

The Sixth Form

St Mary's Catholic School



Induction 2025
Monday 30th June / Tuesday 1st July

- ✓ **Taster lessons** in your chosen subjects
- ✓ **A-Level skills workshop**
- ✓ Explore our bespoke **Enrichment offerings**
- ✓ **Meet current Sixth Formers** and learn about their positive experiences
- ✓ Spend time in the **Sixth Form Study Centre and Café**
- ✓ Meet the **Sixth Form team** who will help you achieve your **Post-18 goals**

Student Name: _____

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Induction Day – Timings

Each student is allocated four 'Taster Lessons' and one 'Supervised Study'.

The supervised study will take place in the Sixth Form Study Centre and will be your opportunity to start on the summer transition work set for each of your chosen subjects.

08:40 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:45	Welcome talk in the Hall
09:45 - 09:50	Movement time
09:50 - 10:35	Taster Lesson 1
10:35 - 10:40	Movement time
10:40 - 11:25	Taster Lesson 2
11:25 - 11:40	Break
11:40 - 11:45	Movement time
11:45 - 12:30	Taster Lesson 3
12:30 - 12:35	Movement time
12:35 - 13:20	Taster Lesson 4
13:20 - 13:55	Lunch
13:55 - 14:00	Movement time
14:00 - 14:45	Taster Lesson 5
14:45 - 14:50	Movement time
14:50 - 15:15	Final reflections in the Hall

Taster Lessons – Timetable

Monday		
Subject	Staff	Room
taster 1 09:50 - 10:35		
Design Technology	MHU GWI	C4 / C2
Biology	DNE	H6
English Literature	WJO	B3
Religious Studies	LBR	K8
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 2 10:40 - 11:25		
Photography	HNA	C6
BTEC ICT	RJD	E1
Business Studies	EMC	C1
History	TJU	E5
Spanish	JAL	T12
Maths	CWI	K1
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 3 11:45 - 12:30		
Art	HNA	C6
Core Maths	DVE	K3
Creative Media	HMB	T23
Politics	BNO	F6
Maths	CWI	K1
Further Maths	SAN	T03
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 4 12:35 - 13:20		
Financial Studies	EMC	C1
Film Studies	HMB	T23
Physical Education	WJL	F5
Geography	DOL	D2
Physics	DMG	H1
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 5 14:00 - 14:45		
Chemistry	JRY	H8
Economics	CPA	K1
BTEC Coaching	WJL	F5
Sociology	FMC	T22
English Language	RGR	B2
Supervised Study	PHA	F2

Tuesday		
Subject	Staff	Room
taster 1 09:50 - 10:35		
Politics	BNO	F6
Physical Education	WJL	F5
Religious Studies	LBR	K8
Computing	RJD	E1
Design Technology	MHU	C4
Film Studies	HMB	T23
Biology	DNE	H6
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 2 10:40 - 11:25		
Business Studies	EMC	C1
Physics	DMG	H1
History	TJU	E5
Maths	JPM	K10
Core Maths	DVE	K3
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 3 11:45 - 12:30		
Biology	DNE	H6
Further Maths	SAN	T03
Health & Social Care	DKC	T24
Maths	JPM	K10
French	TMC	T13
Financial Studies	EMC	C1
Creative Media	HMB	T23
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 4 12:35 - 13:20		
Chemistry	JRY	H8
Economics	CPA	F6
Geography	DOL	D2
Psychology	DKC	T24
English Language	RGR	B2
Supervised Study	PHA	F2
taster 5 14:00 - 14:45		
Chemistry	JRY	H8
Psychology	DKC	T24
Sociology	FMC	T22
English Literature	WJO	B3
Supervised Study	PHA	F2

A warm welcome to our Sixth Form

Congratulations on completing your GCSE exams! We know what a significant milestone this is, and we hope you're now enjoying a well-earned break and making the most of this long summer holiday— whether that means relaxing, travelling, working, or trying something new. We also want to wish you all the very best for **GCSE Results Day in August** — we'll be thinking of you and look forward to celebrating your success.

We are delighted to welcome you to **St Mary's Sixth Form**, where we know you'll find student life **challenging, exciting and fulfilling**, as you continue to grow **academically, socially and personally**. As a Year 12 student, you'll join a **friendly, purposeful and ambitious community**, one that will support and stretch you as you prepare for your next steps — whether that's university, a degree apprenticeship or a high-level career.

