflection on contemporary issues, preparing students for further study and diverse careers.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: An Introduction to Christianity
Unit 2: An Introduction to Religion, Ethics and Philosophy
Unit 3: A Study of Christianity **Unit 4:** Religion and Ethics
Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion

WHERE NEXT?

This qualification develops valuable critical thinking skills, opening doors to careers in Law, Psychology, Teaching, Medicine, Journalism and Social Work.

SOCIOLOGY

Understand society, challenge perspectives and explore how culture, identity and inequality shape our lives, relationships and the world around us. Discover what drives social change.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Sociology explores how society shapes human behaviour, examining topics including family, education, crime and inequality. Students investigate key sociological perspectives, including Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism, while developing research, analytical and critical thinking skills. The course encourages students to question social structures, analyse evidence and understand the complexities of our changing society. Students will also explore sociological research methods, interpret statistics and develop informed arguments, gaining valuable insights from contemporary research.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Year 12 : Unit 1 – Acquiring Culture *including cultural transmission, socialisation and identity and family*
Year 12: Unit 2 – Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry
Year 13: Unit 3 – Power and Control *including crime and deviance*
Year 13: Unit 4 – Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

WHERE NEXT?

Sociology opens doors to careers in Social Work, Education, Law, Criminology, Journalism, Politics, Healthcare, Research and Public Sector, developing valuable skills for university and future employment.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Shape the digital future, develop creative and technical skills, explore emerging technologies and discover how innovation transforms our everyday lives.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Digital Technology explores how technology shapes our world, covering digital systems, data, cybersecurity and emerging technologies. Students develop practical skills in digital design, problem-solving and project development, while investigating the impact of technology on individuals, businesses and society. The course encourages creativity, innovation and independent thinking, allowing students to apply their knowledge through practical projects and develop valuable technical skills for the future.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Innovation in Digital Technology: *Exploring digital systems, emerging technologies, data, cybersecurity and the impact of technology.*
Unit 2 – Creative Digital Practices: *Developing practical skills through the design and creation of digital products.*
Unit 3 – Connected Systems: *Investigating digital networks, connected technologies, data management and security.*
Unit 4 – Digital Solutions: *Applying technical and creative skills to plan, develop, test and evaluate a digital solution.*

Unit 1 and 3 are written exams and Unit 2 and 4 are practical coursework units.

WELSH
SECOND LANGUAGE

Embrace the Welsh language, celebrate our rich culture and heritage, develop communication skills and open doors to exciting future opportunities.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Welsh Second Language develops confident communication skills through speaking, writing and analysing texts. Students explore Welsh literature, media and culture, developing fluency and a deeper appreciation of Wales' language and heritage. The course encourages independent thinking, critical analysis and effective communication, preparing students to use Welsh confidently in everyday situations.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: Group oral examination discussing the film Patagonia and personal project.
Unit 2: Personal project exploring Welsh culture or a chosen topic.
Unit 3: Written examination on Welsh grammar and five set poems.
Unit 4: Group oral examination exploring Welsh culture and the play Crash.
Unit 5: Written examination on Welsh in society and translation skills.
Unit 6: Written examination on short stories and Welsh grammar.

WHERE NEXT?

There has never been a more exciting time to learn Welsh. Many careers now desire or require a working knowledge of the language. Welsh language skills are valued in Education, Healthcare, Public Services, Media and Business.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Shape the future through technology, develop coding and problem-solving skills, explore the power of computing and discover how innovation transforms our world.



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Computer Science is a very logical subject where you will both study the theoretical content of how computers work and execute specific tasks, as well as learning to program in several different languages. A keen interest in solving problems by writing your own bespoke solutions is essential.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

AS Level (40%)

Fundamentals of Computer Science: *Computer architecture, data representation, algorithms, programming, software and societal impacts.*

Programming and System Development: *Practical programming using Visual Basic, including problem-solving and software development.*

A2 Level (60%)

Programming and System Development: *Advanced programming, algorithms, data structures and logic.*

Computer Architecture: *Computer systems, communication, data organisation and software applications.*

Programmed Solution to a Problem: *Design, develop, test and evaluate an original programming solution.*

Assessment: Written examinations, on-screen assessment and practical coursework.

