

The Sixth Form

St Mary's Catholic School



Induction 2026
Wednesday 1st July

Loved. Guided. Inspired.

Experience a day in the life of a St Mary's Sixth Former:

- ✓ Step into your future subjects through **engaging taster lessons**
- ✓ **Develop essential A-level skills** to get ahead from day one
- ✓ Discover our **wide-ranging enrichment programme**
- ✓ **Meet current Sixth Form students** and hear their experiences
- ✓ Spend time in our dedicated **Study Centre and Sixth Form Café**
- ✓ Get to know the **Sixth Form team** who will support your journey to top universities, apprenticeships, and beyond

Student Name:

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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, a summer job, 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 you'll find student life to be **challenging, exciting and fulfilling**, as you continue to grow both academically and personally. As a Year 12 student, you'll become part of a **friendly, purposeful and ambitious family** that will inspire and propel you onto the exciting post-18 pathway of your choosing.

Every year, we are incredibly proud to see our Year 13 students progress to an **impressive range of destinations**. From **highly competitive university courses** – including Medicine, Engineering and Law at the **most prestigious Russell Group universities** – to **amazing apprenticeships with world-leading organisations**, our students leave St Mary's Sixth Form ready to thrive.

Our **students' success** is built on **hard work, determination** and the outstanding teaching, pastoral support and careers guidance they receive throughout their time here. Our role is to help every student discover and develop their talents, passions and ambitions. Alongside your academic studies, you'll benefit from our **extensive enrichment programme** - including the **unique access to the prestigious I Can You Can Too (ICYCT) programme** - which will develop your **confidence, leadership, independence and employability**.

Our Sixth Formers are seen as **leaders and role models** across the school. You'll have many chances to take on this responsibility - whether as part of the wider Student Leadership Team (Head Pupils, Deputy Head Pupils, House Leaders), Faith Leadership Team, mentoring younger students, overseeing our annual Charity Week, etc. - and thus make a real contribution to the life of the school. We believe the most successful students are those who **embrace every opportunity** available to them.

We're excited about everything that lies ahead and look forward to **supporting you every step of the way**. 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.

The Sixth Form 
St Mary's Catholic School



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

1

Excellent academic outcomes

that maximise the potential of each individual

2

A culture of high standards

where there is a 'can do' aspirational environment

3

Outstanding Post-18 preparation

through comprehensive higher education and careers guidance

4

A diverse, immersive enrichment programme

that develops personal growth, new interests and leadership

5

An inclusive, friendly, respectful and fun

experience

ENRICHMENT

Discover opportunities beyond the classroom

Every student benefits from a timetabled enrichment programme designed to help you **discover** new interests, **develop** leadership skills and **prepare** for your future.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH: GOLD



Challenge yourself. Build resilience. Create unforgettable memories.

ST ELIZABETH'S PROJECT



Give back to the local community while developing compassion, teamwork and confidence.

I CAN YOU CAN TOO



Mentoring. Networking. Work Experience. Real opportunities with leading employers.

EPQ

EPQ EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Explore. Research. Create. Succeed

HOW IT WORKS



Develop independent thinking, research, communication and time management skills that universities and employers value highly.



You'll hear much more about our enrichment programme during the **Induction Day Welcome Assembly**.



Full details of every enrichment opportunity can also be found in our **Sixth Form Prospectus, available online**.

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Inspired.

Induction Day – Timings

- ✓ Each student is allocated **up to four ‘Taster Lessons’**
- ✓ When not in one of your timetabled taster lesson, students will be in the Sixth Form Centre where they will have the opportunity to:
 - Commence their A-Level summer transition work (via the ‘Bridging the Gap’ booklet: [6th Form Transition Booklet - Bridging the Gap - 2026.pdf](#))
 - Socialise with our current Sixth Form students
 - Enjoy our Sixth Form Café

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

Taster 1	Taster 2	Taster 3	Taster 4	Taster 5
9:50-10:35	10:40 - 11:25	11:45 - 12:30	12:35 - 1:20	2:00 - 2:45
Business Mr McElhinney C1	Photography Mrs Reece C8	PE Mr Lawn B2	Chemistry Mrs Ryan H8	Finance Mr McElhinney C1
Biology Mrs Acheson H9	Spanish Mr Pujota T12	Economics Mr Palmer D4	Economics Mr Palmer D3	Computer Science Mr Davis E1
Psychology Ms Compton T24	Business Mr McElhinney C1	Health & Social Care Ms Compton T24	Maths Mrs Wilkin K2	Further Maths Mr Antwi K9
Chemistry Mrs Ryan H8	History Mr Juliff E5	DT Mr Hunt A2	Sociology Mrs McGloin T22	Physics Miss Ciooke H6
Art Miss Nairn C6	Psychology Ms Compton T24	Biology Mrs Acheson H9	Media Ms Malik-Brown T23	English Language Mr Graves B2
Religious Studies Mrs Barnes K8	Maths Mrs Wilkin K2	Politics Mr Noble F6	English Literature Miss Keane B5	Sociology Mrs McGloin T22
Performing Arts Mr McHugh Hume		Physics Miss Cooke H6		Geograph Mr O'Leary & Miss Duffy D3
				DT Mr Hunt A2
<i>When not in a Taster Lesson, please go to the Sixth Form Centre (F Block)</i>				