Every year, we are so proud to see our Year 13 leavers head off confidently onto their chosen paths. In **August 2024**, many secured places on some of the most competitive university courses — including Medicine, Law and Engineering at institutions like **Cambridge, Imperial and other Russell Group universities** — or progressed onto **prestigious apprenticeships**, such as with **Rolls-Royce and J.P. Morgan**. Their success is down to **hard work, determination**, and the **excellent teaching, careers advice and pastoral support** they received throughout their time in Sixth Form.

At St Mary's, we take time to ensure each student is following a **curriculum that matches their talents, passions and ambitions**. Our focus is not only on academic excellence, but also on helping you become a young adult who is **empathetic, articulate and ambitious**, ready to contribute positively to the world around you.

You'll also have access to our **extended curriculum**, which includes enrichment activities, leadership opportunities, and wider reading challenges — all designed to develop your confidence, interests and independence.

Our Sixth Formers are seen as **leaders and role models** across the school. You'll have many chances to take on responsibility — whether as **Head Pupils, House Leaders, Mentors, club leaders or Student Council reps** — and to make a real contribution to the life of the school.

We're so pleased you'll be joining our **successful and supportive Sixth Form community**, and we're excited to see what the next two years will bring for you.

If you have any questions — now or in September — please don't hesitate to speak to me or a member of the Sixth Form Team. We're always here to help.

With best wishes,

Benjamin Noble

Director of Sixth Form.



Making the Transition from Key Stage 4 to 5

Sixth Form differs significantly from GCSE; you will focus on **fewer subjects**, but study them in **much greater depth**. There is a heightened **emphasis on research** in the Sixth Form, requiring you to read longer, more detailed, and complex materials compared to GCSE. Therefore, it is crucial to develop **strong active reading skills**, as reading forms the foundation for discussions, completing written assignments, and preparing for exams.

Your **timetable** will encompass **supervised study**, alongside taught lessons, giving you the opportunity for **independent learning**. While **hard work** is essential for academic success, it is equally important to **take breaks**, so **planning your study time** carefully is vital. Most students find that by organising their time well, and using their study periods efficiently, they can **manage their workload effectively**. As the year progresses, a productive student should aim to do at least **5 hours of study per subject each week**, ideally distributing study time equally among all subjects.

10 Essential Study Skills

1. Time Management

Summary: This involves planning your study time effectively, setting up a schedule that allocates specific times for each subject, and sticking to it.

Importance: Good time management helps ensure that you cover all your subjects adequately, avoid last-minute cramming, and reduce stress by keeping on top of your workload.

2. Active Reading

Summary: Active reading means engaging with the text by annotating, highlighting key points, and summarising information in your own words.

Importance: This technique enhances comprehension and retention of complex materials, which are more prevalent at the A-Level.

3. Notetaking

Summary: Effective notetaking involves summarising information from lectures and reading materials in a clear, organised manner.

Importance: Well-organised notes are crucial for review and revision, helping to consolidate knowledge and identify key concepts.

4. Research Skills

Summary: This involves knowing how to find, evaluate, and use information from various sources, including books, journals, and online resources.

Importance: Research skills are essential for completing assignments and understanding topics in depth. They also prepare students for higher education and professional environments.

5. Critical Thinking

Summary: Critical thinking means analysing and evaluating information or arguments to form a reasoned judgment.

Importance: This skill helps students to question assumptions, identify biases, and make well-supported arguments, which are crucial for A-Level essays and discussions.

6. Problem-Solving

Summary: Problem-solving involves identifying problems, generating potential solutions, and selecting the best one.

Importance: It is essential for subjects like Mathematics and Science, where students need to apply concepts to new situations and solve complex problems.

7. Exam Technique

Summary: This includes understanding the format of exams, practising past papers, and developing strategies for answering different types of questions.

Importance: Good exam techniques can significantly improve performance by helping students manage their time effectively and approach questions methodically.

8. Organisation Skills

Summary: Keeping your study space, notes, and schedule well-organised.

Importance: Being organised reduces anxiety and allows for more efficient study sessions, ensuring that all materials are easily accessible when needed.

9. Collaboration and Communication

Summary: Working effectively in study groups and communicating clearly with teachers and peers.

Importance: Collaboration can provide different perspectives and enhance understanding of difficult topics. Effective communication skills are also crucial for asking for help and clarifying doubts.

10. Self-Assessment

Summary: Regularly reviewing your own work and progress to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Importance: Self-assessment helps you to stay on track with your goals and make necessary adjustments to your study methods.

