



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Sixth Form Prospectus Entry September 2022

"St Joseph's is an Outstanding School" Ofsted Sec.48 2018

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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.

Best wishes,

Mr Graeme Clark - Head of Sixth Form

g.clark@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk



Student Leadership Team

I have been a part of St Joseph's for 7 years and it has been a rewarding experience for me. Throughout my journey, I have become a more confident individual, capable of tackling new challenges that each day brings which has allowed me to achieve my potential and expand my horizons. St Joseph's is a school which motivates all students, allowing them to grow and become accomplished in all aspects of their academics. They also help to support students with personal and emotional needs; the teachers are incredibly supportive of every individual, dedicating extra time to people who may need support or just a chat in general. This sixth form also unlocks everyone's pathway to success. Some students may decide to go on and do an apprenticeship, while others look forward to go on to university to take part in whatever course they choose. This allows all students to become independent and hopeful that they can achieve their goals. Although teachers are always ready to help in sixth form especially outside of class lessons, they also allow students to be able to learn by themselves by supporting them to be independent. One of my favourite things about sixth form, is that I am able to interact and learn from other students as well as being able to have engaging, fun and learning moments in lessons. I believe that sixth form is an option that every child should be willing to take advantage of; not only does it provide its own close environment but it also builds a clear view of every student future. As Dalai Lama once said, "When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts".



Stephanie Redmond - Year 13 - Head Girl

Being a student at St Joseph's Catholic High School is a privilege due to the various opportunities that are available and we are open to by attending this school. The members of staff here at St Joseph's work tirelessly and around the clock to ensure students end up with outstanding grades, this can be demonstrated especially during the hard time of COVID-19 and the grades that students have left with. Subsequently, reflecting how the teachers at St Joseph's are diligent in making each lesson engaging for every student, allowing them to enjoy lessons rather and reach their full potential. This leads student to unlock their true potential and reflects our schools mission statement. Each teacher giving tailored feedback after each piece of work made certain that students remained focussed and motivated to take the necessary steps needed to attain top results. As a collective, St Joseph's urge that each student is to express themselves freely, e.g. about their faith, without feeling restricted, that students are comfortable doing since a gratifying and welcoming environment St Joseph's never fails to create. Along your journey at St Joseph's, you'll learn many lessons, gain new experiences and develop traits which will not last a short time but a lifetime. I cannot recommend our school community enough!



Karan Ghotra - Year 13 - Head Boy

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.

Our results put us in the top 10% of Sixth Forms in the country.

Top Student Destinations

Medicine	Cambridge University*
Medicine	Kings College London*
Law	Bristol University*
Economics	Birmingham University*
Politics & Philosophy	Durham University*
Psychology	Leeds University*
Medicine	Plymouth University
Computer Science	Exeter University*
International Relations with Politics	Cardiff University*
Engineering, Biomedical Science	Bath University
Pharmacy	Kings College London*

*Russell Group University



St Joseph's University Destinations:

- ✓ 84% of our students went to university in 2021.
- ✓ 16% of our students went to Russell Groups universities (6% in 2019).
This has increased each year for the last six years.
- ✓ 34% of our students went to universities in the top third of UK universities by league table score (27% in 2019).

The Sixth Form Curriculum

Level 3 Subjects

A-Level and BTEC are Level 3 qualifications that build upon the Level 2 qualifications studied at GCSE. With 28 courses on offer, the Sixth Form provides a 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. Our students will no longer sit AS levels at the end of Year 12. 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

The BTEC National Extended Certificate (360) is an applied Level 3 qualification that we offer. 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 A-Level student and equivalent in terms of UCAS points. The BTEC qualifications are assessed through a mixture of exam, coursework and/or controlled assessment.

EPQ

Recommended by leading employers and universities we are privileged to deliver **The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** to all of 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, gaining additional (up to) **24 UCAS points** for your university applications and developing a range of independent research and presentation skills important for university study and the World of Work.

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

Core Maths

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.

Course Selection

We offer two types of Level 3 course at St Joseph's; the A-Level and the BTEC. 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). Other university courses may not, and will accept mixture of A-Levels and BTEC. 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 Maths, the Extended Industry Placement and a fourth A-Level.

Students studying Maths and Science subjects must study a fourth subject.

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

Step 1: A-Level/BTEC	Step 2: Plus you must choose	Step 3: You may also choose
Choose three subjects, which can be combination of A-Level and/or BTEC study Students studying Maths and Science <i>must take 4 subjects.</i>	The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) 5 days of Work Experience	Core Maths
		Long Term Industry Placement
		A fourth A-Level (for those with an excellent GCSE achievement profile)

Long Term Industry Placements

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 18 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.

Work Experience

Given the importance of work experience, every single student in St Joseph's Sixth Form must take part at least a five day placement (to take place after the exams in June). This can either be organised via **Learning to Work**, who will organise a placement linked to the students career goals or the student may organise their own placement.

Students will complete a log to reflect on the experience to ensure a strong academic link and development of skill and qualities.

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.

Top Universities Mentoring

Our Sixth Form has excellent links with top universities as well as links with Eton College. For our most aspiring students they are given personalised support in terms of careers advice, university applications advice as well as interview preparation.

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.

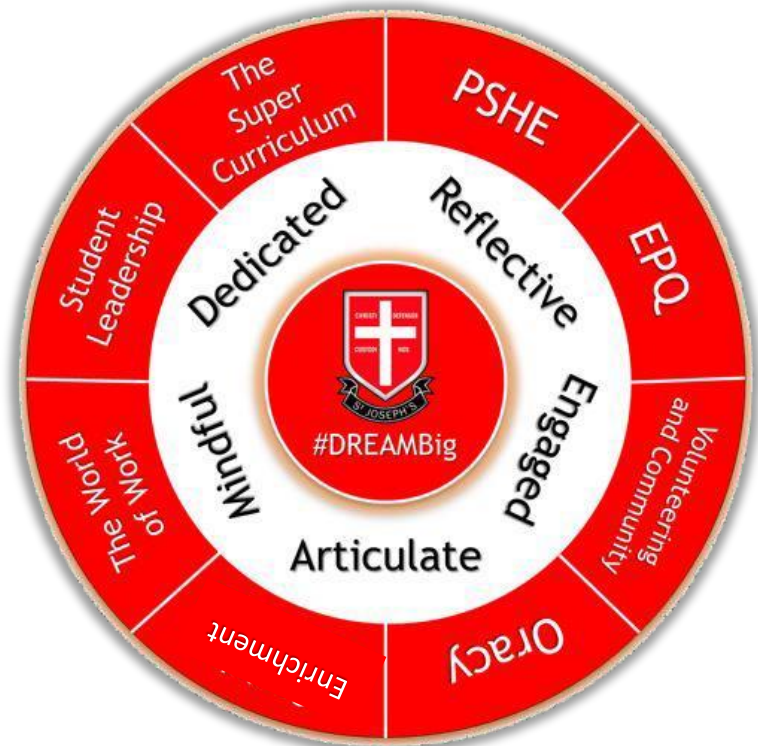
For more information and the official government guidelines for the 16-19 Bursary Fund you can visit the Department for Education website. www.education.gov.uk

#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 headings:

