



# St Mary's Catholic School Sixth Form



Love  
Respect  
Flourish



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST



‘Flourish spiritually...’

# Welcome to our Sixth Form

As the Headteacher, I am proud to introduce St. Mary's Catholic School. Founded in 1896, we have a long tradition of exceptional education, inspired by our founders, the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. We became a founding member of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust in 2021 and, as family of eight schools, have embraced the collaboration and benefits this brings, ensuring the very best Catholic education now and for generations to come. I truly believe that our focus on excellent academic performance, balanced by an approach that develops the 'whole' child through our Gospel values is a compelling proposition. I hope that through the information you see here in this brochure, on our website, and when you visit, makes St. Mary's a natural choice for your child's education and development and in particular their post 16 Sixth Form education.



Faith is a distinguishing factor at St. Mary's and this underpins the daily experience at school – we consider each child to be the unique thumbprint of God. Whatever particular faith you follow, or none, your child will experience excellent pastoral care, support and the opportunity to explore their spirituality. Our purpose is to help young people to develop and reach their full potential, to make a positive contribution to society and prepare them to lead rich and interesting futures.

There has been significant investment in the school in recent years, with new classrooms, Design Technology workshops, Refectory, sports facilities and other areas that have enhanced the learning environment for our students. This, coupled with a strong emphasis on high quality teaching, and an enriching wider curriculum with over 30 courses on offer at Sixth Form and two new courses added just this year, means that **there really has been no better time to join St. Mary's Sixth Form.**

**Miss Deirdre McHugh, Interim Headteacher**

## Our Vision

We are a community dedicated to achieving excellence for all, producing young people formed by Gospel values to become responsible, compassionate and caring members of society whilst fulfilling their potential in all aspects of the curriculum.

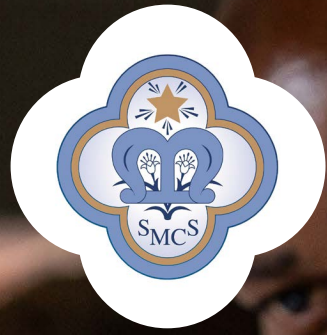
## Love, Respect, Flourish

**Love** for Christ and for one another, as peacemakers, made in the image of God. Demonstrated by kindness, forgiveness and care.

**Respect** as demonstrated by being calm, smart, polite, purposeful and prayerful – having high expectations and caring for our community and all creation.

**Flourish** academically, artistically, physically, culturally and spiritually. Demonstrated by active engagement and pride in all that we do.





**'Flourish academically...'**

## Academic Excellence at Key Stage 5

We offer a broad academic curriculum at St. Mary's, which fosters a love of learning in the students that enables them to flourish in their studies offering a wide and diverse range of 30 different courses at Key Stage 5. We set ourselves ambitious targets and consistently find our academic results to be comparable to those top performing UK schools.

As students move up through the school, our teachers expertly guide them to become more independent and to think deeply; developing rich knowledge and skills. Teachers challenge students to extend their learning and development, expecting them to take the lead – to ask questions, make connections and expand their studies. In this way, we foster enquiring and agile thinking in preparation for life in an ever changing world.

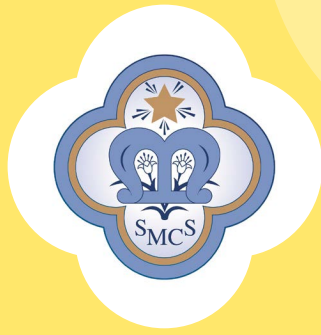
The majority of students choose to continue their seven-year St. Mary's journey in our Sixth Form where we have an extensive range of A Level and vocational qualifications. Our students are regularly accepted into the very best universities, including Oxford and Cambridge and into the most competitive courses e.g. Medicine, Law and Engineering. Students also move into Higher Level Apprenticeship and excellent employment opportunities.

Whatever the starting point for each child, we encourage them to set aspirational goals. This is supported by our focus on the very highest standards in the classroom with devoted, well-trained specialist teachers. Strong, respectful, relationships between the staff and students are also a pivotal ingredient in getting the very best out of each individual. As a result, the progress the students make during their time with us is well above the national average.

**'Teaching at St. Mary's Sixth Form is a delight – our students are engaged, keen to learn and ready for the challenge that the teachers set for them.'**

Mr. James Diggory, Assistant Headteacher





## A Complete Education – Enriching and Fulfilling

As a part of the St. Mary's family means that students will not only flourish academically, but also artistically, physically, culturally and spiritually. We encourage our Sixth Form students to try a lot of new things and experience leadership of all kinds of clubs ranging from sports, music, library clubs and drama in our fully equipped Hume theatre.

Regular trips, visits and residential opportunities, including overseas are established in the calendar each year. These include the PE annual ski trip to the Italian Alps, the schools pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Iceland adventure led by the Geography department to experience the volcanoes, geysers and waterfalls and even a Maths trip to New York, to name only a few! Other trips support the curriculum more closely to home, such as an Art trips to various galleries, Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, The British Library, The Welcome Trust, the list is endless as Sixth Form students are encouraged through Super – Curricular and Extra- Curricular to develop their learning beyond the classroom.

