



# St Joseph's Catholic High School

## Sixth Form Prospectus *September 2024 Entry*

*"Staff take the personal development of pupils seriously. They are committed to ensuring that pupils are fully prepared well for the future" (Ofsted, 2022)*

# Contents

- Mission Statement [page 3](#)
- Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form [page 4](#)
- Student Leadership Team [page 5](#)
- Top Student Destinations [page 7](#)
- The Sixth Form Curriculum [page 8](#)
- How to Select your Courses [page 9](#)
- Pastoral and Academic Support [page 12](#)
- The Wider Curriculum #DREAMBig [page 13](#)
- SEND Support [page 15](#)
- Choosing the Right Courses [page 16](#)
- Advised Combinations of Subjects [page 20](#)
- Popular Career Areas [page 24](#)
- Sixth Form Entry Requirements [page 28](#)
- Subject List [page 29](#)
- Application Timeline [page 31](#)

# We Don't Select Success, We Unlock It



At St Joseph's we ensure all children experience the love of Christ through the presence of each other, the staff, our parents and the Church. St. Joseph's Catholic High School is a voluntary aided co-educational school for 11-18 year olds in the Diocese of Northampton. It serves the Catholic community of Slough and the surrounding area. Our curriculum is rich, varied and includes all of the carefully selected Attributes, Skills and Knowledge essential so that your students shape society for the better.

# St Joseph's Sixth Form Welcomes You

I am delighted that you are considering joining the St Joseph's Sixth Form and hope this prospectus will help you to make a well-informed decision. We welcome back our own students and extend a warm welcome to those students who are joining us from other schools.

St Joseph's Sixth Form is a vibrant and successful community that prides itself on an inclusive and positive approach to high quality, holistic education and personal development. Our aim is to ensure that every student leaves us with the very best of preparation and options for the next stage in their lives through a relentless focus on excellent teaching and learning, a rich and refined curriculum and a strong sense of community.

We are justifiably proud of our examination results, no less down to the excellent work ethic showcased by our diligent, driven students and deeply committed staff. High quality teaching and learning is at the centre of everything that we do.

We expect our sixth formers to be role models for the younger students within our community. There is a great need and much scope for you to take on responsibilities within the school. Your views and involvement will be greatly appreciated as we continue to provide the very best of preparation for your journey ahead through excellent teaching and learning, a rich and refined curriculum and a strong sense of community.

Whether you are an existing St Joseph's student or are thinking of joining us from elsewhere, please read carefully what we have to offer. The decisions you make now are highly important

– Our teachers, tutors and the Sixth Form team are here to help you make the right ones. I wish you all the best for your GCSE examinations and would love to see you join our Sixth Form.



Mr R Dann – Sixth Form Lead

[r.dann@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:r.dann@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

# Student Leadership Team

“St Joseph’s is a community which derives on the basis of principle, integrity and Christian values. The relationship between staff and students provides the extensive motivation to achieve good results and for students to reach their maximum potentials. The school motto of ‘unlocking belief in all’, encapsulates what St Joseph’s reflects - the nature of developing students to have the skills to achieve their goals and dreams no matter their background and circumstances. This makes our school an assertive and encouraging learning hub for students to feel free to express views and ask educational questions, which ultimately strengthens students' academic abilities. At St Joseph’s, academic success is valued, but also are extra-curricular activities; allowing students to diversify their talents and attempt new challenges. Overall, St Joseph’s as a community is a welcoming place that enriches students with quality skills and values, which can be utilised in the present and in the future.”



## **Chiadikaobi Emekwuo: Head Boy**

“Being a student at St Joseph’s Catholic High School has been an experience like no other. St Joseph’s is a school that instils faith and belief into all their students and the teachers are a huge part of this. This school offers various opportunities for students to become their best selves. This allows students to unlock their true potential, reflecting our schools mission statement. Our school believes that we can achieve anything we want to as long as we put our mind to it. This is visible through students both past and present. From the moment you walk through the gates, you are invited into a welcoming environment that makes you feel at home. Being at St Josephs, you gain new experiences which are once in a lifetime opportunities. We are taught to be together as a family and we are united by our faith. You will not regret coming here!”

## **Nichole Osei-Agyarko: Head Girl**

# *We are Learned and Wise*

We achieve excellent results, which has sent our students to the very best universities across the UK, including Cambridge and a host of Russell Group entries.

Every year, more and more of our students attend universities in the top 30%.

# Top Student Destinations

Medicine, Pharmacy, Biomedical Research, Mechanical Engineering, Commercial Pilot Training, Law, Acting, Armed Forces, Emergency Service, Education, Clinical Psychology, Actuary, Finance, Dentistry, Accountancy, Project Management, Quantity Surveying, Sports Therapy, Hotel Management, Marketing, Sales, Archiving, HR, Occupational Therapy, Radiography, Environmental Science, Automotive Engineering and many more.

