

# ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER: MS A. WAUGH-LUCAS  
BA (Hons), MA, NPQH, PQSI



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Dear Student,

You are faced with important choices about your future and will have to make careful decisions. Are you planning to join the Sixth Form to study A Levels, start an apprenticeship or go to college to follow an alternative course? We hope you will seriously consider the Sixth Form at St. Mark's. We believe that we offer an education second to none, not only in terms of outstanding A Level results, but also in the way we develop the moral, spiritual and social values of our students.

St. Mark's provides a wide range of A Level courses taught by experienced and successful teachers, who will give you constant help, support and encouragement.

We offer experienced pastoral care, and, as a Faith School, opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. We also offer opportunities to develop your leadership skills here within the school. These are dimensions that other institutions may not be able to offer. The growth of the Sixth Form has not lessened our commitment to treat our students as individuals.

We believe that there are strong reasons for choosing the Sixth Form at St. Mark's. We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form and feel confident that you will experience a very welcoming, happy and supportive community.

We hope that you will join us next year.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Wilkinson**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
**Head of Sixth Form**

## ***Applications to the Sixth Form***

We welcome applications from all students, Catholic and other Faith backgrounds. We welcome all students who have shown commitment, dedication to their studies, and support for the School ethos through their examination results.

For many of our Year 11 students, the Sixth Form provides both a fresh start and the opportunity to continue their studies in a familiar environment.

To apply for a place at St Mark's you will need to **complete the application form** using the link below. This system will be **open from 9.00am on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October and will close at midnight on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

### **Application Forms**

**All applications are to be completed using our Sixth Form Application Website accessed from the Sixth Form Area of the school website.**

Once you have completed your application form you will receive a confirmation email.

**Internal candidates** who apply to the Sixth Form will be invited to an interview in January 2024. Most will receive a conditional offer of a place.

**External candidates** who demonstrate the necessary academic potential will be contacted in January 2024 to discuss the options available at St. Mark's.

We have an increasing number of applications from students at **other establishments**. We ensure that new students receive a warm welcome and are fully supported as they join the school.

## ***Sixth Form Choices***

**We plan to offer the following courses in September 2024, although the provision of certain courses will be dependent on sufficient demand.**

**Students will be undertaking three A-levels (four A Levels may be an option for students who achieve exceptional GCSE results).**

**Please be aware that students need to choose three A-levels that work together as a coherent package. The three A-levels should facilitate a career path into higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.**

**The subjects currently available at St Mark's are:**

- **Art & Design**
- **Biology**
- **Business Studies**
- **Chemistry**
- **Classical Civilisations**
- **Computer Science**
- **Drama**
- **Economics**
- **English Literature**
- **Film Studies**
- **French**
- **Further Mathematics**
- **Geography**
- **Government and Politics**
- **History**
- **Mathematics**
- **Media**
- **Music**
- **Philosophy and Ethics**
- **PE\***
- **Physics**
- **Product Design**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Spanish**

**\*PE is currently available to study through one of our Consortium partners.**

### **Information on Further Mathematics**

Students who opt for this subject need to be aware that it is mainly for those with an outstanding aptitude for Mathematics. Some universities only accept it as a fourth A level subject. Therefore students need to be careful about choosing Further Mathematics. They need to question whether it is really necessary for their future career path.

## ***Conditions for Entry***

### **Sixth Form Admissions Criteria for September 2024**

**St Mark's 6<sup>th</sup> Form only offers A-level courses. To study A-levels applicants will be required to have achieved at least:**

- 5 GCSE passes at grades 9-5 including English Language and Mathematics (grade 5 or above).
- A GCSE grade 6 or higher in the individual subject they intend to pursue at A level, with the exception of Mathematics where a grade 7 is required.
- For Further Mathematics a grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics is required (Please see previous page).
- If the subject was not studied at GCSE, students will be required to have achieved at least a grade 6 in English (or a grade 6 in a similar subject: e.g. Geography/History).

Please note GCSE equivalent courses (BTEC Science) will count as one of the 5 GCSE passes.

## ***Subject Specific Entry Requirements***

<b>A Level</b>	<b>GCSE entry requirements</b>
Art	6 Art
Biology	6/6 Combined Science <b>or</b> 6 Separate Sciences Biology 6 Mathematics
Business	6 Business (if studied at GCSE) <b>or</b> 6 English Language (if not studied at GCSE)
Chemistry	6/6 Combined Science <b>or</b> 6 Separate Science Chemistry 6 Mathematics
Classical Civilisations	6 English Language <b>or</b> Similar GCSE*
Computer Science	6 Computer Science
Drama & Theatre Studies	6 Drama <b>or</b> 6 English Language <b>or</b> 6 English Literature
Economics	6 English Language <b>and</b> 6 Mathematics
English Literature	6 English Language <b>and</b> 6 English Literature
Film Studies	6 English Language <b>or</b> similar GCSE*
French/Spanish	6 French <b>or</b> 6 Spanish
Geography	6 Geography
Government & Politics	6 English Language <b>or</b> similar GCSE*
History	6 History
Mathematics	7 Mathematics
Further Mathematics	8 Mathematics
Media Studies	6 English Language <b>or</b> similar GCSE*
Music	6 Music <b>and</b> grade 6 instrument
Physics	6/6 Combined Science <b>or</b> 6 Separate Science Physics 6 Mathematics
Psychology	6 English <b>and</b> 6/6 Combined Science <b>or</b> 6 in two separate sciences.