THE ST JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION PATHWAY

A ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME INTO ADVANCED LEVEL



Build • Improve • Progress

A dedicated one-year programme for students who have not yet achieved the required number of GCSE pass grades to begin a full A-Level or Level 3 programme.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- A range of practical and engaging courses such as Travel & Tourism, Business Administration and Public Services
- English and Mathematics (to improve your GCSE grades)
- The Advanced Skills Baccalaureate (ASB) to develop key skills and experience

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- A one-year, full-time programme in our Sixth Form
- A supportive and structured learning environment
- Focused on improving your GCSE profile and building confidence, skills and independence
- Individual guidance and regular progress reviews

WHAT CAN IT LEAD TO?

- Progression onto A-Level or Level 3 vocational courses in Year 13
- A wider range of post-18 opportunities, including university, apprenticeships and employment
- A stronger foundation for future study and career goals

WHY CHOOSE THIS PATHWAY?

- A fresh start in a supportive Sixth Form environment
- The chance to build and improve your qualifications
- Practical, relevant courses that develop valuable skills
- A clear and structured route into Advanced Level study

YOUR JOURNEY AT ST JOSEPH'S

YEAR 12 Foundation Pathway (1 year) → **YEAR 13** AS Level → **YEAR 14** A2 Level → **YOUR FUTURE** University, Apprenticeships, Employment and beyond

How to apply

We would love to show you more of what we have to offer at St. Joseph's Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre. If you would like to find out more, or submit an application to join our Sixth Form, please follow the instructions below.

1 APPLY

To fill in an online application, begin by visiting www.stjosephscomp.co.uk and viewing the subjects on offer, video podcasts, information about the Sixth Form and then complete an online application form. You will be asked to give a first indication of your subject choices at this stage and can use the current option blocks and prospectus subject pages to help.

2 OFFER

Once you have made your application you will receive an e-mail offer from admissions staff to confirm you application has been received and make a conditional offer. This offer will be conditional upon achieving the GCSE or equivalent grades which meet our entry criteria.

3 TASTER SESSIONS

Usually in May, June and July, the school arranges taster sessions in order for students to experience their chosen courses at Level 3 before the commit to them. This also gives students the opportunity to try courses they maybe be interested in but may not have experienced at GCSE.

4 ENROLMENT

Enrolment will take place shortly after GCSE results are released. We will contact students with details of your enrolment date. This is the opportunity to confirm your place and subject choices before starting in Year 12 in September. In the meantime, there is starting information about the dress code, timetable and facilities on the website.

"I wasn't sure what to expect when I joined St. Joseph's in Year 12, but the experience has been fantastic. I have quickly been made to feel welcome, and the support I have had from my teachers has been inspiring. The social events have helped me to feel a part of the Sixth Form, and I've made friends that will last a lifetime!"

Victoria, Year 13

"Both my children have succeeded at St Joseph's and continued on to university. Nothing was ever too much trouble or effort and I felt the wellbeing of the student came above all else."

Parent of a former pupil from Ysgol Bae Baglan

"The 6th form has been a great experience for me. I've been at St Joseph's since Y7, the natural step was the Sixth Form and I'm so glad I did! The teachers are knowledgeable, patient and I've made some friends for life!"

James, former pupil of St Joseph's

"St Joseph's gave me another chance! Having had a negative experience in Year 12 somewhere else, Sixth Form provided me with hope for the future and my dreams became realistic again. I went from EEU at AS Level elsewhere to AAB at AS Level at St. Joseph's."

A student who joined Sixth Form after a year in college



“

“St Joseph’s has given my son so much more than an excellent education. The encouragement, guidance and genuine care shown by staff have helped him grow in confidence, believe in himself and achieve things he never thought possible. Throughout his time in the Sixth Form, he has been supported every step of the way, both academically and personally. We couldn’t have asked for a more nurturing and supportive environment to prepare him for the next chapter of his life. We will always be grateful to everyone at St Joseph’s.”

Parent of a former student (August 2025)





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