Cambridge, Deloitte, KPMG, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Bath, Exeter, Kings College, Southampton, Hewlett Packard, Lenovo, Brunel, Loughborough, Leeds, Nottingham, Sheffield, Birmingham City, Coventry, UWE, Anglia Ruskin, UEA, De Montfort, Bournemouth, Leeds Trinity, CCS Media, O2, Sega, Sky, The University of Michigan, Solent, Brighton, Northampton, Newcastle, Kingston, Chichester and many more

*More of our students go to university nationally, and in the Borough, even though we are a non-selective school.*

# The Sixth Form Curriculum

## Level 3 Courses

A Level and BTEC are Level 3 qualifications that build upon the Level 2 qualifications studied at GCSE. With 29 courses on offer, the Sixth Form provides an unmatched level of choice for students to construct a programme of study that suits their personal needs.

### A Level

GCE A Levels are a two-year, Level 3 academic qualification. Students will sit exams at the end of their second year of study. Most A Levels are purely linear exams at the end of the course, but some have a coursework element. It is assumed that a great deal of the A Level content is through extended study and independent learning, much like study in a higher education setting.

### BTEC National Extended Certificate

The BTEC that we offer is an applied Level 3 qualification, equivalent to one A Level. It is a vocational qualification encompassing a more practical approach to your studies. Two years of study must be completed to obtain accreditation. BTEC is as challenging as an A Level and is equivalent in terms of UCAS points. The BTEC qualifications are assessed through a mixture of exam, coursework and/or controlled assessment.

## The Extended Project (EPQ)

Recommended by leading employers and universities we are privileged to deliver The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to all our Sixth Form students. It is an 18-month (Level 3) study programme that provides an opportunity for you to pursue your own academic interests in a spiritual topic. You will undertake independent research and hone your dissertation writing skills, referencing and the opportunity to gain (up to) 24 UCAS points for your university applications. You will develop a range of independent research and presentation skills, important for university study and the World of Work.

*N.B. The EPQ is a **compulsory** part of our Sixth Form curriculum (except for those who study Philosophy & Ethics).*

## Core Mathematics




Core Maths is one-year Level 3 qualification, equivalent to an AS Level. It explores the application of Mathematical skills to a variety of industry-based contexts. It weaves together topics at GCSE level to other areas within A Level study such as Psychology and Economics.



# How to Select your Courses

We offer three types of Level 3 course at St Joseph's; the A-Level, the BTEC and the Level 3 Certificate & Diploma. Students will be offered guidance by staff, on the subjects that best fit their personal career goals. It is important to note that some degree pathways (e.g. medicine) have a specific A Level requirement (see page 18 for further guidance). However, other university courses will accept a mixture of A Levels and BTECs. Students will select three Level 3 subjects at the start of Year 12 along with the Extended Project. Qualifying students may also opt for Core Mathematics and the Extended Industry Placement.

*The table below illustrates the process of choosing the subjects that make up your personalised study programme.*

<b>Step 1: A-Level /BTEC</b>	<b>Step 2: You will also take</b>	<b>Step 3: You may also choose</b>
 <p>Choose three subjects, which can be a combination of A Levels and/or BTECs / Diploma.</p> <p>You must meet the individual entry requirements for your chosen courses.</p>	 <p>The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)</p> <p>Year 12 Work Experience Programme</p> <p>PSHE</p> <p>The Reading Programme</p>	 <p>Core Mathematics</p> <p>The Long-Term Industry Placement</p>

# The Sixth Form Curriculum

## The Long-Term Industry Placement

65% of employers state that work experience is either critical or significant in making a decision to take on a new recruit. Such is the importance of work experience. St Joseph's have teamed up with local company 'Learning to Work' to offer extended 12-week industry placements with local businesses that are personalised to the career goals of the student. The student will develop key skills, qualities and will gain experience that will ensure their competitiveness in the modern local and national job market. This will be part of the student's study programme and one day a week will be dedicated to the placement. Students will complete a log to reflect on the experience to ensure a strong academic link.



## OSCAR

The Online System for Completing Applications & References (OSCAR)) is our online platform which has been designed with outstanding university applications in mind. The programme used by OSCAR will support students to complete the new-style UCAS requirements as of 2024. It also provides a fully comprehensive course of information and guidance for application to university and the World of Work.

## Key Facts

A higher percentage of the Berkshire population have degrees, two or more A Levels and five or more GCSEs at Grade 9 – 4 compared nationally.

However, less of the Berkshire population have trade apprenticeships compared to the national figure.