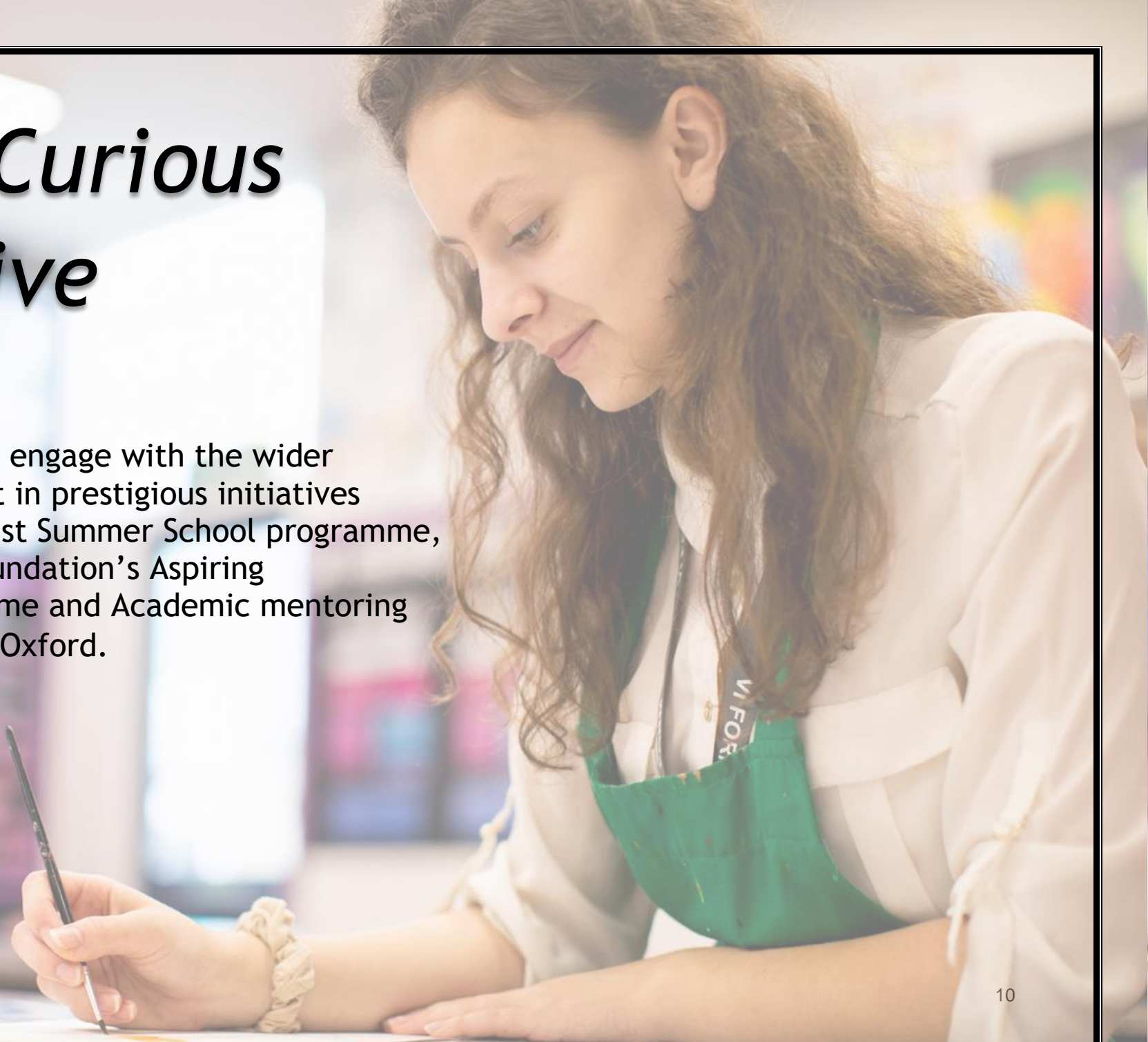
The Super Curriculum, PSHE, EPQ, Student Leadership, The World of Work, Enrichment, Oracy and Volunteering & the Community.

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 of 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 your 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
- Maths
- 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. And 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 unis 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 our students' aspiration that means that 100% of St Joseph's pupils attend their first or second choice university.

Advised combinations of subjects at our sixth form

<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Why?</i>	<i>Leads to degrees in:</i>
<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"> • Electronic and electrical engineering • Mechanical engineering • Mathematics • Computer games design and programming • Software engineering • Physics • Information systems
<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. And, 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 many degree courses.</p>	<p>Essentially, these are the subjects that help you keep the most options open when choosing university degrees.</p>

A young man and a young woman in school uniforms are standing in a hallway. The young man is on the left, wearing a grey suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red tie. He has a lanyard with a badge around his neck. The young woman is on the right, wearing a dark blue school jacket with a crest on the left chest, a white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background features a wall with several large, colorful abstract art panels in shades of blue, purple, and red. The text "We are Loving and Compassionate" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, italicized font.

*We are Loving
and Compassionate*

“St Joseph’s has vibrant and viable Sixth Form” Ofsted 2018

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. Business Studies or Economics A levels are helpful. Top Universities do not like you to do both . 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 a 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.



A young man in a dark suit and white shirt is speaking at a clear podium in a classroom. He is looking slightly to his right. The background shows a blurred classroom setting with other students seated at desks.

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 'How to choose your subjects at St Joseph's Sixth Form' on page 11 of this prospectus.

Our Sixth Form minimum entry requirement is **five grade 4s including English and Maths** (*although there are routes to support students who do not achieve a 4 in English and/or Maths*).

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.*

Subject	Subject requirement	Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BTEC Vocational Business ✓ BTEC Travel & tourism ✓ BTEC Health & Social care (<i>must have passed Level 2 BTEC Health and Social Care</i>). ✓ BTEC Music Performance (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE Music</i>) ✓ BTEC Performing Arts (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE Drama</i>) ✓ BTEC Sports Studies (<i>must have grade 4 in GCSE Biology</i>) ✓ Long Term Industry Placement 	Grade 3 in English and Maths	<div style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 2x BTEC, EPQ + re-sit English and Maths </div> <div style="background-color: #fce4d6; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 2x BTEC, EPQ + LTIP + re-sit English and Maths </div> <div style="background-color: #e2efda; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> 3x BTEC, EPQ + re-sit English </div> <div style="background-color: #e2efda; padding: 5px;"> 2x BTEC, EPQ + work experience + re-sit English </div>

Subject	Subject requirement	Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Art, Craft & Design ✓ Media studies 	Grade 4	Both require a Grade 4 in English Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Business Studies* ✓ Product Design* ✓ Geography ✓ History ✓ Law ^ ✓ Philosophy & Ethics ^ ✓ Sociology ^ ✓ Core Maths 	Grade 5	Grade 5 in English Language ^ Grade 5 in Maths*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Modern Foreign Languages ✓ Psychology ð^ ✓ English literature † ✓ English language † ✓ Computer science ð^ ✓ Economics ð 	Grade 6	Grade 5 in English Language ^ Grade 6 in Maths ð Grade 6 in English Language†
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maths ✓ Chemistry Ω ✓ Biology Ω ✓ Physics Ω 	Grade 7	Sciences - 6 overall if a 7 is achieved in the paper of that subject e.g. 6 overall but 7 in biology Grade 6 in Maths Ω
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Further Maths 	Grade 9	

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.

Subject Information

- Art, Craft & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies (A-Level and BTEC)
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Core Mathematics (1 year Level 3 course equivalent to an AS Level)
- D&T: Product Design
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Extended Project Qualification (1 year course)
- 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.*

Art, Craft & Design

Department: Art

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7201

Entry Requirements:
Grade 4 GCSE Art & Design.

Course Content:

Super curricular opportunities:

Year 12

Terms 1&2: Experimental Portfolio

Students are taught higher-ability artistic techniques and processes and are introduced to complex contemporary art theory. A portfolio of experimentation is developed.

Term 3 - Personal Investigation (60% of A Level)

Students create a portfolio of self-directed ideas investigating a theme of own students choosing followed by a final piece.

Tate Modern

Tate Britain

The Stanley Spencer Gallery

The Design Museum

The Royal Academy of Arts

The Victoria and Albert Museum

Year 13

Term 1 - Personal Investigation (60% of A Level)

Continuation of self-directed portfolio started in Term 3 of Year 12.

Term 2 - Externally Set Assignment + 15 hours Supervised Time (40% of A Level Students investigate and respond to a set brief, followed by 15 hours of supervised time.

With each component, students must provide evidence that they have explored critical and contextual artwork through a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional processes and media. Under the title of Art, Craft & Design, they have the opportunity to explore media in a variety of areas: textiles, photography, 3D design, graphics, fine art and digital media.

Career Prospects:

A course in Art & Design will teach you more than just how to properly manipulate materials and will prepare you to think critically and innovatively - skills that are highly valued outside of the creative industries as well. Although the potential careers are vast, there are many options in the creative industries, such as:

Fine artist, art therapist, fashion designer, animator, photographer, graphic designer, illustrator, gallery curator, architect, textile designer, interior designer, retail merchandising, gaming designer, advertising executive, teacher, and many more.

Style of Assessment:

Work is 90/10 practical/written. Students complete 2xA3 books of practical making, complimented with 1000-3000 continuous prose explaining their ideas and processes.