Ensuring a successful transition GCSE to A-Levels

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 organised and complete tasks promptly.”*
- ✓ *“Focus on your own progress and do not worry about others. Believe in your abilities”*

Preparing for Sixth Form Success

Our Summer Challenge to help you 'bridge the gap'

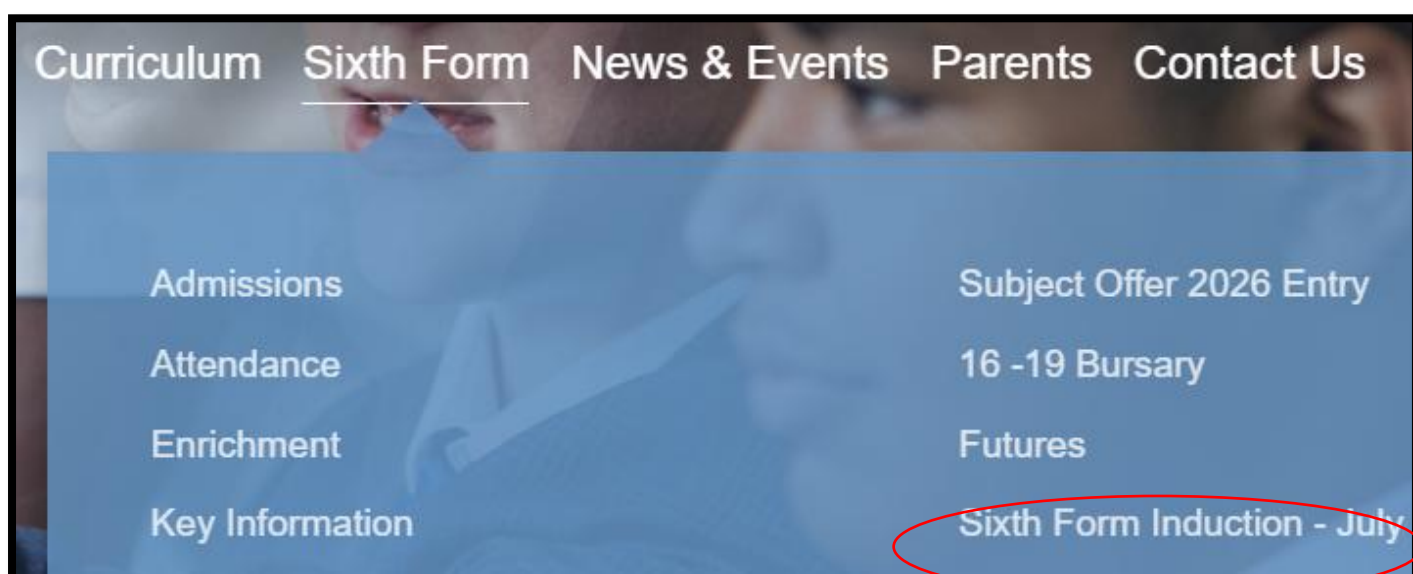
Between now and September, we would like you to complete some **creative, academic, and alternative activities** to keep your brain active and eyes open... helping you prepare for the **exciting yet challenging** Sixth Form journey that lies ahead!

You should be ready to **evidence your completed tasks** on the first day back - **Wednesday 2nd September** – to your subject teachers, Form Tutor, and the wider Sixth Form team.

Three Academic Goals

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

- Click this link: [6th Form Transition Booklet - Bridging the Gap - 2026.pdf](#)
- It can also be accessed via our Sixth Form webpage (*see screenshot below*):



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://www.lumiere-education.com/post/national-competitions-for-high-school-students-in-the-uk>

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.