Top Tips from past Sixth Formers

- ✓ Utilise your study periods efficiently from September. Create a schedule and stick to it.
- ✓ The transition from GCSE to A-Level is challenging, but manageable.
- ✓ Take full advantage of every opportunity, as time will fly by!
- ✓ Do not hesitate to seek help from your teachers – asking for assistance is important.
- ✓ Review and consolidate your knowledge at the end of each day.
- ✓ Stay relaxed and believe in your abilities.
- ✓ Stay organised and complete tasks promptly.
- ✓ Focus on your own progress and do not worry about others.

Year 11 into St. Mary's Sixth Form

Our Summer Challenge to help you 'bridge the gap'

Between now and September, we would like you to complete some **creative, academic, and alternative activities** to keep your brain active and eyes open... helping you prepare for the **exciting yet challenging** Sixth Form journey that lies ahead!

You should be ready to **evidence your completed tasks** on the first day back - **Wednesday 3rd September** – to your subject teachers, Form Tutor, and the wider Sixth Form team.

Three Academic Goals

For your three intended A-Level/Vocational subjects, **complete the transition tasks** will develop both your subject knowledge and skills to help ensure you make a confident and successful start to Year 12.

- Click this link: ['Bridging The Gap'](#)
- It can also be accessed via our Sixth Form webpage:



Personal Growth Goal

Developing your '**super curricular**' engagement is a key skill for Sixth Form students... i.e. proving that you have a thirst for academic growth outside of the course content. Super Curricular learning also showcases your ability to be an independent learner, another key skill necessary for success in Sixth Form... and a key attribute that any post-18 institution (e.g. universities, apprenticeship providers, etc.) will be expecting to see.

To this end you are asked to complete a free online course, enter a competition, etc. that enriches a particular passion you may have and develops your wider understanding.

Below are some links to get you started... or feel free to explore some other avenues.

The Open University:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

National Geographic:

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/>

Coursera:

<https://www.coursera.org/courses?query=free>

TEDEd:

https://ed.ted.com/lessons?direction=desc&sort=featured-position&user_by_click=student

Competitions for Students:

<https://studentcompetitions.com/competitions-for-students/>

Community Goal

A **sense of community** – i.e. a commitment to be supportive and respectful of others – is a central aspect to everyday life at St Mary's Sixth Form.

We would like to see a photograph or testimony that showcases your community spirit in action... this could be a form of volunteering in your local community, helping at home (e.g. helping sibling with schoolwork, mowing the lawn, cooking dinner for the family), etc.

GCSE Results Day

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St Mary's Sixth Form Enrolment

- ✓ Staff will be in the **Sports Hall from 8:30am on Thursday 21st August 2025** ready to enrol you.
- ✓ Current St Mary's Students will have an **enrolment form** in their **results envelope**. Applicants from other schools will be given a **form on arrival**.
- ✓ There will be **desks and pens** available near the enrolment zone to facilitate **form-filling**.
- ✓ Both internal and external **applicants** are welcome to **enrol when they are ready**.
- ✓ Please ensure you **read the entry requirements thoroughly** when making your choices.
- ✓ Once you have **completed your form**, head over to the **enrolment desks** to go through your choices with a member of Sixth Form staff or a Senior Leader.
- ✓ **Senior Leaders** will be **available** if you have any questions.
- ✓ You need to have your **certificates ready** to prove you meet the entry criteria.
- ✓ Our staff are able to enrol you in real time, which means your **place and subjects will be confirmed before you leave**, giving you peace of mind ready for September.

Subject Offering and Entrance Criteria

We offer an extensive range of subjects to ensure students' passions and talents can flourish.

Please note **St Mary's Sixth Form** requires applicants to achieve at least a 4 in both **English Language and Maths**. *(The school will consider allowing a student to retake one, but not both, based on individual merit.)*