If I were to take this course I should read:

- Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists by Sharon Loudon
- Catching the Big Fish: Meditation, Consciousness, and Creativity by David Lynch
- Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking by David Bayles & Ted Orland

Contact Details:

Ms M Aldridge - Subject Leader of Art
m.aldridge@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"Art at St Joseph's allows me to bring out my creative side in-depth, and express myself more through my work." Antonia Lubowa (St Joseph's Alumni)

Biology

Department: Science

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7402

*Biology students will sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12.
Biology students will need to study four subjects in Year 12.*

Entry Requirements:

- 7 in Biology GCSE (if completed separate sciences)
- 6 overall with 7 in Biology papers (if completed combined sciences)
- 6 in Maths

Course Content:

Year 12:

- Biological molecules
- Cells
- Organisms exchange substances with the environment
- Genetic information, variation and relationships between

organisms Year 13:

- Energy transfers in and between organisms
- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- The control of gene expression

Style of Assessment:

Year 12 - Two 1 ½ hour exams
Year 13 - Three 2 hours exams

Super curricular Opportunities:

- Attend lectures in London by leading scientists
- Attend Eton college medical society talks
- Year 12 students assist with the running of science club
- The Natural History Museum
- The Grant Museum of Zoology
- The Old Operating Theatre

Career Prospects:

Medicine, veterinary medicine, accounting, law, teaching, physiotherapy, psychology

If I were to take this course I should read:

The selfish gene by Richard Dawkins
Genome by Matt Ridley
What a plant knows by Daniel Chamovitz

What the students say:

"Biology has given me skills such as analysis that I am able to utilise in my other subjects. It has also allowed me to realise the relevance that it has to our everyday lives. I have particularly enjoyed studying DNA: how it replicates and is the code to create all proteins in living things."
Airon Leavy (St Joseph's Alumni)

Contact Details:

Miss E Paines - Subject Leader of Science
e.paines@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Business

Department: Business and Economics

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: 9BS0

Entry Requirements:
GCSE Grade 5 Business Studies and a Grade 4 GCSE English Language required

Course Content:

- Theme 1: Marketing and People.
- Theme 2: Managing Business Activities.
- Theme 3: Business Decisions and Strategy.
- Theme 4: Global Business

Super curricular opportunities:

Young Enterprise
Competition AWS
competition
The Museum of Brands - London
Mars - Slough

Style of Assessment:

100% Exam assessed

Paper 1: Marketing, people and global businesses 35% of A-Level
The assessment comprises 2 questions and comprises 100 marks.

Paper 2: Business activities, decisions and strategy 35% of A-Level
The assessment comprises 2 questions, and comprises 100 marks.

Paper 3: Investigating business in a competitive environment 30% of A-Level
The assessment comprises 2 questions and comprises 100 marks.

Career Prospects:

The course is designed for pupils who want to develop skills for modern management and become entrepreneur business leaders.. Also it is suitable for people who want to explore how information and data can be handled. An A Level in Business Studies can lead on to careers in any industry and general management, with specialisms such as accounting and finance, marketing or human resources.

If I were to take this course I should read:

The news and business stories on a regular basis
The tipping point: how little things can make a big difference - Malcolm Gladwell
The Google Story: David A. Wise

Contact Details:

Ms Aisling Hurley - Subject Leader of Business Studies & Economics
a.hurley@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"This course had such a variety of topics that it was always interesting. It is also very useful in that whether you go on to be employed or look to set up your own business, it provides a great insight to the world of work." Weronika Maron (St Joseph's Alumni)

Vocational Business Studies (BTEC)

Department: Business and Economics

Type of Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate (360)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Business 601/7155/8

Entry Requirements:

Grade 3 in GCSE English Language and Maths

Course Content:

Year 12

- Unit 1: Exploring Business
- Unit 2: Developing a Marketing Campaign (exam)

Year 13

- Unit 3: Personal and Business Finance (exam)
- Unit 8 Recruitment and Selection Process

Style of Assessment:

Assessment is part external assessment in the form of examinations and set tasks, and part internal assessment by completing assignments and providing a portfolio in the form of completed individual research projects, presentations, and essays.

The assessment criteria is split into Pass, Merit and Distinction. At the end of the year, your final grade will be calculated according to how many Pass, Merits and Distinctions you have achieved.

Contact Details:

Ms Aisling Hurley - Subject Leader of Business Studies & Economics
a.hurley@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Mars - Slough SEGRO

- Slough

Opportunities through Learning to Work -

LHEA Cadbury's World

Freakonomics Podcast

Museum of Brands - London

Career Prospects:

Whatever your chosen career path, a business course will help you on your way: directly into employment or to higher level study.

Typical career routes include working for the financial and service industries in the area or setting up your own business. University courses include Business, Finance, Accountancy, Economics, Marketing, International Business, Event Management and Human Resource Management.

If I were to take this course I should read:

Edexcel - BTEC Nationals - Skills for learning and work

The news and business stories on a regular basis

The tipping point: how little things can make a big difference - Malcolm Gladwell

What the students say:

"I enjoyed doing the course as it prepared me for the independent study that I will face at university". Nicole Ziolkó (Year 13).

Chemistry

Department: Science

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 7405

Chemistry students will sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12.

Chemistry students will need to study four subjects in Year 12.

Entry Requirements:

- 7 in Chemistry GCSE (if completed separate sciences)
- 6 overall with 7 in Chemistry papers (if completed combined sciences)
- 6 in Maths

Course Content:

Year 12:

1. Physical Chemistry 1
2. Organic Chemistry 1
3. Inorganic Chemistry 1

Year 13:

1. Physical Chemistry 2
2. Organic Chemistry 2
3. Inorganic Chemistry 2

Style of Assessment:

Year 12:

Two 1 ½ hour exams

Year 13:

Three 2 hours exams

Super curricular opportunities:

- Attend lectures in London by leading scientists
- Attend Eton college medical society talks
- The museum of the history of science at Oxford University
- Science Museum London
- Royal Society of Chemistry - Burlington Arcade, London
- Museum of History of Science - Oxford

Career Prospects:

Medicine, veterinary medicine, accounting, law, teaching, engineering, chemical engineering, architecture.

If I were to take this course I should read:

Periodic Tales by Hugh Aldersey-

Williams The disappearing spoon by

Sam Kean

The pleasure of finding things out by Richard

Feynman The New Scientist - Journal

Contact Details:

Miss E Paines - Subject Leader of Science

e.paines@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

“Chemistry is a fun and fascinating subject, I particularly enjoy Organic Chemistry where I learn about the structures, properties and reactions of compounds. Also, carrying out the practicals helps me to consolidate all the knowledge” Grace Ngarande (St Joseph’s Alumni).

Computer Science

Department: Computing

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: H446

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in both GCSE Computer Science, GCSE Maths and Grade 5 in GCSE English Language required

Course Content:

- Characteristics of contemporary processors
- Software and development
- Exchanging data
- Data types structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral and ethical issues
- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms
- Analysis, design and development of a programming project.

Super curricular opportunities:

Join a tech community to store your projects and collaborate with other programmers
Create a blog with your online projects
The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition

Career Prospects:

Leads to careers in Computer Science, other Science subjects, business, hardware and software development, network engineering and telecommunications.

Style of Assessment:

Year 12: Two written papers (1 hour 15minutes each)

Year 13: Two written papers (2 hours 30 minutes each) forming 80% of the total mark. One portfolio on a programming project forming 20% of the total mark.

