



St Catherine's School



Application booklet for Sixth Form



"The well-structured PSHE and careers programme, and the general studies programme in the Sixth Form ensure that pupils are well prepared for the future."

ISI Report



A Level Choices

At St Catherine's we are committed to giving you the best advice possible for your A Level subjects; a summary of the opportunities that we offer you are listed below. One of the great advantages of St Catherine's Sixth Form is that we do not initially block subject choices and are therefore usually able to give all girls all their A Level choices. On the rare occasions that a particular combination of subjects may not be possible, we will advise you and discuss alternatives.

How many subjects do girls in the Sixth Form study?

Most girls will begin with four subjects, and they will then drop to three in January. This means that they have time to experience all four subjects and decide which of the three will be best for them. However, we take a flexible approach and carefully consider each girl's individual needs.

How do girls choose which subjects to study?

Miss Bellerby will meet with every girl to discuss this, and her subject teachers are also available for guidance. Most girls will naturally lean towards either a Humanities or Sciences pathway, although a girl may choose breadth if it suits a particular university or career goal. Other pupils will choose a creative programme, or mix creative subjects with others that suit. Some university courses require particular subjects to be taken at A Level.

The subjects which are most often required are sometimes called "facilitating subjects" and these are:

Mathematics, English Literature, The sciences, Geography, History, Languages

There are also subjects which are not on this list, such as *Economics and Religious Studies*, which provide a good preparation for university study but which are rarely a requirement for university entry.

Other points to note:

Not all university courses require an A Level in the subject, for example, Law does not require a Law A Level. However, some subjects do require specific A levels. For example, most Psychology degrees require Biology, and most Economics degrees require Mathematics. Entry requirements can be found on university websites.

There are many misconceptions about subject choice. Please see Miss Bellerby for up-to-date advice. If you aren't sure what you would like to study at university, you might like to start with the subjects you most enjoy and are good at, and then seek advice about useful combinations.

Are there any online resources available for investigating universities and careers?

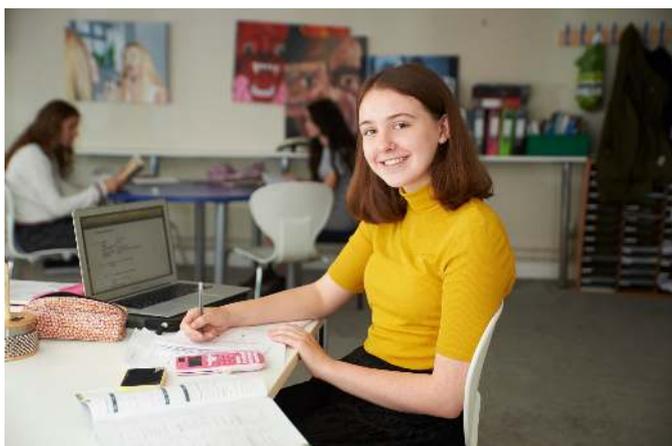
We subscribe to the JED Jobs and Higher Ideas careers packages, which can be accessed from home. You have been shown how to use these. The website is www.careersoft.co.uk, and the access code is d3uyjr2u.

Timetable for making A level choices at St Catherine's:

Information and Sixth Form Evening	Thursday 12 September
Sixth Form choices talk	Thursday 7 November
Scholarship exams	Thursday 28 November
Taster lessons in A Level subjects	Wednesday 4 December
Careers interviews with Miss Bellerby	September - January
Deadline for initial A Level subject choices	Thursday 9 January, in Form time
Mock examinations	W/c 13 January
Parents evening	Tuesday 28 January
Deadline for final A Level subject choices	Thursday 13 February

Study support package:

When the girls join our Sixth Form they are offered a laptop or computer software to the value of £250. When you make your purchase, bring your receipt to the Bursary and we will refund you to the value of £250.



FAQs:

Do I have to wear school uniform?