# The Sixth Form Curriculum

## PSHE

The aim of our PSHE Programme is to enable students to develop holistically, support their transition to adult life and guide them from dependence to independence, by equipping students to improve themselves, the way they think and understand others by:

- Improving their health & wellbeing.
- Helping them understand how to build positive relationships.
- Equipping them with the knowledge and skills to live in the wider world (academic literacy, economic wellbeing, careers and the world of work).
- To develop their cognitive abilities to make rational judgements by examining cognitive biases, how to form an argument, fallacies and logic.

The course will be split into seven units:

- Metacognition
- Wellbeing for the Modern World
- Sex and Relationship Education
- Employability
- Post-18 Pathways
- Living the Wider World
- Financial Literacy

## The Reading Programme

According to research conducted by Clark and Douglas (2011) "*There is a strong causal link between reading for pleasure, reading ability and academic outcomes (more so than their socio-economic background).*" This highlights the critical importance that young people in education continue to read, widely and at an increasingly challenging level. This gives students an increased depth and breadth of vocabulary acquisition, a strong understand of general knowledge, other cultures and human emotion. For this reason, we have curated a programme of reading that Sixth Form students undertake for 35 minutes, as a group, each day.

## VESPA Study Skills

VESPA study skills is a bespoke course of metacognitive strategies and study skills (based on the VESPA A Level Mindset book) that will prepare our students for the significant increase in challenge in Sixth Form study. This will be completed during our form time.

# **Pastoral and Academic Support**

The Sixth Form is a friendly, thriving community within a pioneering school that values each individual. We have a highly expert pastoral team of 6th Form tutors to equip our students with key skills they need both in lesson and after St Joseph's. In addition, this team will fully support all students in applications they make for their time after us whether these be for university or the world of work.

## **Sixth Form Facilities**

As a 6th Form student, you have certain privileges that lower school students do not have. Sixth Form students have exclusive access to the Sixth Form Centre, equipped with network PCs and a study area. In addition, they have priority access to the Learning Resource Centre that has textbooks on all subjects as well as key texts recommended for wider reading by Russell Group Universities.

## **Tablets**

All students benefit from using an iPad and keyboard cover; both within lessons and at home. This provides ample opportunities for students to create digital content, share work with each other as well as get personalised feedback from teachers.

## **16-19 Bursary Fund**

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is offered to students who are deemed to have significant barriers to their learning. The fund is used to pay for educational resources and opportunities that students may not be otherwise able to afford, such as trips and textbooks.

For more information on application to the 16-19 Bursary Fund, please see our dedicated web page, here: <https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/sixth-form/about-us/16-19-bursary-fund/>