If I were to take this course I should read:

The Most Complex Machine, by David Eck
Once upon an algorithm, by Martin Erwig,
2017 Wired - a magazine
Trigger Happy: the inner life of videogames - Stephen Poole
Accidental Empires - Robert X Cringely

What the students say:

"I have enjoyed learning the language and mechanics behind a lot of the technologies we use today." Ruth Amponsah (St Joseph's Alumni)

Contact Details:

Mrs E Buck - Subject Leader of Computer Science
e.buck@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Core Mathematics (1 year level 3 course) worth up to 24 UCAS points

Department: Mathematics	Type of Qualification: Level 3 qualification
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 1350	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
Course Content: Year 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of data - Maths for personal finance - Critical analysis of given data and models (including spreadsheets and tabular data) - The normal distribution - Probabilities and estimation - Cost benefit analysis - Graphical methods Style of Assessment: There are two assessments that are 1 hour 30 minutes each.	Super curricular Opportunities: The purpose of the qualification is to provide the necessary numeracy skills required for most workforces. This is even more important with more careers demanding a high proficiency in Numeracy and statistics. There will be opportunities to relate the skills to real life financial situations
Contact Details: Mr P Odei - Subject Leader of Mathematics p.odei@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk Mrs M Prince - Teacher of Mathematics (Lead on Core Maths) m.prince@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk	Career Prospects: This course will increase your prospects of being employed in numeracy based professions such as accountancy and finance as well as business and management.
	If I were to take this course I should read: Why do buses come in threes? - Rob Easterway Fermat's Last Theorem - Simon Singh The World of Mathematics - James R. Newman Godel, Escher and Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid - Douglas Hofstadter
	What the students say: <i>"Core maths gives me the opportunity to apply mathematics to my life in the cooperative world, I have found this to be a very valuable skills when applying for universities"</i> Chloe Ayisi-Asiedu (Year 13)

Design & Technology: Product Design

Department: Design & Technology

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7552

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design and Maths are required.

Course Content:

The aim of the course is to develop students' practical solving skills, encourage independent learning, creativity and innovation. Students will learn specific subject knowledge in relation to design and manufacture. They will develop their modelling skills both in the workshop and through 2D and 3D CAD modelling; they will develop presentation skills and graphic communication. They will implement and demonstrate their knowledge and skills by designing and making marketable products.

- By choosing Product Design you take the opportunity to develop a broad view of technology and design.
- You will demonstrate your ability to produce a wide range of simple and complex designs.
- You will present your ideas through 3D modelling and apply your manufacturing skills to make a final product.
- You will look for product opportunities, create solutions to problems, develop your making and model making skills and create high quality marketable products.

Style of Assessment:

Paper 1: Technical Principals Written Examination 2.5 hours
30% of A-Level

Paper 2: Designing and making principals Written examination: 1.5 hours
20% of A-Level

NEA- Non-Exam Assessment A Substantial design and make project
50% of A-Level

Contact Details:

Mr A Mall and Mrs I Stacey - Subject Leaders of Design and Technology
i.stacey@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk
a.mall@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular Opportunities:

Opportunities to enter external design competitions through live set briefs in year 12. Development of design portfolio. Possible trips to: Design Museum, Ikea. Welcome to develop skills and support pupils within DT department.

Career Prospects:

Product Design A-Level opens doors to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as medicine, law and computer science. The knowledge and skills you learn, such as teamwork and time management will be valued by employers.

- Possible further study could include: Product Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, and Engineering amongst others.

If I were to take this course I should read:

- Design for the 21st Century (Icons Series) - Charlotte Fiell and Peter Fiell Thames and Hudson -
- The eco-design handbook - by Alastair Fuad-Luke.
- Design Sketching (ISBN 978-91-976807-0-7) by Erik Olofsson and Klara Sjolen

What the students say:

"I have really enjoyed the creative side of product design and the idea of creating something tangible by the end of the course."

Janelle Lamptey (St Joseph's Alumni)

Economics

Department: Business and Economics

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: 9ECO
Economics students will sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Content:
Year 12
Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure
Theme 2: The UK economy - performance and policies

Super curricular opportunities:
European Travel
Share Trading
Club Personal Finance

Year 13
Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
Theme 4: A global perspective.

Career Prospects:
Economics is suitable for pupils studying business and enjoy working with numbers. To have an in depth understanding of consequences of decisions made individuals, households, firms or government. Employers also like to employ economists for the analytical skills that they bring rather than employing them as practicing economists. Job roles have included emerging market analyst, fund manager's assistant, and trainee accountant and trainee stockbroker.

Style of Assessment:

Assessment 100% Exam
Paper 1: Markets and business behaviour
35% A-level - 2 hour examination 100 marks
Paper 2: The national and global economy
35% A-level - 2 hour examination 100 marks
Paper 3: Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
30% A-Level - 2 hour examination 100 marks

If I were to take this course I should read:

The wealth of nations - Adam Smith
The general theory of employment, interest and money - John Maynard Keynes
Thinking Strategically - Avinash Dixit
Capital - Karl Marx

Contact Details:

Ms Aisling Hurley - Subject Leader of Business Studies & Economics
a.hurley@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"Fascinating to learn about how the world works and how we can explain or predict behaviour, I would definitely recommend this course." Callum Crowe (St Joseph's Alumni)

English Language

Department: English

Type of Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: H470

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 GCSE English Language

Course Content:

Component 01: 'Exploring Language' - focuses on: linguistic analysis, social contexts of texts, writing about topical language issues, comparing and contrasting written and spoken texts

Exam: Paper 1: 'Exploring Language' - 2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of total A level. Component 02: 'Dimensions of Linguistic variation' - focuses on: how children acquire language, language in the media, how the English language has changed over time.

Exam: Paper 2: 'Dimensions of Linguistic variation' - 2 hours 30 minutes - 40% of total A level.

Component 03: Independent Language investigation - requires you to independently study and analyse an area/topic of the English Language in full written response and multi-modal response

Non-exam assessment: Language in Action - 20% of A level.

You must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the A Level in English.

Style of Assessment:

Exam based assessments at the end of Year 13 and one extended coursework portfolio (up to 3500 words).

Contact Details:

Miss N. Butler- Subject Leader of English
n.butler@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Study Days e.g. Sovereign Education Courses

Career Prospects:

There are endless career possibilities that English Language can give rise to. Opportunities include: journalism, speech therapy, advertising, creative writing, teaching, broadcasting, public relations, performing arts and further study at university.

If I were to take this course I should read:

Bill Bryson, 'Mother Tongue'

Lynn Truss, 'Eats, Shoots and Leaves'

Robert Lane green, 'You are what you speak'
David Crystal, 'The Fight for English'

What the students say:

English Language provides an opportunity to critically engage with real world problems. These include issues surrounding gender and power, where it is apparent and how it is conveyed through the language which has equipped me with an enhanced worldview. My A-Level study has enabled me to compose arguments with greater attention to detail and provide stronger analysis which are skills hugely transferable to both the sciences and humanities. Swizel Fernandes

English Literature

Department: English

Type of Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: H472

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language

Course Content:

You are required to study a minimum of eight texts at A level, including at least two examples of each of the genres of prose, poetry and drama across the course as a whole. This must include: at least three texts published before 1900, including at least one text by Shakespeare, at least one work first published or performed after 2000, at least one unseen text.

Super curricular opportunities:

THE GUARDIAN HAY FESTIVAL May/June
<http://www.hayfestival.com> BBC PROMS LITERARY FESTIVAL July/Sept <http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms> HENLEY FESTIVAL July <http://www.henley-festival.co.uk>
HENLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL Sept/Oct www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/

You must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the A Level in English Literature.

- Component 01: Shakespeare, Drama and poetry pre-1900. Exam: Paper 1: 2 hours 30 minutes, closed text, written exam - 40% of total A level
- Component 02: Close reading in chosen topic area, Comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area. Exam: Paper 2: 2 hours 30 minutes, closed text, written exam - 40% of total A level
- Component 03: Close reading OR re-creative writing piece with commentary.
Comparative essay - Non-examined assessment - 20% of total A level.

Career Prospects:

There is no limit to the possibilities that English Literature can give rise to. The subject is still one of the most prestigious to study in the country. Career opportunities include: journalism, advertising, creative writing, teaching, law, broadcasting, public relations, performing arts and further study at university.

Style of Assessment:

Exam based assessment at the end of Year 13

If I were to take this course I should read:

Everything from your course reading list but also:
The Times Literary Supplement - a weekly literary review
Try to read material from the 'prizes' e.g. The Man Booker prize or the Orange prize
Try to get into reading a broadsheet newspaper weekly

Contact Details:

Miss N. Butler- Subject Leader of English
n.butler@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Miss L Kell - Deputy Subject Leader of English
l.kell@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"The course has exposed me to new texts I would have never thought to pick up, like 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'Hamlet'. I am a book worm anyway, but English Literature A level has really encouraged me to read classic novels and plays" Francesca Mennone

Department: Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Type of Qualification: Level 3 (worth half an A Level or 28 UCAS points)

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel
Specification: Level 3

Entry Requirements:

All students at St Joseph's Sixth Form study the EPQ

Course Content:

Students are required, with appropriate supervision, to:

- Choose an area of interest
- Draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the school
- Plan, research and carry out the project
- Write a 5,000 word dissertation on the chosen topic
- Deliver a presentation to an audience
- Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project, students:

- Become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- Develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- Learn to apply technologies confidently
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Style of Assessment:

This is a coursework-based subject.