There is no formal uniform for our Sixth Form students. Girls follow the St Catherine's Sixth Form Dress Code, and are allowed to wear jewellery and makeup.

Can I leave the school premises during the school day?

During breaks and lunch, girls are able to leave the school site so long as they sign out. During study periods, girls are allowed to leave the site so long as their teachers agree that they are up to date with their work.

What is the process of keeping parents informed of progress?

We believe that communication is key to success, and tutors will be in regular contact. Grade sheets are sent to parents regularly and they receive a full and detailed written report at the end of each term. Sixth Form Parents' Evenings take place in November and March.

How many lessons will I have for each subject?

Students receive six 45 minute lessons per week for each subject and enjoy the small classes and individual attention. Students also have one RE lesson, two General Studies lessons and one PE lesson per week.

What opportunities are there for leadership?

The opportunities are only limited by the imagination of the girls themselves. As well as having a Head Girl Team, we also have a Prefect Team. Girls can set up subject societies, organise charity events and run clubs or support sessions for younger girls.

What are the facilities for the Sixth Form?

The girls have access to a Common Room in which to relax and this is a happy and friendly space where year 12 and 13 girls socialise together. The Study Room provides a space for academic work and the girls use a hot-desking approach, which works well as the girls have their allocated study periods at different times over the week. Sixth Form girls also make good use of the library which is a comfortable, quiet space during regular lesson times.

"The school meets its aims to promote the dignity of every individual and for pupils to achieve excellence, within a thriving and happy community."

ISI REPORT



What are the entry requirements?

Students currently in Year 11 at St Catherine's do not need to apply to join the Sixth Form. They each have an automatic place conditional upon GCSE results.

All students wishing to study in the Sixth Form at St Catherine's are expected to have achieved six GCSEs at grades 6-9, including a grade 4 in Maths and English. They generally gain a grade 7 in the subjects they wish to study at A Level; however, if a student is close to this level and shows aptitude and willingness in other ways, entry can be discussed with the Headmistress.

Are scholarships and bursaries available?

St Catherine's offers Sixth Form scholarships in the following categories:

- Academic • Art • Drama • Music • Sport

Deadline for application for all scholarships is the first Monday in November of Year 11. All exams and assessments are held in the final week of November in Year 11. Scholarships have a value of between 5% and 50% of school fees.

This year also sees the introduction of the new Siena Scholarship, which girls in year 11 may also apply for, and information about this award is available to girls and parents.

Please see Mrs Harris for scholarship application forms.

A small number of means-tested bursary awards are also available to Sixth Form girls.



Changes to the Sixth Form

As part of our 'phase two' Sixth Form plans we are very pleased to announce an extension to our Sixth Form Centre which will be ready for the new academic year.

We are mindful of the girls' views about study space and although the current area works very well with a hot-desk system that suits the staggered pattern of free periods that are available over each week, we have looked for ways to improve this provision. The current common room and study area will be complemented by an additional study area. This will give students two areas for study: one designated as a quiet study space and one for collaborative work. In addition to the use of the library, this is a significant increase in the study space available for the girls and we hope that it will help them to make the most of their time in the Sixth Form.

We have also been delighted with the response of our current Sixth Form to the opportunities for leadership presented by the new committee system. We look forward to seeing how the September 2019 cohort will contribute to this programme and to the ideas and initiatives they bring forward.

Lastly, our current Sixth Form enjoyed a new event this term: they took part in a lovely residential retreat in October which was very much enjoyed by the girls, who are already looking forward to this opportunity next year - and to the new Year 12 group who will join them. In addition, plans are progressing for a Sixth Form trip to Rome which will be a further opportunity for the girls to enjoy their friendships, while exploring this great city, including the church where St Catherine of Siena rests, and the wonderful variety of beautiful museums, piazzas and of course, Italian food.

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 12 in September and in the meantime, we are free for any questions or further discussion about St Catherine's Sixth Form.