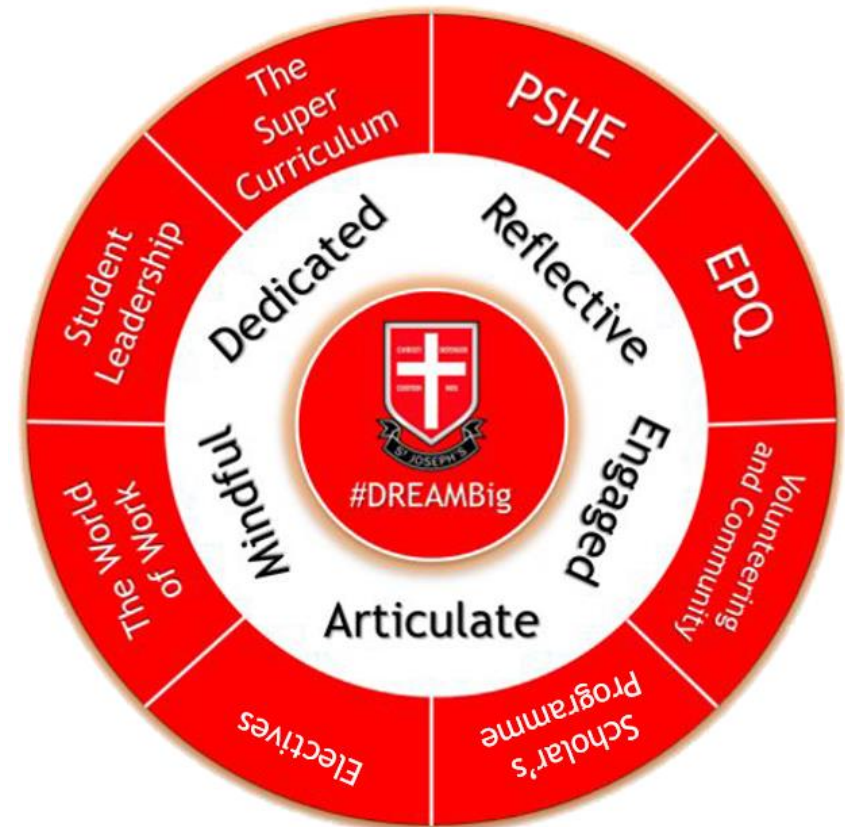
# #DREAMBig – the wider curriculum

#DREAMBig is the St Joseph's Sixth Form wider curriculum and is so called because it perfectly encapsulates everything that we are about. School is about so much more than grades and the subjects that you learn. It is about equipping you for the journey ahead. Our vision is to provide a well- rounded education that is balanced between academic excellence, mastery of skills and cultural capital. Our wider curriculum includes a complete package of enrichment, events and visits that we encourage students to take part in outside of lessons, as well as a relevant and personalised PHSE curriculum that will prepare students for life in modern Britain.

*#DREAMBig is encapsulated under eight key areas of Personal Development:*

- The Super Curriculum,
- PSHE,
- EPQ,
- Student Leadership,
- The World of Work,
- Electives,
- The Scholar's Programme
- Volunteering & the Community.

Our objective is to ensure our students leave us as Dedicated, Reflective, Engaged, Articulate and Mindful young adults with the best possible options for the journey ahead.



# ***We are Curious and Active***

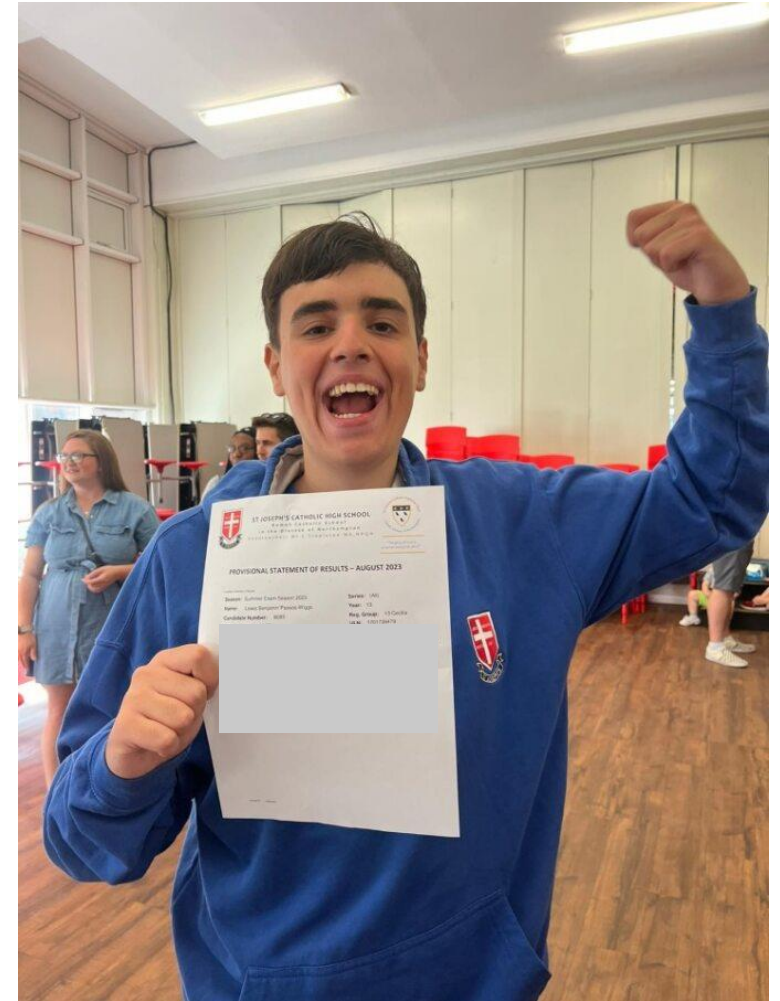


Our students regularly engage with the wider Curriculum taking part in prestigious initiatives such as the Sutton Trust Summer School programme, the Social Mobility Foundation's Aspiring Professionals Programme and Academic mentoring at Brasenose College, Oxford.

# SEND Support

St Joseph's mission is to 'Unlock Belief in All' and this doesn't stop at Year 12. We continue to provide the highest quality support for all our students with the vision of developing fully independent young people, who are ready to go out and change the world for the better. We continue to provide the following SEND support in the Sixth Form:

- Study support in the Link,
- Support for students with GCSE English and Maths classes,
- Coursework writing support for BTEC and A Level students,
- Students have access to a link mentor (LSA),
- Students continue to have access arrangements for their exams,
- Regular meetings with students and parents,
- A personalised Year 11-12 Transition process,
- Whilst we aim for our students to move to more independence, there is enhanced in class support available where necessary.