Contact Details:

Mr T Ojakovoh - Subject Leader of Religious Education
t.ojakovoh@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Pupils have the opportunity to attend online talks with universities who can assist with the EPQ.

Career Prospects: Although careers vary depending on the chosen topic, the main prospects include:

- **Journalist**
- **Editor**
- **Barrister/Solicitor**
- **Senior Project Manager**
- **Human Rights Activist**
- **Policy Advisor**

If I were to take this course I should read:

The reading list varies depending on which topic pupils decide to write their dissertation on.

What the students say:

Doing the extend project qualification has been a very enjoyable opportunity that's not available in other schools, making it a privilege here at St Joseph's! EPQ has provided me with various skills such as effective time management, how to Harvard reference and the ability to do effective research on specific topics, which I can later apply to, in other dissertations at university and at my future workplace. The EPQ provides a further academic stretch and challenges alongside a level studies. In addition to this EPQ helps produce a portfolio which you can be proud of as it shows self-motivation and relevant skills to future employers. - Jayne Frances Bernales - Year 13

Geography

Department: Geography

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7073

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Geography

Course Content:

Enrichment Opportunities:

Year 12:

- Physical topics:
- Hazards, Coastal Systems and Landscapes
- Human topics:
- Changing Places
- Contemporary Urban Environments

- Compulsory fieldwork trip in Year 12 to Snowdonia.
- Individual fieldwork in Year 12/13.
- Mentoring scheme available for Year 12s.

Year 13:

- Physical topics:
- Water & Carbon Cycles
- Human topics:
- Global Systems and Global Governance

Career Prospects:

Geography is an excellent A Level subject to aid progression to university whether you are continuing the subject or not because geography demonstrates a questioning mind and one that can evaluate and summarise key concepts which is a big plus for employers; a recent study found those with a geography degree had the lowest unemployment rate of any subject (2010 HECSU).

Style of Assessment:

Component 1: Physical Paper - 35%

Component 2: Human Paper - 35%

Component 3: Non-Examined Assessment - 30% - Students are required to conduct their own fieldwork and investigations and write this up in a report style to show their findings (3,000-4,000 words).

If I were to take this course I should read:

Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World (2004) by Richard Heinberg.

Geography: An integrated approach by David Waugh (various editions). Excellent breadth and depth of A-Level content.

There is no such thing as a natural disaster (2006) by Chester Hartman and Gregory D Squires

Factfulness by Rosling (2018).

Contact Details:

Miss L Boland - Subject Leader of Geography

l.boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"Geography has enabled me to develop my analytical skills in more than one subject. For example, Geography easily overlaps with key concepts that can be found in Sciences and in Business."

Ayomi Adu (St Joseph's Alumni)

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

Department: Physical Education

Type of Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (360 GLH)

Exam Board: Pearson
Specification: 601/7197/2

Entry Requirements:
Grade 3 in GCSE English Language, Maths and a Pass at Level 2 Health and Social Care.

Course Content:

The course gives students a wide knowledge base from which to gain an understanding of what working within a health and social care setting can entail. It gives students the chance to explore key career opportunities and a chance to understand what the daily role and responsibilities are within this field.

External Examination Units

Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development (Mandatory)

Unit 2 - Working in Health and Social Care (Mandatory)

Internally Assessed Units

Unit 5 - Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs (Mandatory)

Unit 10 - Sociological Perspectives (Compulsory Opted Unit)

Style of Assessment:

4 units. 2 Units are external examinations, one of which is a synoptic paper. The other 2 units are internally moderated as pieces of coursework. One exam and one coursework unit will be completed in year 12 and the same in year 13.

All units are graded as pass, merit or distinction and these are accumulated across the two years where an overall grade is calculated at the end of year 13

Contact Details:

Mrs L Rolfe - Subject Leader of PE
l.rolfe@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

- Visits to Health and Social Care settings, such as a care home.
- Question and answer sessions with various Health Care professionals

Career Prospects:

- Carer, Occupational, Therapist, Child Care
- Nursery Nurse, Midwife
- Nurse, Health Care Assistant
- Teacher, Social Worker

If I were to take this course I should read:

Edexcel - BTEC Nationals - Skills for learning and work

The Student's Companion to Social Policy - Alcock, May & Wright

The spirit level: why equality is better for everyone - Pickett & Wilkinson

What the students say:

"The course includes lots of content, the work ethic of my peers and teachers have motivated me to ensure that I succeed in the course. We have been encouraged to volunteer in a health and social care setting to boost our CV and UCAS application." **Bethany Ball-Deans (St Joseph's Alumni)**
"We have been encouraged to volunteer in a health and social care setting to boost our CV and UCAS application." **Bethany Ball-Deans (St Joseph's Alumni)**

History

Department: History

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: A Level 9H10

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE History

Course Content:

In Year 12, students will complete two studies

1. In search of the American Dream, USA 1917-1996
 - The changing political environment
 - Civil Rights
 - Social and cultural changes
 - The Changing quality of life
 - Impact of the Reagan presidency
2. The creation of a Rainbow nation, South Africa 1948-1994
 - Causes of Apartheid
 - The response to Apartheid
 - Transition to a democracy

Year 13

1. Britain, losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914
2. Coursework- How effective was the New Deal by 1941?

Style of Assessment:

- Paper 1 (USA) Exam- 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Paper 2 (South Africa) Exam- 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Paper 3 (Britain) Exam- 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Coursework- 4000 words

Contact Details:

Miss E Weir - Subject Leader of History
e.weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

History is appropriate for students who have a natural interest in the world around them and a desire to enrich their understanding of where we are now. If reading, acquiring knowledge about societies in the past, discussion, developing ideas, arguments, and analytical writing appeal to you, then you will almost certainly love studying History.

Career Prospects:

History is universally revered as a facilitating subject and is valued by all universities including the leading Russell Group universities. History involves so many useful disciplines and touches upon so many areas of life, you can take it in many different directions such as a career in Law, journalism, heritage work, politics and the financial sector.

If I were to study this course I would read:

- David Mauk and John Oakland, *American Civilization Sixth Edition* (Routledge, 2014).
- Nancy L Clark, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* (Seminar Studies in History, Routledge 2011).
- Niall Ferguson, *Empire* (Penguin, 2004).

What the students say:

"History allows you to widen your knowledge about what happened in the past and think about what might happen in the future. I believe you will learn a lot studying history, not just for exams, but for example, it will be beneficial for studies with Law, Politics, international relations, Philosophy etc. It also integrates with modern society and the political issues we face today." **Isabel Jarrett (Year 13)**

Languages: French

Department: Modern Foreign Languages

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: A-level French 7652

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE French

Course Content:

Year 12

- Aspects of French Speaking Society: Family, Cyber society, volunteering.
- Artistic Culture in the French Speaking World: A culture proud of its heritage, Contemporary francophone music, Cinema.
- One literary text or film.

Year 13

- Aspects of French Speaking Society: Positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated.
- Political and Artistic Culture: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power, Politics and immigration.
- One literary text or film.
- Individual research project.

Style of Assessment:

Year 13

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2hr

30m) 50% Paper 2: Writing (2hr) 20%

Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes including 5 minutes supervised preparation time) 30%

Contact Details:

Ms L Debiais - Subject Leader of MFL

l.debiais@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Trips include film screenings and visits to the French Institute in Kensington. There is also the opportunity to attend seminars in London for students of A level French. Students are able to take part in language immersion study trips to Paris or Marseille which can be organised through the school.

Career Prospects:

A degree in French gives students the edge in today's global job market, whether they are considering a career in business, finance, diplomacy, media, interpreting, translation or teaching. A levels in Languages are more valuable than ever before in a post-Brexit world where foreigners can't relocate as easily. Linguists are in high demand!

If I were to take this course I should read...

The French press regularly (www.lemonde.fr).

