



Saint Benedict
Catholic Voluntary Academy
SIXTH FORM





Welcome

Whether you are joining from the main school or coming to us for the first time in Year 12, we promise a warm welcome at Saint Benedict Sixth Form.

We pride ourselves on fostering an ambitious and value-driven environment for students, placing a strong emphasis on personal development alongside academic excellence. We believe in the possibilities for our students and encourage them to believe in themselves.

We will work with you from the very beginning to ensure you are on the right pathway, have the support and resources that you need and have the vision to see your future as we do. Our teaching team are experts in their subjects and have high expectations of all students; they use a range of approaches to ensure students understand key content and concepts before building and applying their knowledge. Academic progress is, however, just one measure of a well-rounded post-16 experience.

Throughout Sixth Form, our students have numerous opportunities to develop and grow as individuals. We offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award, community support and the opportunity to mentor younger pupils. A robust programme of enrichment is also offered, including entry into a raft of national and local competitions.

In addition, we ensure students are well matched to their next destinations. This includes providing guidance and support for higher education, apprenticeships or, access to the world of work. Students are given opportunity to develop both academic and interpersonal skills throughout their time with us.

Finally, at Saint Benedict, our reputation for high level pastoral care is extended to the Sixth Form. We have a dedicated Academic Mentor, Study Supervisor and post-16 tutor team to support students, and we work hard to ensure our students' voices are heard.

We look forward to welcoming you to Saint Benedict Sixth Form.



Angela King
Senior Assistant
Headteacher & Raising
Standards Lead for
Key Stage 5



Alison Bateman
Head of Sixth Form -
Pastoral

Reasons to choose Saint Benedict Sixth Form



A team of highly
qualified and
experienced
teachers

Exceptional UCAS and
careers advice
providing excellent
transition support to
the best universities
and colleges

An ambitious
programme of study
and support

A more adult
environment than
school, but with a
focus on supportive
tutoring and
monitoring



A vibrant and
diverse blend of
students with many
opportunities to
form new
friendships

An inspiring
co-curricular
programme that
appeals to a wide
range of interests and
is free to all

Daily tutor time to
support and motivate
our students as well as
delivering the Personal
Development
Curriculum

Students take part in a
Core Curriculum,
covering Social Ethics,
Academic Scholars
Programme, EPQ,
Personal Development
and Enrichment

Programmes of Study

Students often combine sciences and mathematics. Other students might combine the study of history, literature and languages. The number of possible combinations is very large indeed and you will need to select a combination of A Levels that best suit your own strengths and interests, and your future study and career aspirations. Our expert teachers can offer advice and guidance on the right selection of subjects to best meet your goals. Students will have up to 10 hours of taught time for their 3 main A level subjects. Subjects available are;

Applied Science (BTEC)

Art and Design

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Drama and Theatre Studies

Economics

English Literature

English Language and Literature

Extended Project Qualification

Food and Nutrition (BTEC)

French

Geography

Government and Politics

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

History

Maths

Media (Cambridge Technical)

Music

Physics

Performing Arts (BTEC)

Product Design

Psychology

Religious Studies

Sociology

Spanish

Sports & Physical Activity (Cambridge Technical)

Academic Support

Our Key Stage 5 Academic Mentor meets with students regularly throughout the year at key assessment points to monitor progress and provide tailored support. This may include working closely with subject teachers to address any areas of difficulty, ensuring appropriate strategies are put in place to help overcome challenges. Support may also involve identifying additional measures to enhance learning beyond the classroom.

The Core Curriculum

We don't just want our students to have academic success at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, alongside their academic studies students will participate in the Core Curriculum, comprising of;

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they've chosen and isn't covered by their other qualifications.

They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies.

They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

THE TUTOR PROGRAMME

Our Tutor Programme provides students with a range of opportunities to broaden their interpersonal skills and prepare for life beyond Sixth Form.