Subject	Qualification	Entrance Criteria
Art (Fine Art)	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art
Fine Art (Photography)	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art
Biology	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND either Grade 6 in GCSE Biology OR Grades 6-6 in GCSE Double Science
Business	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Business (or Maths if not studied Business before)
Information Technology	BTEC Level 3	5 GCSE grades at 9 - 4 to include grade 4 in GCSE Maths
Chemistry	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND either Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grades 6-6 in GCSE Double Science
Computer Science	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science (or Maths if not studied before)
Creative Media Production	BTEC Level 3	Five GCSE grades at 9 - 4
DT: Three-Dimensional Design	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE DT or Art
DT: Textile Design	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE DT or Art
DT: Graphic Communication	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE DT or Art
Economics	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE English
English Language	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature
Film Studies	A-Level	Grade 4 in GCSE English
Financial Studies	Level 3 Diploma	Five GCSE grades at 9 - 4
French	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE French
Geography	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography OR Grade 7 in GCSE History
Health and Social Care	BTEC Level 3	Five GCSE grades at 9 - 4
History	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE History OR Grade 7 in GCSE Geography
Mathematics	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths <i>(a Grade 7 is highly recommended in order to thrive)</i>
Mathematical Studies	Level 3 qualification	Grade 4 in GCSE Maths This is not a full course and is studied <u>in addition</u> to 3 full courses. It cannot be taken alongside A-Level Maths.
Further Mathematics	A-Level	Grade 8 in Maths (This subject must be taken with A-Level Maths)
Physical Education	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE PE or Distinction in BTEC PE
Physics	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND either Grade 6 in Physics or Grades 6-6 in GCSE Double Science
Politics	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English, History, Geography or RS
Philosophy	N/A	Every student will be timetabled x1 lesson per week
Psychology	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths OR Grades 6-6 in GCSE Science AND Grade 6 in GCSE English, History, Geography or RS
Religious Studies	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies
Sociology	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English, History, Geography or RS
Spanish	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Sports Coaching	BTEC Level 3	Five GCSE grades at 9 - 4. This must include PE, English and Science

Extended Curriculum

St Mary's Sixth Form students benefit from a **weekly timetabled lesson** during which they can choose from a **wide range of activities** from which to enrich themselves:

Cooking Working safely in the kitchen Sauces for pasta Healthy eating Energising breakfasts Making a special 2 course meal	Mindfulness Improved Focus Emotional Regulation Enhanced Relationship Stress Reduction Physical Health
Design and Creation Sketching Computer Aided Design Prototyping and modelling Shaping and forming Assembly and finishing	Post-18 Pathways UCAS references Life at University Gap Years and travel Interviews Apprenticeships
Duke of Edinburgh: Gold Volunteering Physical Skill Expedition Residential	Russell Group Universities Coaching Focus sessions for: Oxbridge, Durham, Imperial The college system at Oxbridge and Durham Admissions test practice time Mock interviews
Financial Skills Budgeting and savings Wants, needs and aspirations Good debt and bad debt Borrowing money; mortgages, overdrafts, credit cards	Sports Develop skills in a variety of sports; netball, basketball, badminton, cricket Enjoy physical activity Build strength and fitness Benefits on physical and mental health
Law: An introduction UK legal system Different roles within law firms Criminal law Human rights International law	Spanish Conversational style language, real-world situations Cultural topics; delving into festivals, traditions, politics, food and music

Extended Project Qualification

Choose your own topic, conduct in-depth research and create a unique project. Showcase your critical thinking, creativity and initiative. Earn up to 28 UCAS points (equivalent to half an A-Level).

Our Enrichment offering is fluid, so it is constantly evolving in response to student voice. For example, students can switch their options each term should they wish. Other options - such as Gold Duke of Edinburgh and EPQ (Extended Project qualification – require a year long commitment).

Sixth Formers also benefit from termly **guest speakers**. Past guests have included Josh Dean MP, a holocaust survivor, and an expert on the Middle-East, to help our students understand this fascinating but complicated aspect of global affairs!

In addition to the timetabled enrichment there are opportunities to contribute during registration and supervised study. Some of our current Year 12s **mentor** Year 7s during registration, others **assist the teacher** in Key Stage 3 / 4 classes. There are also extra curricular **lunchtime clubs** such as MedSoc; a society for aspiring medics. There is the opportunity to become a **Careers Leader**, or a **Spiritual Leader**, and towards the end of the year, students can opt to apply for appointment to either the **Head Pupil Team** or **House Leadership Team**.

Some **trips** at St Mary's are targeted towards particular subjects, such as the Physics trip to CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Switzerland. Others are open to students of all subjects, such as the trip to Westminster Cathedral and Parliament. Each year we organise a visit to a local university with taster lectures, as well as a UCAS fair where students can interact with representatives from all universities in one place.

Towards the end of year 12, students spend a week doing a **work experience** that they have organised themselves. There is also the **enrichment week** which includes a variety of different activities, such as talks, sports, teambuilding and careers workshops.

An Enrichment form will be handed out at enrolment so that all students can hit the ground running with their chosen option from the start of Year 12.