# Choosing the Right Courses

Already set on you're a Levels for two years? Or struggling to decide? Choosing your subjects can be a tough decision and one worth taking time to research. At St Joseph's, we suggest that you consider:

- **What you enjoy** as passion for the subject will drive you to work hard. It is what university admissions officers and employers alike are looking for in future candidates.
- **What you are good at** as you will be able to build on the momentum carried through from a solid foundation of study at GCSE.
- **What your goal is and how best to reach it** as there will be certain subjects and combinations of subjects that are requirements for further study, employment or apprenticeships.
- **How open you would like to keep your options.** If you are not sure on your end goal, then it is often best to choose subjects that leave options open (i.e. facilitating subjects).

Furthermore, 'Which? University' suggests six steps that will help you make a smart decision about which subjects to take at Sixth Form level:

## **1. Taking certain A Level subjects will open up more university course options**

Your teachers or careers adviser may talk to you about facilitating subjects; but what are they exactly? Facilitating subjects are a handful of A Level subjects commonly asked for in universities' entry requirements, regardless of the course you're applying to, this makes them a good choice to keep your degree options open.

The facilitating subjects are:

- Biology, Chemistry & Physics
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern and Classical Languages



If you don't know what you'll want to study at university, it can pay off later to take one or two of these. Be aware, some universities openly discourage students from taking certain combinations of A Level subjects, particularly when subjects are very similar like Business Studies and Economics – something to bear in mind when you're making A Level choices. As you'll see below, some degree subjects or specific universities will ask for certain A Level subjects in their entry requirements.

## **2. A Levels are a lot tougher than GCSEs**

- The reason you take a particular subject at A Level will come down to one (or more) of these three scenarios (usually):
- you need it to pursue a particular career
- it's a subject you enjoy and are good at
- it's a subject you've not studied before but you think will suit you

Either way, be prepared for a big jump in the level of difficulty when you transition from GCSE to A Level (or any other Advanced level qualification for that matter). You'll also see differences in the way you're taught and in what is expected of you.

## **3. Certain university courses will look for specific A Levels**

This is really important if you have a particular degree in mind. You won't be able to apply to some degree courses without having taken some specific A Levels (and scored the right grades in them too, of course). Below are a few examples to give you an idea of what to expect (some are no-brainers):

- Pharmacy must have: Chemistry, plus at least one from Biology, Maths and Physics
- English must have: usually English Literature, maybe English Literature and Language or English Language
- Geology / Earth Sciences must have: at least two from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- Economics sometimes need: Maths, very rarely do you need Economics....

## **4. Some courses and universities have lists of subjects they don't accept**

Particular courses – take, for instance, an architecture course at the University of Bath – will view certain A Levels as less effective preparation for university studies than others. Similarly, some universities – such as the University of Sheffield – actually list which A Level subjects they prefer. Others, like the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), have 'non-preferred' subject lists. If your subject choices don't match up, you shouldn't necessarily discount the course, or be put off from taking a creative or vocational A Level subject you're really interested in. Just make sure you're satisfying any entry requirements with the other A Level subjects you're taking. Taking a subject such as History of Art, Classical Civilisation, Economics, Geology, Government and Politics, Law, Media Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies and Sociology in conjunction with at least one (ideally two) of the facilitating subjects listed above shouldn't be an issue, if you get the grades.

## 5. Know myth from reality

Don't take everything you hear at face value or based on what a friend/older sibling etc. says – the reality might be quite different. It's always worth investigating things yourself so you get the full picture. While entry requirements are often a minimum set of criteria you have to meet, a university may view you differently from another candidate based on your personal statement or your portfolio if your predicted grades just miss the mark. Don't rely on preconceived assumptions or what you hear through someone else from their experience. Double-check your facts with the university or department themselves.



## 6. Many unis and courses will consider you whatever you choose

Question: Accountancy, anthropology, archaeology, banking, business studies, classical civilisations, hospitality, information science, law, management, marketing, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, public relations, religious studies/theology, retail management, social work, sociology, surveying, television, travel and tourism...

What do these subjects have in common? Answer: They will all consider a very wide range of A Level choices and do not normally have essential subject requirements! So don't get too bogged down in essential A Levels you have to take.

(Accessed 21.10.19 - <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices>)





# ***We are Attentive and Discerning***

It is the aspiration that we foster in our students that leads to 100% of St Joseph's pupils attending their first or second choice university.