Through the Personal Development Curriculum, students explore transitional stages, relationships and personal safety and health, whilst also developing awareness of issues commonly faced by 16-18 year olds.

We source a range of external providers, such as HSBC banking group to help students understand financing, and ensure sexual health and safety sessions are delivered in line with our Safeguarding and local NHS support.

THE SCHOLAR'S PROGRAMME

This year, we are delighted to offer students timetabled sessions in our new Scholar's Programme. Guided by our Post-18 Co-ordinator, students in Year 12 and 13 are given advice, support and guidance to find the right pathway for their future.

The programme gives all students the tools to research different university and apprenticeship pathways, with on-hand expert advice from the co-ordinator. At all times, students are able to receive the latest information on open days, course requirements, entry exams and interview coaching.

We do all that we can to enable students to go on to study on a meaningful course or training provision, regardless of their starting point.



Sixth Form Vision and Ethos



At Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy, we aim to provide an outstanding Sixth Form experience for all of our students, enabling them to achieve academic excellence, personal growth and community engagement to be the best they can be. As a member of the St Ralph Sherwin Trust, we are driven by a common desire to overcome inequality of opportunity through education.

Student success at Saint Benedict Sixth Form is underpinned by outstanding pastoral support, high standards of conduct and rewards for those who exemplify our values. Our Personal Development Curriculum promotes polite and insightful debate and provides students with tools to navigate the path to adulthood and independent living. We help our students to develop the skills, attributes, and outlook needed to succeed in their academic studies and to flourish in life after Sixth Form. Along with academic work, students will also complete the Core Curriculum, comprised of Social Ethics, Academic

Scholar's Programme, EPQ, Enrichment as well as the Personal Development programme.

In everything our students do, we encourage them to work hard and develop a real sense of purpose. Students feel at home in our closeknit and supportive community, where individual passions and talents shine bright and are celebrated. We expect all students to contribute to the wider life of the school, acquire qualifications, plan their next steps, make friends, develop confidence, and, most of all, learn as much as possible about the world they are heading into.

Enrichment

Beyond the Classroom

Our enrichment programme has been designed to enhance the academic curriculum and expose students to a broad range of ideas and activities, such as;

*Literature Lectures
Theatre Support
Sixth Form Football League
Inter-MAT Debate Society
Book Club
Next Level Team
Academic Writing Club
Culture Club*



Further Opportunities

*East Midlands Apprenticeship Fair
The UK University and Apprenticeship Fair
Duke of Edinburgh Award
Think, Reflect, Succeed – Study Skills Event at Derby University
Unlock Oxford Residential
Work Experience
Sutton Trust Summer Schools
1 to 1 Mock Interview Event
Employer and University Talks and Workshops
Meet the Undergrad Event
Gap Year Opportunities e.g. Arusha project, Yipiyap, Camp America, The Briars
Opportunities to attend University Open Days and taster Sessions.
We also encourage our students to take part in local and national competitions to showcase their talents.*



BRIGHTER FUTURES

Each half-term, Sixth Form timetables are suspended to take part in Brighter Futures sessions – these provide students with experiences and opportunities related to Higher Education and career opportunities. Students take part in mock interviews with university outreach and local apprenticeship providers; they meet up with former students through our 'Meet the Undergrad' marketplace; and they learn vital skills in preparation for the work experience programme.

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

We offer work experience through a rolling programme during Year 12, with the administration supported by the Unifrog platform. This flexible approach allows students to secure placements that are more closely aligned with their future ambitions, making the experience more meaningful and relevant. Our students have gained placements with a wide range of organisations, including the NHS, Rolls Royce, Balfour Beatty, the University of Derby, as well as local businesses, accountancy firms, architectural practices and pharmacies.

We have particularly strong links with the NHS and offer a six-month volunteering programme for a select group of students who are interested in careers in medicine or healthcare. This initiative, which involves supporting patients at mealtimes, provides valuable insight into the realities of working in a healthcare setting. This year, one of our students was honoured with the prestigious Volunteer of the Year award.