Each student is assigned a 'House' at St. Mary's and the competitions calendar is packed with events to take part in and earn House Points! This starts in the Autumn term with the 'House Talents Festival' and culminates with the 'House Sports Day' in July. Sixth Form in their role as "Prefects" and "House Leaders" take an active role in leadership of school activities and events such as our annual Charity Week!

'At St. Mary's Sixth Form we have a house system that is diverse; reflecting our student and staff body. It also encourages healthy competition. Students and Staff may belong to a particular House, but we are still all part of one learning family.'

Mr Steve Eddleston, House System Coordinator

# 'Flourish culturally...'

# 'Flourish physically...'



'There are more opportunities at St Mary's than you can imagine'  
Sixth Form Student

# 'Flourish artistically...'



# A note from the Director of Sixth Form

It is a privilege to be the Director of Sixth Form at St Mary's Catholic School and I am committed to drawing on my **experience and vision** to ensure I continually develop the excellent Sixth Form education on offer at St Mary's.

Students deserve their post-16 education to be **enjoyable and memorable**, whilst also equipping them with the right qualifications, skillset and confidence to thrive in the exciting (but competitive!) wider world that awaits them beyond the school gates.

In keeping with the St Mary's mission statement of 'excellence for all', it will be my responsibility to help ensure you **reach your potential**. Of course, this is not just academic potential... although this is very important!

At St Mary's Sixth Form we will be **committed to developing you** as an all-round individual through an engaging and inclusive enrichment programme that will enable your unique personality, interests and talents to flourish. Throughout Year 12 and Year 13 you will also benefit from an excellent post-18 guidance and pathway programme. This will ensure you are aware of the huge range of exciting options that are available to you: university, an apprenticeship, a degree apprenticeship, or going straight into the world of work.

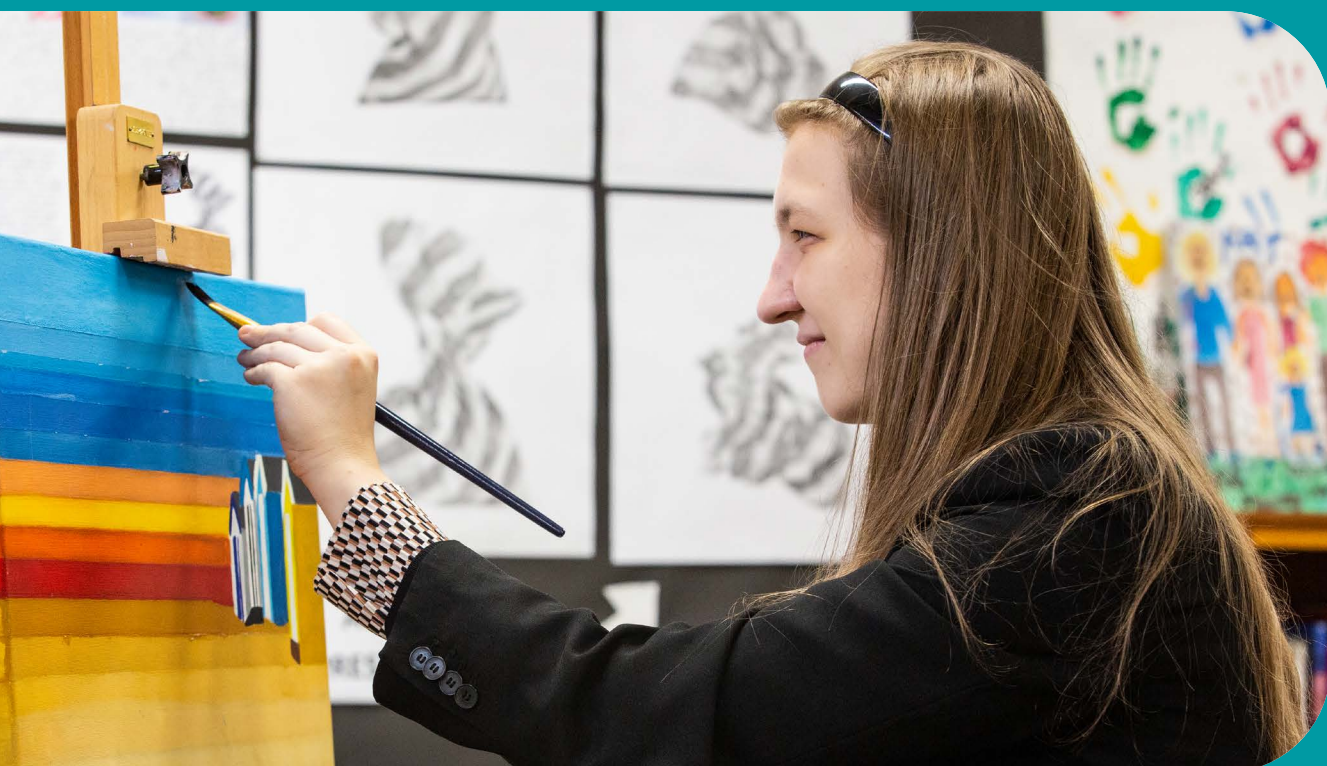
Equally importantly, the St Mary's post-18 pathway programme will **support you** in making an informed decision that is right for you. This is a really exciting time in your education; embrace it, good luck in your upcoming GCSEs, and **I look forward to working with you in September!**