# Advised combinations of subjects at our sixth form

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>Why?</b>	<b>Leads to degrees in (click link below):</b>
<p>Computer Science, Physics, Maths or Chemistry</p>	<p>Computer Science is highly valued among universities, as technology is fast developing in this day and age.</p> <p>Pairing Computer Science with Maths and Physics shows universities what a logical thinking student you are. Universities love academic students, especially those with a science A Level.</p> <p>Universities like students that take sciences – they’re hard but can also show that you’ve got a good aptitude for logic. This is great, as university needs students that can handle the heavy workload and difficult content.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Electronic and electrical engineering</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mechanical engineering</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mathematics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Computer games design and programming</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Software engineering</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Physics</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Information systems</a></li> </ul>
<p>History, Economics , Politics</p>	<p>History, Economics, and Politics – what a great trio of A Levels to take. They are all closely related and can lead to some interesting (but still very difficult) university courses.</p>	<p>Universities like seeing these three A Levels together, as the jobs they lead to are in high demand. Most universities also specialise in these sorts of courses, and so are always on the lookout for students with these A Levels.</p>

<p>Business Studies, Economics, Maths</p>	<p>Business Studies and Economics are both great A Levels to take to improve your knowledge of the working world. Maths is a facilitating subject and will make it easier for you to get into those top universities.</p> <p>These three A Levels combine literacy skills and maths skills, and both are highly valued by universities. Universities like to see students with a broad range of talents and subjects, and that's what this combination will give you.</p>	<p>This combination of A Levels can be great for those of you who want to go into Accounting, Economics, or any other related university course.</p> <p>Students that take these A Levels generally go on to study some form of Economics or Business-related degree. If you take a look at this study by the Telegraph, you'll see that Economics is actually the highest paying degree.</p>
<p>English Literature, History, Philosophy</p>	<p>These three A Levels require a lot of extended writing and retention of knowledge. Universities are starting more and more to look for students with extended writing skills. Extended writing is a huge part of university life, as most of the work you do is essays and evaluations. These three A Levels will prepare you for that, and therefore make it easier to be accepted into university.</p>	<p>One of the reasons these A Levels work so well together is because they all require you to be able to form a balanced argument. This skill will carry you far in life, and not just for university.</p>
<p>Business Studies, Economics, Law</p>	<p>This combination works especially well together, as they all have certain topics that tie in with each other. Accounting and Business Studies go especially well together, and Law is a great accompanying subject.</p>	<p>Business Studies, Economics and Law are in high demand from universities. They love to see students with these A Levels, because they lead to the highest paying jobs (and also the best results).</p>
<p>Spanish or French and English Language (Or Literature)</p>	<p>This combination of A Levels is all about language skills. Just like the previous set of A Levels, it's quite a focused group, and you'll need to show you can apply yourself to other things too (on your CV).</p>	<p>Universities are looking out for students with these A Levels, as translators are in high demand. With any of these languages, you could go into translating for important people, or even be part of the development of language technology.</p>
<p>Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology</p>	<p>These three A Levels are part of the 'Social Sciences' group. They go well together because they're all in the same group, and they all cover similar ideas and concepts.</p> <p>Taking these three A Levels together will make each one easier, as content starts to tie in between them. Not only that, but universities will be impressed if you get good results, too.</p>	<p>Students that take these A Levels usually get onto similar university courses, like Philosophy or Sociology. Universities like these A Levels because they lead to jobs in high demand – usually social jobs that may never be replaced by automation.</p>

<p>Law, Politics, Business Studies</p>	<p>This combination of A Levels sounds like what you'd take at a business school, and you'd be right for thinking so. But, you can take them at college – why are universities so impressed by these A Levels?</p> <p>It takes a lot of hard work to succeed in these A Levels. The content is not always very engaging, and it takes a strong-willed student to get through it, something that universities love.</p>	<p>These A Levels lead to the highest paying degrees (and jobs). Universities look for students with these A Levels, as it gives them the highest chance of good results.</p>
<p>Chemistry, Biology, Maths</p>	<p>These subjects all sound fairly normal, and you take all of them in secondary school. They all go very well together however, and universities love to see this combination of A Levels in a student.</p> <p>Chemistry and Biology go well together because they're both sciences and have links between their content. Maths is there to show universities that you can take your understanding to the next level, and that you're ready to move on to the level of university.</p>	<p>All three of these A Levels are facilitating subjects. These A Levels are the ones universities specifically look for when considering students, and so you'll find it easier to get in if you have them.</p>
<p>Music Technology and any Science</p>	<p>There are plenty of music universities you can attend, and a music A Level will help you get there. Music is a talent and creative subject that universities are impressed by, as it shows you have creativity and initiative. You could also take a Social Science, too – like Psychology or Sociology.</p>	<p>Combining a science with Music/Music Technology broadens your skill set, which is something universities also like to see. If you've got both a creative subject and an academic subject like science, you're going to be accepted into university much faster.</p>
<p><u>Facilitating subjects:</u></p> <p>English literature History Modern languages Maths Physics Biology Chemistry Geography</p>	<p>Any combination of these subjects are known as 'facilitating subjects'. The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines them as subjects that universities require students to have in order to be accepted on to <b>many</b> degree courses.</p>	<p>Essentially, these are the subjects that help you keep the most options open when choosing university degrees.</p>