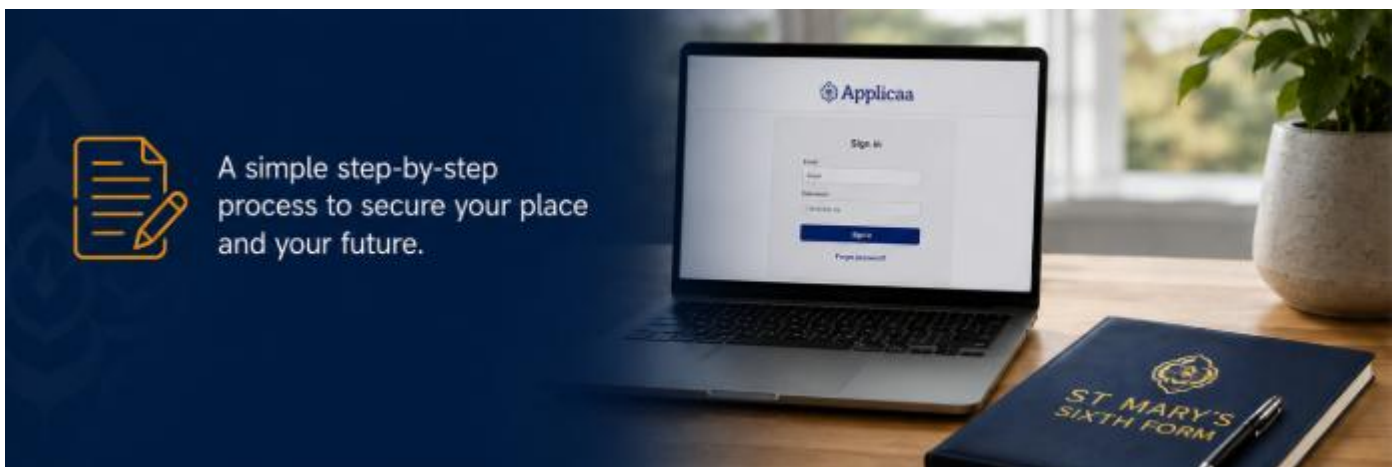
Subject Offering and Entrance Criteria

Subject	Qualification	Entrance Criteria
Art (Fine Art)	A-level	Grade 5 in GCSE Art
Fine Art (Photography)	A-level	Grade 5 in GCSE Art or portfolio
Biology	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE Biology OR Grade 6-6 in GCSE Double Science AND Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
Business	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Business OR Grade 6 in GCSE Maths (if Business has not previously been studied)
Chemistry	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry OR Grades 6-6 in GCSE Double Science AND Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
Computer Science	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science OR Grade 6 GCSE Maths (if Computer Science has not previously been studied)
Creative Media Production	BTEC Level 3	5 GCSE grades at 4 - 9 (must include English)
DT:Three-Dimensional Design	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art OR DT
DT: Textile Design	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE DT
DT: Graphic Communication	A-Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art OR DT
Economics	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE English
English Language	A-level	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or Literature
English Literature	A-level	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or Literature
Financial Studies	Level 3 Diploma	5 GCSE grades at 4-9 (must include Maths)
Geography	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
Health & Social Care	AAQ BTEC National	5 GCSE grades at 4-9 (must include English and Science)
History	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Mathematics	A-level	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Further Mathematics	A-level	Grade 8 in GCSE Maths (must also be studying A-level Maths)
Performing Arts	BTEC Level 3	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama OR English
Physical Education	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE PE
Physics	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE Physics OR Grades 6-6 in GCSE Double Science AND Grade 6 in GCSE Maths
Politics	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE English, History, Geography OR Religious Studies
Psychology	A-level	Grade 5 in GCSE Science or GCSE Maths AND Grade 6 in GCSE English
Religious Studies	A-level	Grade 5 in GCSE English AND GCSE Religious Studies
Sociology	A-level	Grade 5 in GCSE English OR GCSE Geography, History or Religious Studies
Spanish	A-level	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish

GCSE Results Day



St Mary's Sixth Form Enrolment



Before you arrive

- Bring a fully charged smartphone, tablet or laptop so you can access your Applicaa account.

When you arrive

1. Log in to your Applicaa account.
2. Open your enrolment form (your GCSE grades will have been uploaded automatically).
3. Select your final subjects (in line with our published minimum entry criteria).
4. Submit your enrolment form.
5. Your St Mary's Sixth Form place and programme of study are then confirmed, and we'll see you on Wednesday 2nd September 😊

The Sixth Form Team, Senior Leadership Team, Subject Leaders will be available to answer questions, offer guidance and support.

Term Dates

September 2026 – July 2027

Autumn Term

Tuesday 1st September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Pupils absent (**INSET Day 1**) – Tuesday 1st September 2026

Pupils return (Year 7 and Year 12 only) – Wednesday 2nd September 2026

All pupils in school – Thursday 3rd September 2026

Pupils absent (**INSET Day 2**) – Friday 25th September 2026

Pupils absent (Half Term) – Monday 26th October – Tuesday 3rd November 2026

All pupils return – Wednesday 4th November 2026

Spring Term

Monday 4th January 2027 – Thursday 25th March 2027

Pupils absent (**INSET Day 3**) – Monday 4th January 2027

All pupils in school – Tuesday 5th January 2027

Pupils absent (Half Term) – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027

All pupils return – Monday 22nd February 2027

Summer Term

Monday 12th April 2027 – Tuesday 20th July 2027

All pupils in school – Monday 12th April 2027

May Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2027

Pupils absent (Half Term) – Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027

Students return- Monday 7th June

Pupils absent (**Trust INSET Day 4**) – Friday 25th June 2027

Last day of term for pupils – Tuesday 20th July 2027

Students do not attend school on INSET days.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Sixth Form in September!