**Mr Ben Noble – Director of Sixth Form**



'St Mary's is such a vibrant community, the students are full of enthusiasm and have a great passion for learning. It is a pleasure to teach within a dynamic, innovative school!'

Dr. Laura Bentley,  
Lead Teacher – Chemistry



# The St Mary's commitment to developing the well-rounded Sixth Form student:

St Mary's has an excellent track record of supporting students in whatever career pathway they decide to choose. We pride ourselves on our excellent pastoral care within our sixth form team and how we assist our students during their Sixth Form journey. All students are fully supported with their applications to University, Apprenticeships and preparation for entering the working world. Students will be given the opportunity to have an appointment with our Careers Leader or Independent Careers Advisor to discuss all future options available with them, supported by our comprehensive tailored Careers Programme.

Every year we organise an adventurous, thrill seeking and team building induction trip for our new Year 12's, in previous years we have been to Cornwall, Stubbers Activity Centre, Hautbois Activity Centre and Nuclear Races. We also run several trips throughout the two years for participation in competitions such as The Public Speaking Competition, Bar Mock Trial Competition and career and university educational trips and visits.

## Career Focused

All Sixth Form students will have weekly Careers Lessons. During these lessons, students will have the opportunity to access online careers programmes including My Super Curricular, Unifrog, university masterclasses, webinars, online taster lessons, virtual work experiences, online courses, podcasts and videos.

We encourage every student to expand their knowledge and deepen their interests into a career pathway of their choice. Our aim is to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible for them to independently progress themselves in order to stand out amongst the thousands of other students across the nation who apply for the same university course and/or apprenticeship.

During PSHEE and Careers Lessons, students are guided to create and build on their CV with dedicated lessons, skills for the workplace and many more. Students are also given opportunities to learn interview skills and attend mock interviews.

## Work Experience

All Year 12 students go out on Work Experience for a week in the summer term. Students are encouraged to seek their placement in an industry that they wish to pursue their career. We encourage students to participate in a diverse range of placements.

## Full UCAS Support

Our inclusive UCAS programme begins in Year 12. Students have dedicated PSHEE sessions on how to write effective personal statements for both University and Apprenticeship applications.

Each student applying through UCAS will receive individual support from their Sixth Form Manager, Careers Leader, Form Tutor and a one to one meeting with the Director of Sixth Form to secure their selection of choices, aiming to aspire and achieve.

## Preparing for life beyond St Mary's

We don't just provide careers support for our students in school. We also get out and about at every opportunity! We go on year group visits to Universities for taster days, last year the Year 12 students went to St Mary's University in Twickenham. They were given the opportunity to experience first-hand what a day in the life of a university student would really be like.

We attend yearly UCAS Discovery Days and Careers Fairs, where students are able to meet with over 100 universities, colleges, employers and apprenticeship providers face to face and find out the different options and pathways available to them. During Discovery Days the students listen to expert talks and will get the latest advice and information on different career choices.

## Inclusive Careers Provision

Students receive emails and are regularly notified on our Microsoft Teams Sixth Form & Careers Groups. We frequently inform students of University open days, summer school opportunities, taster days, job vacancies, apprenticeship vacancies and virtual work experience opportunities that arise.

## Enrichment Week

At the end of summer term every year we run an action packed Enrichment week for our Year 12 students. In this week we have employers and universities come in to speak with Year 12. Universities talk about how to write their personal statements, give information on student finance and give advice on choosing the right university course. Students enjoy our taster day trip to a University and have our "Inside Outside" Day where students are free to plan their own day to benefit their career and UCAS application.



A Catholic Community dedicated  
to achieving excellence for all.



# Love, Respect, Flourish



The St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust is a family of eight Catholic schools in the Roman Catholic Deanery of the Lea Valley. Our Trust came into being on 1st September 2021, and whilst each school retains its own distinctive ethos and mission, we share one overarching vision:

To deliver a Catholic education excelling in the academic, pastoral and spiritual life, and which produces fully flourishing pupils who are inspired by the charism of St. Francis -

- To be caring towards everyone in the community;
- Being compassionate - standing up especially for the poor and oppressed;
- Acting with reverence towards all creation;
- Being peacemakers, reconcilers, and healers to all those in need.



**St Mary's  
Catholic School  
Sixth Form**

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