In addition to in-person placements, we encourage students to take advantage of virtual work experience opportunities through platforms such as Springpod, ensuring they are fully prepared for the next stage of their journey.

Student Life

We expect all students in our Sixth Form will be fully committed to Saint Benedict and its values. Students must be willing to give their best and to take part in the wider life of the Academy, embracing all opportunities for personal development and growth. It is expected the Academy's policies and dress code will be adhered to and a strong work ethic will be evident.

Saint Benedict expects all students to have the support of parents and carers and that they too are committed to upholding the values, policies and expectations of the Sixth Form.

Central to our mission at Saint Benedict Sixth Form is seeing every young person as an individual. Our aim is to nurture each young person, their talents and gifts in order that they can meet their full potential and leave us fully prepared for the next chapter in their lives, whatever that may be.

We treat our students as young adults, so that they have greater freedom and privileges. Students are expected to always conduct themselves in accordance with the school's core values of Love, Belief, Integrity and Knowledge at all times.

Our expectations are high and we are ambitious for every student. We will support and challenge students to be the best they can, developing independent study skills, building confidence and equipping young people with the knowledge for university, employment or an apprenticeship are real strengths of ours.

We monitor the progress of all our learners and will provide challenge and support at all stages of their journey with us.



Managing your studies – Students are expected to take a mature approach to their studies, using supervised study periods wisely to complete work and meet deadlines.



Being on time – We expect students to be punctual and be mindful that they are role models for younger students around school so setting an example is paramount.



Being organised – Arriving to lessons equipped and ready to learn so that each learning session is optimised.



Planning your future – We expect students to be ambitious and to strive to reach their full potential, aiming high.



Being an ambassador – Supporting school by volunteering at events or mentoring younger pupils if asked to do so.





STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students typically have 27 taught lessons each fortnight across their three chosen subjects, with further sessions dedicated to the EPQ and Personal Development.

All students have several study periods every week, allowing them to continue to learn independently.

In Elmwood, our Sixth Form Centre, students can meet, collaborate and study in a range of spaces.

A dedicated team of Sixth Form staff are on hand throughout the day to assist students in every aspect of their studies and wellbeing.

Students have the chance to join the Sixth Form Leadership Team and to support many other initiatives around school to support our community.

Sixth formers can access our school buses, and take advantage of our free late bus service, which is available three nights a week, taking the stress out of getting to and from school each day.



PASTORAL CARE

At Saint Benedict, we will challenge you to have the highest expectations and aspirations, whilst supporting you to reach your full potential. We provide the facilities, advice and resources to help all students achieve or surpass their expected grades.

Form Time is a valuable part of your day and will provide the pastoral care that is essential during your time here. Your personal tutor will support you in all aspects of A Level life and attendance is compulsory – they are your champion!

To support you to be successful, we will:

- Offer students opportunities to develop as a whole person, providing a personalised package of guidance as part of their programme of study
- Provide a bespoke and high-quality Personal Development Programme
- Ensure you develop skills for life, such as leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication
- Guide you to find the right Post-18 pathway with clear, supportive steps for success
- Work with you as a team to build a supportive, cohesive community that nurtures each other's talents and recognises the power of the individual

Visit our website for information on our Sixth Form Dress Code

<https://www.stbenedictderby.srscmat.co.uk/sixth-form/student-life/sixth-form-dress-code/> and

Code of Conduct

<https://www.stbenedictderby.srscmat.co.uk/sixth-form/student-life/code-of-conduct/>





Sixth Form Facilities

We have a dedicated Sixth Form Centre here at Saint Benedict. Elmwood is a purpose built space for all students in Year 12 and 13 to use.

Elmwood is divided into two study rooms with computer access and other resources to support independent study and a common room with kitchen and toilet facilities.