Product Design	6 Product Design (if studied at GCSE) <b>or</b> 5 English <b>and</b> 5 Mathematics (if not studied at GCSE)
Philosophy and Ethics	6 RE
Sociology	6 English Language <b>or</b> Similar GCSE*

\*Similar GCSE = English Literature, History or Geography

Please note students achieving grades 6/6 in Combined Science will only be allowed to study a maximum of two science subjects at A level.

## ***Supporting Learning***

The transition from Year 11 to Year 12 can be challenging for a number of students. We provide clear structures and support which allow students to bridge that gap.

Each student will work with subject teachers who are committed to students meeting their full potential. Each student will be a member of a Tutor Group. The Form Tutor will register students in the morning and afternoon. The Tutor's role is to support the student in their academic studies. The Tutor is the supportive, guiding figure for the student's progress. The Tutor is the point of contact for parents and a key link between subject staff and the student.

St. Mark's Sixth Form Tutors are specialists in Sixth Form issues and have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with students.

Each student will be able to call upon the Sixth Form management team of two Heads of Year and a Head of Sixth Form. The Heads of Year and Head of Sixth Form are accessible and approachable for students and parents.

## ***Consortium Links***

To increase the range of courses available to students we work in close conjunction with Gumley and Gunnersbury schools. The Consortium works very well and has provided students with a broader range of courses and flexibility than each school could offer alone. The three Heads of Sixth Form work closely together to ensure the best options for our students. If a student decides to study at Gumley or Gunnersbury, they can travel there at the change of lessons (which only occur during lunchtimes).

It should be noted that there will be limited places for students at Gumley and Gunnersbury, depending on the demand for subjects at those schools from their own students. In addition, some subjects are taught from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that students will definitely have a place with our Consortium partners.

Although the consortium links offer options for students, it is still best to be educated at one site. There is far less disruption during the course of the week and it is easier to communicate with staff members.



## ***Academic Work***

Every student in the Sixth Form is seeking to improve their academic qualifications. We aim to offer a challenging and varied curriculum that allows students to achieve their potential.

Whilst we recognise the importance of allowing students opportunities to be responsible for an appropriate proportion of their own time, we ensure that students do not fall behind with their work. All Year 12 students have supervised private study time in specially designed areas. The Learning Resources Centre is also available to Sixth Form students.

St. Mark's Sixth Form values rigorous target-setting. Twice a year parents are informed about how students are performing against those grades.

We seek to involve parents in supporting their child's work and welcome contact from parents. We believe that partnership between parent and school extends into the Sixth Form and we keep parents informed through IPMs, reports and one scheduled Parents' Evening. Parents are informed regarding absences and punctuality problems if these arise.

General R.E, Faith in Action and General Studies must be attended.

Sixth Formers are expected to help with a range of school activities, such as Parents' Evenings, Prize Giving and Open Evenings.

Daily registration is compulsory. Sixth Form students are expected to be punctual at all registrations. Parents must telephone the school absence line in the event of absence and on the first day of return from an absence a letter must be presented to the Form Tutor.

Sixth Form 'Business Dress' is compulsory. Consortium students who attend part-time are expected to conform to this rule.

Students will be expected to spend at least 3 hours every evening in study. All students will be expected to use their private study time constructively.

Commitment to employment outside school must take second place to academic needs. Students should not be in paid employment for more than 4 hours a week. We advise against any part time employment. It is assumed that on joining the Sixth Form you will be aware of, and adhere to, these conditions.

## ***DRESS CODE***

We see our Sixth Formers as role models to the rest of the school and expect the highest standards of conduct and appearance. Our dress code is centred around an ethos of equality, professionalism and high standards.

With this in mind we seek to provide a practical and clear dress code which creates a positive ethos for the Sixth Form Community, which sets an example for our younger students.

The Sixth Form Team will make the final decision on appropriateness of clothing. Students who are not dressed appropriately will risk confiscations of violating items, and may be required to borrow a more appropriate item from the Sixth Form wardrobe.

### **ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR:**

- a dark coloured blazer.
- a clean white collared shirt with 6th form ties **or** a white blouse. A school tie is required to be worn with a collared shirt but not with a blouse.
- dark trousers **or** a knee length fabric skirt of a non-lycra material. If skirts are chosen to be worn they must be accompanied with black tights. Both **must** be worn with a blazer.
- black leather close-toed shoes.
- a (optional) dark coloured v-neck jumper worn under, but not instead of, the blazer.

Please note that the following items are NOT to be worn:

- denim
- hoodies or sweatshirts
- sportswear of any form
- trainers or sports shoes

Any coats worn should be **one colour** avoiding patterned bright designs and minimal branding. They are to be worn in addition to, but not instead of, a blazer.

## **JEWELLERY AND MAKEUP:**

Students have the choice to wear makeup and/or jewellery to school so long as a professional looking image is maintained. This means:

- discreet and natural looking facial makeup with muted colours and no exaggerated designs.
- nails painted a single, muted colour with no designs or extensions.
- no more than a single stud earring or small hoop in the **lobe** of each ear.
- no further facial piercings.
- one ring per hand maximum with no large appendages.

Student hair must be neat and professional. This means:

- no patterns shaved into hair or eyebrows.
- no extreme unnatural colours.
- moderated use of any product.
- hair no shorter than 'a number 2'.