*"Staff take the personal development of pupils seriously. They are committed to ensuring that pupils are fully prepared well for the future" (Ofsted, 2022)*

**We are Loving  
and  
Compassionate**



# Popular career areas and their subject requirements

<i>Career</i>	<i>Typical subject requirements</i>
Architecture	Some Architecture courses want an arts and science mix. Many also ask for an Art and Design portfolio to demonstrate artistic skills so an Art or Design and Technology A Level may be critical.
Biology	Biology and another science or maths, especially Chemistry.
Business, Accounting, Management and/or Finance	No essential A Level subjects, though Maths is useful and you will need a good Maths result at GCSE. <b>Business Studies or Economics</b> A Levels are helpful. Top Universities <b>do not like you to do both</b> . The same is true for degrees like Accounting, Management etc.
Chemistry	Chemistry and usually another science and/or maths.
Computing	No essential subjects for most courses. Maths A Level is essential for a few universities and useful for all.
Dentistry	Chemistry and one or two other sciences.
Engineering	Maths and Physics (or Maths and Chemistry for chemical engineering).
Law	No specific subjects are required although subjects involving essay writing can be helpful.
Medicine	Chemistry, Biology and either Maths or Physics will keep your options open for all medical schools. The majority of medical schools require A Level chemistry, while some specify Biology at A Level. (For those without science subjects at A Level or equivalent, it is possible to undertake an additional pre-medical year at some universities. The pre-medical year is a preliminary course in Chemistry, Physics and Biology).
Midwifery, Nursing & other medical careers	Subject combination similar to that for medicine. Work experience in medically-related areas and performance in interview essential.



Pharmacology	Chemistry plus two other sciences including maths (e.g. Chemistry, Biology, Maths).
Psychology	No essential subjects (a mix of Arts and Science subjects is good and Psychology is helpful.) You will need GCSE Maths.
Teaching	Most A Levels count. You need at least one from Art, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, Drama (Theatre Studies), English, French, Geography, German, History, ICT, Italian, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Religious Studies (Theology) or Spanish.
Veterinary science	Chemistry and one or two other sciences.

## **What NOT to consider when choosing your Sixth Form subjects:**

According to a 'Which? University' survey, if students could make their subject choices again, 40% of them would give more consideration to A Levels that would help them apply to university. This is sometimes due to lack of information but here are some methods to avoid, when choosing your A Levels:

### **1. Don't copy your friends**

Choosing your A Levels is one of the first significant decisions in your life where you have a major say – enjoy this taste of responsibility! Don't just take a subject so you'll be in a class with your friends, nor be turned off by one because of what others think of it.

### **2. Don't just think about the 'now'**

It's worth keeping the future in mind when making your A Level choices – what subjects or careers might you want to pursue? Remember, you need certain A Levels for some degree courses, while some universities have preferred subjects.

### **3. Don't forget, your current subjects aren't the only ones**

There are a number of refreshing A Level subjects which aren't commonly available at GCSE, such as Psychology and Law. Shake things up a bit after a decade of studying the same subjects!

#### 4. Don't just take it for the teacher

We all have that one teacher we love regardless of whether we're actually any good at their subject. Don't be blinded by your adoration for them and take their subject just because. Would you feel as engaged if someone else was teaching the same subject?

(Accessed 21.10.19 - <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/how-not-to-choose-your-a-levels>)

## What is your end goal? - Russell Group Informed Choices:

It is often worth looking at your desired goal; be it a specific career, degree, course, sector area of employment, that is attractive to you to inform your Sixth Form study choices. You can then look back at the journey to get there and what it takes to study 'x'.

The Russell Group Informed Choices website allows you to read about the types of degree you are interested in to see which subjects may be good preparation at Sixth Form or College.

By clicking 'Now choose your subjects' at the bottom of the web page you can experiment with different combinations, click/type the following link for more information:  
<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/which-degree>



*St Joseph's offers a relentless focus on what matters – preparing our students for the journey ahead.*

# We are Eloquent and Truthful

The carefully designed curriculum includes a wide range of academic courses that are well matched to students' abilities and aptitude.

# Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Our aim is to ensure that you are on a study programme that best supports your future career goals and learning aims. This will ensure the greatest success in your Sixth Form study. For guidance on which subjects to choose, please refer to chapter on '**Choosing the right courses at St Joseph's Sixth Form**' on page 15 of this prospectus.