Novels such as Bonjour Tristesse, Un Sac de Billes, Élise ou la vraie vie. Grammar revision guides to ensure you are secure in GCSE level grammar

What the students say:

"French is more interesting in Year 12 than at GCSE level as you learn about French people and culture instead of always talking about yourself" **Wiktoria Michalowska Y13**

Languages: Spanish

Department: Modern Foreign Languages	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: A-level Spanish 7692	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Course Content: <u>Year 12</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aspects of Hispanic society: Modern and traditional values, Cyberspace, Equal rights.- Artistic Culture: Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, Cultural Heritage.- One literary text or film. <u>Year 13</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society: Immigration, Racism, Integration.- Political and Artistic Culture: Today's youth, Monarchies and Dictatorships, Popular Movements.- One literary text or film.- Individual research project. Style of Assessment: <u>Year 13</u> Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2hr 30m) 50% Paper 2: Writing (2hr) 20% Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes including 5 minutes supervised preparation time) 30%	Super curricular opportunities: Trips include film screenings at the British Film Institute and there is the opportunity to attend seminars in London for students of A level Spanish. Students are also able to take part in language immersion study trips to Malaga which can be organised through the school. Career Prospects: Having completed a degree in Hispanic studies you will have acquired a high level of competence in Spanish and will have the ability to use it in complex contexts. Many languages students choose to remain in further education and go on to study in law, finance or media after graduation. The highly desirable combination of language skills, cultural literacy and critical thinking means that languages graduates are in high demand in today's employment market, particularly in a post-Brexit era. If I were to take this course I should read... The Spanish press regularly (www.elpais.es). Novels such as Réquiem por un campesino español, Las bicicletas son para el verano or Como agua para chocolate. Grammar revision guides to ensure you are secure in GCSE level grammar What the students say: <i>"Studying Spanish at A-level has been challenging yet wonderful. As a language student, you learn so much more about the country's culture and language; in more depth than in GCSE. Learning a language like Spanish, provides future opportunities as well making a person more open minded and culturally educated."</i> Santino Michini (Year 13)
Contact Details: Ms L Debiais - Subject Leader of MFL l.debiais@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk	

Law

Department: Law

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7162

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Course Content:

- Paper 1 - The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Criminal Law. This unit introduces students to the structure of the Criminal and Civil Courts in England and Wales.
- Paper 2 - The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Tortious Liability. In this unit students will study how law is made and interpreted in England and Wales through the role of Parliament and the Courts.
- Paper 3 - The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Human Rights. In this unit students will study the comparisons between law and morality. Students will also analyse the importance of the Rule of Law and its importance on a democracy. Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Style of Assessment:

Assessment = 100% examination
Paper 1 (33.3%) and a two hour exam
Paper 2 (33.3%) and a two hour exam
Paper 3 (33.3%) and a two hour exam

Contact Details:

Mr J Gibbons - Subject Leader of Law
j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Law allows for many enrichment opportunities. We try and gain first-hand experience of how the law works by visiting Parliament and the courts. Students also have the opportunity to work with students in younger year groups to help them with the mock trial competition that takes place.

Career Prospects:

Many students will go onto studying law at University as well as other university courses. The skills obtained from this course will also allow you to enter a number of careers such as the Police, the Civil Service, Business, Banking, Journalism and Social Work

If I were to take this course I should read:

The Rule of Law by Tom Bingham
Eve Was Framed by Helena Kennedy
Bleak House by Charles Dickens
Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University by Nicholas J. McBride
The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken

What the students say:

"Law is an interesting subject especially for those are intrigued by establishing right and wrong." - David Opara

Mathematics

Department: Mathematics

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: AS: 8MA0/01, 8MA0/02, A: 9MA0/01, 9MA0/02, 9MA0/03

Maths students will sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12.

Maths students will need to study four subjects in Year 12.

Entry Requirements:

Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics

Course Content:

Pure Mathematics 1

Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Differentiation and Integration, Exponential and Logarithms, Trigonometry, Further Differentiation and Integration and Vectors

Pure Mathematics 2

Proof, Algebra and Functions, Trigonometry, Further Differentiation, Numerical Methods, Differential Equations and vectors.

Statistics and Mechanics

Representation of Data, Comparing Distributions, Correlation, Regression, Probability, Discrete Random Variables, The Normal Distribution. Mathematical Modelling, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws and Moments.

Style of Assessment:

Assessment = 100% examination

Three papers (Pure Mathematics 1, Pure Mathematics 2, Statistics and Mechanics) each 2 hours long to be completed at the end of year 13.

Contact Details:

Mr P Odei - Subject Leader of Mathematics

p.odei@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

There is the opportunity to attend Maths lectures as well as compete in the Senior Maths Challenge - a national competition.

Career Prospects:

Engineering, Accountancy, Computing, Economics, Business, Banking, Architecture, Psychology, Air Traffic Control, Retail Management and Teaching, to name but a few.

If I were to take this course I should: Read the course specification. <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html>

Why do buses come in threes? - Rob Easterway

Fermat's Last Theorem - Simon Singh

The World of Mathematics - James R. Newman

Godel, Escher and Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid - Douglas Hofstadter

The course is very different to GCSE mathematics in that it is very heavy on topics such as algebra, trigonometry and statistics. Buy or borrow the Casio Classwiz calculator (this calculator is a requirement for this course). Familiarise yourself with its functions; in particular how to solve quadratics, and create tables for graphs.

What the students say:

"Learning about the application of GCSE skills to more advanced concepts has been really interesting and rewarding. It has been a very challenging course but worth the hard work." Emmanuel Opara (St Joseph's Alumni)

Further Mathematics

Department: Mathematics
Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: 9FM0

Course Content:

The Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding set out in the whole GCSE subject content for mathematics and the subject content for the Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE Mathematics qualifications.

Problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling will be assessed in further mathematics in the context of the wider knowledge which students taking A level further mathematics will have studied.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics consists of four externally-examined papers.

We follow the AS course with exams at the end of Year 12, followed in Year 13 by the A2 course where students sit the full A Level Paper.

Each Paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and contribute 25% to the qualification.

Contact Details:

Mr P Odei - Subject Leader of Mathematics
p.odei@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Type of Qualification: A Level

Entry Requirements:
Grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics

Students must take:

Core Pure 1 and Core Pure 2, the two mandatory Pure papers.

Two from the following Papers :

3A: Further Pure Mathematics, 3B: Further Statistics 1,

3C: Further Mechanics, 3D: Decision Mathematics 1,

4A: Further Pure Mathematics 2 4B: Further Statistics 2 1

4C: Further Mechanics 2 4D: Decision Mathematics 2

Super curricular opportunities:

There is the opportunity to attend Maths lectures as well as compete in the Senior Maths Challenge - a national competition.

Career Prospects:

Engineering, Accountancy, Computing, Economics, Business, Banking, Architecture, Psychology, Air Traffic Control, Retail Management and Teaching, to name but a few.

If I were to take this course I should read:

Read the course specification:

[A level Further Mathematics specification \(pearson.com\)](https://www.pearson.com/9780170330413)

What the students say:

"Learning about the application of GCSE skills to more advanced concepts has been really interesting and rewarding. It has been a very challenging course but worth the hard work." Emmanuel Opara (St Joseph's Alumni)

Media Studies

Department: English

Type of Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: H409

Entry Requirements:
Grade 4 in GCSE English Language

Course Content:

Media Studies engages students in the in depth study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework:

- Media language
- Media representation
- Media industries
- Media audiences.

Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms: • television • film • radio • newspapers • magazines • advertising and marketing • online, social and participatory media • video games • music video

Style of Assessment:

COMPONENT 01: Exam assessment Media One

- Written exam: 2 hours • 70 marks • 35% of A-level Media Two
- Written exam: 2 hours • 70 marks • 35% of A-level Questions

COMPONENT 02: Non-exam assessment: Creating a cross media production

- Students produce a media product for a specified audience based on a choice of one of six set by OCR. • 60 marks • 30% of A-level

Contact Details:

Mrs R Cumming - Subject Leader of Media Studies
r.cumming@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular opportunities:

Throughout the year many media, broadcast and interest groups provide opportunities the department regularly take advantage of. These can include film and documentary production days at the British Film Institute (BFI), classes in media production for portable devices, University based theory seminars, introductions to advertising, school based product 'pitch' days and learning walks with some of the UKs leading media institutions.

Career Prospects:

With the rapid and ongoing development of e-media and broadcast technologies, media studies can lead to an ever expanding range of career possibilities from media production, marketing, coding and analysis to advertising, journalism, public relations and law.