This space is staffed by our full time Post-16 Study Support supervisor.

We also have a large and well-equipped library on site, staffed by our own full-time librarian.

This can be used as an additional study space for sixth formers as well as Elmwood. You can also apply for the TOTUM card (formerly known as NUS extra) which offers a variety of benefits, primarily focused on providing discounts and savings for students and professionals.

These benefits include access to hundreds of discounts at big-name brands, savings on every day purchases, and exclusive offers on travel, dining, and entertainment.



Visit our website for information about expectations around attendance
<https://www.stbenedictderby.srscmat.co.uk/sixth-form/student-life/attendance/>



SIXTH FORM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our Sixth Form Leadership Team act as role models and ambassadors for the school and work closely with Heads of Year to support younger pupils. Sixth Form Leadership roles are designed to give students an opportunity to step up and take on additional responsibilities. They meet with the Head of Sixth

Form to discuss ideas that can benefit the Sixth Form and the wider school.

Students can sign up to be a student leader in Year 12 and will go through an interview process before selection; this is an excellent addition to a student's personal statement and CV.



Careers and Next Steps

We prepare our sixth form students for their next steps through a combination of group workshops and personalised one-to-one sessions with our Key Stage 5 Academic Mentor. We recognise each student has unique goals and aspirations and we support a wide range of pathways after Sixth Form – including university, apprenticeships, gap years and employment. Every student has access to a qualified Careers Advisor to help guide their decision-making and explore the options available to them.



UNIVERSITY PATHWAY

We offer comprehensive support throughout the UCAS application process, from selecting courses to perfecting your personal statement. Our goal is to maximise your chances of receiving offers from your chosen universities. Students are encouraged to attend university open days and participate in taster sessions and summer schools. Attending a summer school programme can lead to reduced university entry requirements, so we actively encourage all students to apply. In 2025, over 50% of our students were accepted onto either an in-person or online Sutton Trust Summer School. We have strong relationships with local universities, who regularly deliver on-site talks.

To help you stand out, we offer and encourage you to get involved with a wide range of super-curricular and enrichment opportunities. We also have a long-standing partnership with the University of Oxford, which includes a residential visit for selected students and tailored interview preparation with their Outreach Team. Our “Meet the Undergrad” event provides Year 12 students the chance to connect with former sixth formers and gain first-hand insights into university life and course choices.

When student finance applications open, we provide detailed guidance and work closely with families to support them through the process. Given the diversity of our student body, we understand the complexities some may face and ensure help is always available.



APPRENTICESHIP AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY

Students on the apprenticeship or employment pathway use Unifrog to build a comprehensive portfolio of skills and achievements. From the start of Year 12, every student develops a CV and cover letter, which they refine over time.

To meet the Gatsby Benchmarks, students regularly engage with employers through talks and events focused on Early Careers. We also provide personalised support at every stage of the apprenticeship application process, including interview preparation through our dedicated Mock Interview Day and annual Careers Event.

Destinations

Most of our students pursue the university pathway after completing Sixth Form. Approximately 80% of a typical Year 13 cohort progress to higher education. A quarter of these secure places at Russell Group universities

Our students are actively encouraged to apply for both university courses and apprenticeship opportunities. As a result, our students have secured apprenticeships with organisations such as the NHS, Pirelli, GXO and within the business and education sectors.

We also recognise some students may wish to take a year out before commencing university studies or applying for apprenticeships. To support this, we offer guidance on Gap Year opportunities. In our 2025 cohort, students have successfully gained placements with Camp America, Project Arusha and the Briars.

Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy Sixth Form Alumni represent a diverse and accomplished group of individuals who

have transitioned from their secondary education to pursue various paths in higher education, vocational training, or professional careers.

These graduates often share a strong foundation in critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership, cultivated during their time in Sixth Form. Many are actively engaged in community service, contributing positively to society while utilising the skills acquired during their academic journey.