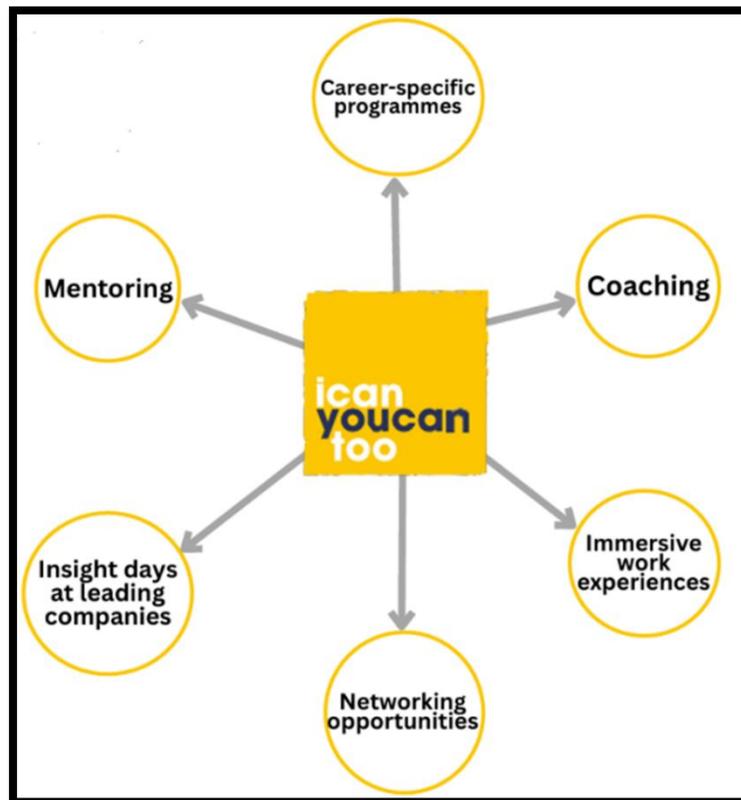


“My experience of DofE was nothing short of exceptional. It taught me a plethora of skills, all of which are applicable to the rest of my life. From orienteering to cooking, or simply teamwork. It was an experience I’ll never forget, especially thanks to the amazing and fun teachers who came along with us. I couldn’t recommend it to year 11s more, it will be one of the best experiences you’ll ever have with your friends!”

(Richard, Year 12)

I Can You Can Too

A '**jewel in the crown**' of the St Mary's Sixth Form Enrichment offering is our prestigious partnership with ICYCT; one of only four schools in the entire country! Our selected Year 12 students uniquely benefit from an **inspiring 10-month programme** that gives them the **skills, confidence and real-world connections to succeed**. St Mary's Sixth Formers explore careers in sectors like **business, law, finance, tech, and healthcare** through **mentoring, workplace visits, and industry-led workshops**.



Our students have taken part in immersive work experiences at:

- Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital
- Barclay's Law department
- Ernst & Young
- Private Equity insight day @ August Equity
- Full day practical session relating to healthcare

Participants on this year's ICYCT programme have benefited from:

- an evening at the **Financial Times** news desk
- meeting three times **Olympic gold medal swimmer Tom Dean**
- tickets and backstage passes to meet the cast of **The Lion King** in the West End, including a Q&A with the Director
- a day at **Cambridge University**, including visits to two Colleges and a personal statement workshop
- a full day immersive experience at **Sky TV**
- an exclusive dinner at **Canary Wharf**
- a financial literacy day at **HSBC**
- a Cyber Security day at **Barclays**



Term Dates 2025 – 2026

Term Dates for September 2025 – July 2026

Autumn Term

Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

Pupils absent (<i>INSET Day 1</i>)	Monday 1 st September 2025
External year 12 induction	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Pupils return (Year 7 and Year 12 only in school)	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
All Pupils in school	Thursday 4th September 2025
Open Evening (early finish)	Wednesday 24 th September 2025
Pupils absent (<i>INSET Day 2</i>)	Thursday 25 th September 2025
Pupils absent (Half Term)	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025
All Pupils return	Monday 3rd November 2025
Pupils Absent (Occasional Day)	Friday 28 th November 2025
Pupils absent (Winter Holidays)	Monday 22 nd December- Monday 5 th January 2026

Spring Term

Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Pupils absent (<i>INSET Day 3</i>)	Monday 5 th January 2026
All Pupils in school	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Pupils absent (Half Term)	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026
All Pupils return	Monday 23rd February 2025

Summer Term

Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026

All Pupils in school	Monday 13th April 2026
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026
Pupils absent (Half Term)	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026
Pupils return	Monday 1st June 2026

*Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July INSET (4 & 5) as disaggregated Twilight sessions

Students do not attend school on INSET days.

We look forward to seeing you again at enrolment on results day, and welcoming you to St Mary's Sixth Form in September.