If I were to take this course I should read/watch:

www.mediaknowall.com Media theories online
<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls055592025/> - the top 100 greatest movies of all time
Eisenstein, Sergei. Film Form: Essays in Film Theory.
Bull A (2015) Multimedia journalism: a practical guide, Routledge

What the students say:

"It has widened my knowledge about day to day happenings and it has exposed me to aspects of everyday media that I had never even thought about before. Finley Rojow (St Joseph's Alumni)

Music Performance (BTEC)

Department: Music

Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Edexcel
Specification: 2018

Entry Requirements:

Grade 3 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Music are required.
Must be able to play an instrument, or sing, to a good standard.

Course Content:

3 Mandatory Units

1. Practical Music Theory and Harmony (Internal)
2. Professional Practical in the Music Industry (External)
3. Ensemble Performance (External)

1 Optional Unit

The following units are optional and you can choose one to focus on.

- Composing Music
- Solo Performance
- Session Styles
- Improvisation

Styles of Assessment:

Assessments are completed through a variety of activities. Some examples include performances to an audience, compositions, completing research, recording blogs or vlogs, presenting a pitch.

All of the assignments are based on a realistic scenario that our students may encounter in the working world, with each scenario including a range of activities where students demonstrate their ability and expertise.

Contact Details:

Miss K Ure - Subject Leader of Music
k.ure@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What our students say:

I love how this course teaches you more about the music theory. I also find it useful how we explore the music industry and how it works. It actually helps give us an idea of business experience. Azariah Thomas (Year 13)

Super Curricular Opportunities:

Youth Engagement Slough (YES), The Curve Slough, The Music Museum (London), British Music Experience, The Royal Festival Hall, The Barbican, The Royal Albert Hall. There are a wide variety of exhibitions and experiences in music and other arts which take place in museums and venues across the country, as well a large number of documentaries that can be accessed through Youtube, Netflix and other streaming programs.

Career Prospects:

Studying music provides a clear intention of organisation, dedication and discipline, which many prospective employers look for in a candidate. Whether the next stage after 6th form is through university, college or an apprenticeship, taking the course will give our students opportunities to explore a range of pathways within the industry and allows them to develop many of the essential skills required to succeed.

If I were to take this course I should read:

Magazines: Sound on Sound, Future Music, Music Tech, Pitchfork.
Books: How Music Works - John Powell, The Musical Human - Michael Spitzer, Sound Advice - Rhian Jones & Lucy Heyman, Long Players - Tom Ghatti, Music Technology: A Survivors Guide - Paul White, The AB Guide to Music Theory.

Watch/Listen: Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnVSzQ6rME82AzW1ctGcO_g
National Theatre: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalTheatre>
Classic FM: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ClassicFMOfficial>
BBC Radio 1: <https://www.youtube.com/user/bbcradio1>

Performing Arts (BTEC)

Department: Drama	Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate
Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson Specification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Performing Arts	Entry Requirements: Grade 3 in GCSE English Language and a Grade 4 in GCSE Drama is required.
Course Content: Year 12 - Terms 1&2: Unit 1: Investigating Practitioners work (90 guided learning Hours) Students study various practitioners and their works. There is a three hour exam with three questions within it. 4 weeks prior to the exam a theme is released for the students to prepare the practitioners that are most suited to the exam Term 3 - Unit 2: (90 guided learning hours) Developing skills and techniques for live performance. Students will take part in a variety of workshops culminating in a performance of a written play in front of a live audience. Year 13 - Term 1 - Unit 3: Group Performance workshop (120 guided learning hours). Pearson will release a stimulus for the students to create a devised performance. They will also have 3 milestones to complete under exam conditions (log books essentially). Term 2 - SD will choose the last unit to be studied according to the strengths of the group. There is a mixture of internally and externally marked units.	Super curricular opportunities: Various theatre visits throughout the course Q and A with professionals in the industry School Productions V and A Theatre exhibition Career Prospects: A course in Performing Arts will prepare you to think creatively and innovatively - skills that are highly valued outside of the creative industries as well. Although the potential careers are vast, there are many options in the creative industries, such as: Actor, playwright, director, casting agent, education officer, teacher, cabin crew, stage manager, lighting designer, sound designer, lawyer, If I were to take this course I should read: Behind the Mask (Andrew Lloyd Webber), Matthew Bourne's Interviews, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, a variety of monologues (e.g. Shakespeare) and documentaries on Sky Arts.
Contact Details: Mrs S Dunleavy - Subject Leader of Drama s.dunleavy @st-josephs.slough.sch.uk	What our students say: <i>"I love Performing Arts as it allows me to express myself and it is the most fun time of the day. I am hoping to become an actor in the future"</i> Patryk Wachowiak

Philosophy & Ethics

Department: Religious Education

Type of Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: H173 and H573.

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Education and Grade 5 English Language are required

Course Content:

Super curricular opportunities:
Pupils have the opportunity to attend Academy Conferences in London, led by scholars who write the course textbooks. We work very closely with other schools such as Eton College, who are involved in writing some of the exam papers for OCR.

Year 12

- Philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, the Soul, Teleological Argument, Cosmological Argument, Ontological Argument, Religious Experience and the Problem of Evil.
- Ethics: Natural Law, Kant, Utilitarianism, Situation Ethics, Business Ethics and Euthanasia.
- Developments of Christian Thought: Augustine's Teachings on Human Nature, Death and the Afterlife, Natural Knowledge, Jesus' authority, agape love and Christian Moral Action.

Career Prospects: Barrister, Newspaper Journalist, Teacher

Year 13

- Philosophy: Attributes of God and Religious Language.
- Ethics: Meta-Ethics, Conscience and Sexual Ethics.
- Developments of Christian Thought: Pluralism, Gender and Society and Libertarian Theology.

If I were to take this course I should read:

The Puzzle of Evil Peter Vardy
The Puzzle of Ethics Peter Vardy
The Blind Watchmaker Richard Dawkins
The Republic, Plato
On Liberty, Mill
Beyond good and evil, Nietzsche
An enquiry concerning human understanding, Hume
A history of western philosophy, Russell

Style of Assessment:

This is an exam-based A Level.

What the students say:

Philosophy and ethics is a subject that is applicable to everyday life and one that remain with you lifelong. The subject is essential in developing a broader mindset when approaching societal debates and evaluating perspectives far from your own to further develop critical thinking, analysis and communication skills. Swizel Fernandes (St Joseph's Alumni)

Contact Details:

Mr T Ojakovoh - Subject Leader of Religious Education
t.ojakovoh @st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Physics

Department: Science

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 7408

Physics students will sit an AS exam at the end of Year 12.

Physics students will need to study four subjects in Year 12.

Entry Requirements:

- 7 in Physics GCSE (if completed separate sciences)
- 6 overall with 7 in Physics papers (if completed combined sciences)
- 6 in Maths

Course Content:

Year 12:

1. Measurements and their errors
2. Particles and radiation
3. Waves
4. Mechanics and materials
5. Electricity

Year 13:

6. Further mechanics and thermal physics
7. Fields and their consequences
8. Nuclear physics
9. One module which you chose

Style of Assessment:

- Year 12: Two 1 ½ hour exams
- Year 13: Three 2 hours exams

Super curricular opportunities:

- Attend lectures in London by leading scientists
- Attend Eton college medical society talks
- Science Museum
- The planetarium
- Greenwich observatory

Career Prospects:

Engineering, chemical engineering, architecture, geology, teacher, accountant.

If I were to take this course I should read:

A short history of nearly everything by Bill Bryson

The Grand Design by Stephen Hawkin and Leonard

Mlodinow A short History of Nearly Everything - Bill

Bryson

Why don't penguins' feet freeze? - NewScientist

The Grand Design - Stephen Hawkin and Leonard Mlodinow

Newton - Peter Ackroyd

The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen -

Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw

Physics World

Contact Details:

Miss E Paines - Subject Leader of Science

e.paines@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

What the students say:

"I enjoy how practicals illustrate the theories you learn about and you can apply everything to real life" Feranmi Sanni (Year 13)

Psychology

Department: Social Sciences

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: AQA
Specification: 7182

Entry Requirements:
Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and Grade 5 in English Language

Course Content:

Psychology is the study of human minds and behaviours. It is about why we are who we are and why we do the things we do! The units covered over the two years are:

Year 12

Social Influence, Memory, Attachment, Psychopathology, Approaches in Psychology, Biopsychology and Research Methods.