Their stories reflect resilience and ambition, inspiring current students to strive for excellence and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, proving that the foundations laid in Sixth Form can lead to significant achievements in various fields.



Mina Wali

Mina studied Sociology, History and Psychology at Sixth Form. She went on to Birmingham City University to study Psychology before working at HMRC. Mina then moved to the Netherlands and studied for a Masters in Cognitive Psychology. She now works as a research analyst in Rotterdam.



Jacob Mellers

After studying Drama, English and Media Studies at Sixth Form, Jacob trained as an actor at Falmouth University. He moved to Bristol where he established himself as an actor and occasional writer. He set up an indie film company with friends from university and their debut feature film is on the way.



Jeffrey Kusi

Jeffrey studied Applied Science, Biology and Business at Sixth Form. He went on to study Biomedical Science at the University of Manchester. He has taken a year out to work as a Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Assistant Practitioner and is planning to pursue a Master's in Physician Associate Studies.



Calvin Medcalf

Calvin studied Maths, History and French at Sixth Form. He then took a gap year to volunteer at the Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre before studying History and American Studies at the University of Nottingham. He went on work for HM Treasury, International Group before moving to the Financial Conduct Authority.



Isobel Moore

Isobel studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Sixth Form. She secured a place at the University of Oxford to study Biochemistry. During her degree she has completed several internships including teaching in Singapore, visiting a lab in Toronto, Canada and working as a marketing intern. Isobel is due to start a new job in telecoms consulting.



Grace Jenner

Grace studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths in Sixth Form. She then went on to study Medicine at the University of Plymouth. She enjoyed a variety of placements in different specialities, practising clinical skills such as venepuncture and learning anatomy and physiology.



Ellie McLaughlin

Ellie studied Biology, Chemistry and Maths with an AS-Level in Music. She went on to study Dental Surgery at the University of Sheffield and now works as a dentist, split between a dental practice and hospital work in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department.



Neil Lwanga

Neil studied Media, IT, Drama and Sociology in Sixth Form. He then studied Creative Arts at the University of Farnham. He gained a place on a film/TV industry trainee scheme and now works as a Production Assistant on TV shows and films including Hollywood blockbuster Wicked.



Isabel Lakin

After leaving Sixth Form, Isabel completed a four-year accounting apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce. She had the opportunity to work in various functions including Tax and Internal Audit. As part of the scheme she was sponsored and is now a qualified Chartered Management Accountant.

Join Us



The Sixth Form at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy is a high achieving, hardworking and caring community of students who are incredibly ambitious and have high aspirations as well as being supportive of one another.

We endeavour to give our students the individual support that they need to enable them to meet all their goals, whether that be at Russell Group Universities or Higher Apprenticeship level.

At Saint Benedict Sixth Form, we offer a variety of Level 3 qualifications including A Levels, Applied course, BTEC and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). We welcome applications from all pupils from any school. All applications are considered on an equal basis. We welcome students of all faiths and of none.

You should apply online via this form
<https://forms.office.com/e/WPXM9yLcT7>

The window for applying runs from mid October to early December. Please ensure you take time to consider your personal statement when completing the application form. Interviews for a place at Saint Benedict Sixth Form will be held in the spring term.

There is a minimum entry requirement to join Saint Benedict Sixth Form: All Level 3 students must have 5 GCSE passes (9-4) which include English Language and Maths at Grade 4. Subjects have individual additional criteria. This is in addition to the specific entrance requirements for each subject chosen to study. Subject specific entry requirements can be found in our prospectus and subject guides. These prerequisites ensure students thrive in their chosen subjects.

For more information about the Post 16 Bursary please visit our website
<https://www.stbenedictderby.srscmat.co.uk/sixth-form/student-life/post-16-bursary/>



Evaluation





Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy,
Duffield Road,
Derby,
DE22 1JD



01332 557032



enquiries@ben.srscmat.co.uk



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website