Our Sixth Form minimum entry requirement is five Grade 4s **including** English and Maths. We provide an Access to Level 3 Course for those students who do not pass English and Maths GCSE.

Once you have reached the minimum requirement, each subject has its own entry requirement (see the left-hand column). There may also be an additional requirement regarding English and Maths (see the middle column). All courses run on the basis of popularity and space within that individual subject.

\*References to 'English GCSE' are English Language GCSE and NOT English Literature GCSE.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Subject requirement</b>	<b>Options</b>
<b>Access to Level 3 Course</b> – <i>for those who wish to pursue sixth form study but have not yet passed English and Maths at GCSE.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Level 2 Travel &amp; Tourism</li> <li>✓ Extended Project Qualification</li> <li>✓ Long Term Industry Placement</li> <li>✓ Re-Take Maths and/or English</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ BTEC Vocational Business</li> <li>✓ BTEC Travel &amp; tourism</li> <li>✓ BTEC Health &amp; Social care</li> <li>✓ BTEC Music Performance</li> <li>✓ BTEC Performing Arts</li> <li>✓ BTEC Sports Science</li> </ul>	<b>Grade 4 in English and Maths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ BTEC Music Performance (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE Music</i>)</li> <li>✓ BTEC Performing Arts (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE Drama</i>)</li> <li>✓ BTEC Sports Studies (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE PE</i>)</li> </ul>

<b>Subject (all A-Levels require a minimum of Grade 4 in English Language)</b>	<b>Subject requirement</b>	<b>Additional Requirement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Art, Craft &amp; Design</li> <li>✓ Media studies ^</li> <li>✓ Business Studies*</li> <li>✓ Product Design*</li> <li>✓ Geography</li> <li>✓ History</li> <li>✓ Law ^</li> <li>✓ Philosophy &amp; Ethics ^</li> <li>✓ Sociology ^</li> <li>✓ Core Maths</li> <li>✓ Psychology ∂^</li> </ul>	Grade 5	Grade 5 in English Language ^ Grade 5 in Maths* Grade 5 in either Maths or Science ∂
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Modern Foreign Languages</li> <li>✓ English Literature †</li> <li>✓ English Language †</li> <li>✓ Computer Science ∂</li> <li>✓ Economics ∂</li> </ul>	Grade 6	Grade 5 in English Language ^ Grade 6 in Maths ∂ Grade 6 in English Language†
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Maths</li> <li>✓ Chemistry Ω</li> <li>✓ Biology Ω</li> <li>✓ Physics Ω</li> </ul>	Grade 7 (if Separate Science)	Double Sciences – Grade 7-7 overall. A Grade 6-6 can be accepted if the A Level they wish to take scored a Grade 7 in the breakdown. Grade 6 in Maths Ω

Our advice is to have a conversation with your child's subject teacher as to their suitability to the demands of the course. The good news is that there is plenty of time to ensure the best outcome is achieved by your son or daughter.

We have a career's guidance counsellor who holds 1:1 sessions with our students. These sessions will focus on the best pathway for your child and how to achieve it. If you are interested, speak to your Head of Year.

***See the separate Subject booklet for specific information and guidance.***

## **Subject Information**

- ✓ Art, Craft & Design
- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Business Studies
  - ✓ (A Level and BTec)
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Computer Science
- ✓ Core Mathematics
- ✓ **Criminology (Diploma)**
- ✓ D&T: Product Design
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ English Language
- ✓ English Literature
- ✓ Extended Project Qualification
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Health & Social Care (BTec)
- ✓ History
- ✓ Modern Foreign Languages
  - ✓ (French or Spanish)
- ✓ Law
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Further Mathematics
- ✓ Media Studies
- ✓ Music Performance (BTec)
- ✓ Performing Arts (BTec)
- ✓ Philosophy and Ethics
- ✓ Physics
- ✓ Psychology
- ✓ Sociology
- ✓ Sports Studies (BTec)
- ✓ Travel and Tourism (BTec)

***\*Running of courses are subject to enough students signing up to study it.***

## Autumn Term

- Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.
- Deadline for Taster Day Sign Up – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023.
- Sixth Form Taster Day – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

## Spring Term

- Post-16 Careers Meetings – January 2024 – by appointment from the SLT.
- **Application opens.**
- Deadline for Sixth Form Application (online) – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Enrolment Information and Guidance - letters posted home by the 28<sup>th</sup> March.

## August

- GCSE Results Day Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.
- Year 12 Enrolment – pupils enroll for subjects.
- Four-week induction period to ensure students are on the correct study programme.



St. Joseph's Catholic High School  
Shaggy Calf Lane  
Slough SL2 5HW

(01753 524713)

[www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)