Year 13

Issues & Debates in Psychology, Relationships, Schizophrenia, Aggression and Research Methods.

Style of Assessment:

This subject is assessed by three 2 hour exams, each worth 33.3% of the qualification, at the end of year 13, there is no coursework:

- Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
- Paper 2: Psychology in Context
- Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology.

Super curricular opportunities:

Students have the opportunity to attend psychology conferences in London for led by the authors of the course textbook. Within school students are able to link EPQ work with content learned in class, opening the possibility for further practical research inside and outside the classroom.

Contact Details:

Mr D Kuczynski - Subject Leader of Psychology
D.Kuczynski@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Career Prospects:

Careers in psychology include criminology, occupational psychology, sport psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology or counselling psychology. It will also support any career involving contact with people such as teaching, social work, medicine, business and management.

If I were to take this course I should read:

The AQA A level Psychology books one and two and the news online regularly. There is also a Radio 4 podcast on Psychology called All in the Mind. Other publications of note include: Freud for Beginners by Richard Appignanesi & Oscar Zarate, Introducing Psychology: A Graphic Guide to Your Mind and Behaviour by Nigel Benson and Mindwatching: Why We Behave the Way We Do by H.J. Eysenck & Michael W. Eysenck

Super curricular opportunities:

Students have the opportunity to attend psychology conferences in London led by the authors of the course textbook. Within school students are able to link EPQ work with content learned in class, opening the possibility for further practical research inside and outside the classroom.

What the students say:

"Having studied the course for a year, I can safely say that it has been, by far, the most enjoyable and thought-provoking subject I could have chosen. It is challenging, and very scientific, but learning about human behaviour has become quite addictive."

Amanda Edegbe (St Joseph's Alumni)

Sociology

Department: Social Sciences

Type of Qualification: A-Level

Exam Board: Eduqas (WJEC)
Specification: A200QS

Entry Requirements:
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Course Content:

Sociology is the in-depth theoretical study of society. It is about the world we live in so is relevant to everyone! The units covered over the two years are:

Career Prospects:

Many business roles such as human resources, journalism, teaching, criminology, social work, armed forces and many other areas as a result of the skills developed.

Year 12

Culture, Socialisation & Identity, Families & Households, Education and Research Methods

If I were to take this course:

I should read AQA A level Sociology book one and book two and sociologists such as Louis Theroux and Reggie Yates and I should watch current affairs documentaries such as Channel 4's Unreported world and the BBC's Panorama. There is also a Radio 4 podcast on Sociology called Thinking Allowed. Other publications of note include Sociology Review, the New Internationalist, the New Statesmen and the Economist.

Year 13

Crime & Deviance, Stratification & Differentiation and Research Methods

Style of Assessment:

This subject is assessed by three exams at the end of year 13, there is no coursework:

- Paper 1 (2 hours and 30 mins and 40% of the qualification): Culture & Socialisation with a focus on Families & Households and Education
- Paper 2: (1 hour and 45 mins and 20% of the qualification): Methods of Sociological Enquiry
- Paper 3 (2 hours and 30 mins and 40% of the qualification): Power & Stratification with a focus on the Workplace and Crime & Deviance

Super curricular opportunities:

Students have the opportunity to attend a criminology conference in London led by researchers that have applied psychological research in real world situations. There will also be a chance to go for a meal at The Clink, a restaurant/charity run by ex-prisoners.

What the students say:

"I like that the information we're learning about in class has direct real-world application, often in current news stories. The opportunity for debating that I enjoyed in year 12, only got better in year 13. It's been so interesting to gain a greater understanding of the kind of society we live in and how changes or ideas can shape every day behaviour." Mary Jani (St Joseph's Alumni)

Contact Details:

Mr R Evans - Subject Leader of Social Science
r.evans@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Sports Studies (BTEC)

Department: Physical Education

Type of Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel Pearson
Specification: 601/7218/6

Entry Requirements:
Grade 3 in GCSE English Language, Maths and Grade 4 in GCSE Biology

Course Content:

It gives the students the chance to explore the foundations of all sports based career paths, beginning with the human body and it's responses to exercise and progressing on to the world of work in this sector.

External Examination Units

Unit 1 - Anatomy and Physiology (Mandatory)

Unit 2 - Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (Mandatory)

Internally Assessed Units

Unit 3 - Professional Development in the Sports

Industry (Mandatory)

Unit 5 - Application of Fitness Testing (Compulsory Opted Unit)

Style of Assessment:

4 units. 2 Units are external examinations, one of which is a synoptic paper. The other 2 units are internally moderated as pieces of coursework. One exam and one coursework unit will be completed in year 12 and the same in year 13.

All units are graded as pass, merit or distinction and these are accumulated across the two years where an overall grade is calculated at the end of year 13

Contact Details:

Mrs L Rolfe - Subject Leader of PE
l.rolfe@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Super curricular Opportunities:

- Visits to a sports laboratory
- Exposure to the fitness sector
- Question and answer sessions with fitness sector professionals.
- Opportunities to coach and lead younger pupils

Career Prospects:

- Fitness Instructor
- Sports Coach
- PE Teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Therapy
- Youth work
- Sports Nutritionist
- Sports Psychologist

If I were to take this course I should read:

Edexcel - BTEC Nationals - Skills for learning and work

Journal of Sports Sciences

Journal of Sport & Social Issues Sports

Biographies/Autobiographies

What the students say:

"6th form study requires independent learning outside of lessons. Although the course is harder than I first thought, I am really enjoying the challenge and the content." Eleni Psyllides (St Joseph's Alumni)

Travel & Tourism (BTEC)

Department: Geography	Type of Qualification: Level 3 National Extended Certificate
Exam Board: Edexcel Specification: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism	Entry Requirements: Grade 3 in GCSE English Language and Maths
Course Content: Year 12 Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism Unit 2: Global Destinations Year 13 Unit 3: Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism Unit 9: Visitor Attractions Style of Assessment: Internal and external assessment. External assessment will take the form of an examination and set tasks. Internal assessment will take place in the form of coursework, presented in a variety of forms; poster, essays, presentations, leaflets. Super curricular Opportunities: BA customer services visit Thorpe Park Customer Services visit	Career Prospects: This qualifications has been designed to provide an all-round introduction to the travel and tourism sector for those who wish to further their careers in one of its many connected industries, including retail travel, visitor attractions, and accommodation, transport and tour operations. If I were to take this course I should read: Edexcel - BTEC Nationals - Skills for learning and work The BBC has an excellent range of travel programmes, so watching any of these will help build your understanding of the world and the countries and peoples within it. The Best Service is No Service: How to Liberate Your Customers from Customer Service, Keep Them Happy, and Control Costs Lonely Planet Great Britain (Travel Guide) Blogs: www.danflyingsolo.com www.travel-break.net
Contact Details: Miss L Boland - Subject Leader of Geography l.boland@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk	What the students say: <i>Travel and tourism is a realistic course for my world research skills. It allows me to learn countries history which contributes to being a tour guide in explaining to tourists the country's history.</i> Maria Nunes Reis (Year 12)

*We are
Generous
and Grateful*

Our students take part in leadership opportunities, such as becoming Learning Support Assistants.

Application Timeline



- Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 11th of November 2021.
- Deadline for Taster Day Sign Up - Tuesday 23rd of November 2021.
- Sixth Form Taster Day - Tuesday 7th of December 2021 - **SF application goes live!**



- Post-16 Careers Meetings - January 2022 - by appointment from the SLT.
- Deadline for Sixth Form Application (online) - Friday 14th of February 2021.
- Enrolment Information and Guidance - letters posted home by the 8th of April.



- GCSE Results Day 25th of August 2022.
- Year 12 Enrolment - pupils sign up for their desired subjects (subject to meeting course requirements straight away having received their results).
- Four week induction period to ensure students are on the correct study programme.

A photograph of a group of young men in school uniforms, including white shirts and red ties, sitting in a row. They are looking forward with attentive expressions. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or school setting with blue chairs.

*We are Intentional
And Prophetic*

We Are St Joseph's.



**St. Joseph's Catholic High School
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