



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

— TWICKENHAM —



Sixth Form Prospectus

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WELCOME TO SIXTH FORM

At St Catherine's, our Sixth Form is a special place: a community where academic ambition, independence and opportunity come together. Our Sixth Form Centre, with its beautiful views across the river and the School, reflects the important role our senior girls hold within our school family. Led by the Head Girl and her team, Sixth Formers are role models for younger girls, admired for their confidence and achievements, but equally valued for the time, while their kindness and compassion help create a community where every girl feels she belongs.

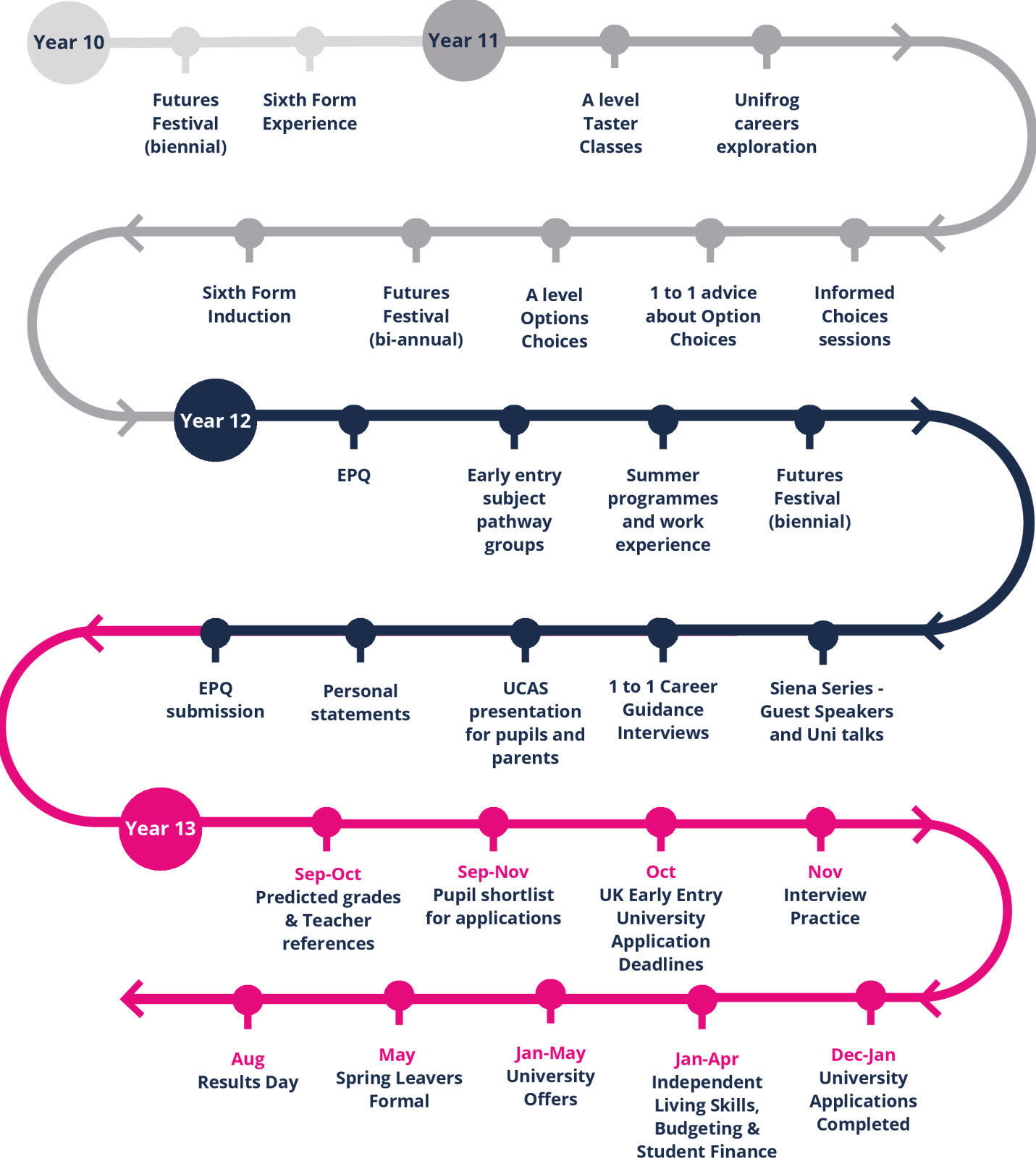
Bold academic ambition sits at the heart of Sixth Form life. With a broad choice of A level subjects, small classes and teachers who know each girl well. Girls are encouraged to think critically, challenge themselves, pursue their interests and play to their strengths. Alongside academic excellence, there is plenty of joyful, sisterly camaraderie. Our all-girls environment gives girls the confidence to find their voice, think independently and embrace new opportunities, while our dedicated Sixth Form Tutors and pastoral team provide the individual guidance, encouragement and support they need to thrive. Through our Futures Programme, girls are supported as they navigate the important decisions ahead, from university and higher education to careers and their wider future.

With greater freedom comes greater responsibility. Sixth Form is an exciting time in which girls develop their independence, take on leadership roles and discover more about who they are and what they can achieve. They benefit from excellent facilities designed for both focused study and time to relax and socialise, creating an environment where they can be themselves, build lasting friendships and grow in confidence. Underpinning all of this are the Gospel values at the heart of St Catherine's, encouraging every girl to become the very best that God intended her to be.

Whether your daughter is already part of the St Catherine's family or you are considering joining us for Sixth Form, she will find a warm, ambitious and genuinely supportive community in which she can flourish. We look forward to welcoming a new generation of enthusiastic young women each year, bringing their own talents, ideas and personalities, and making their own unique contribution to Sixth Form life. We warmly invite you to visit our Sixth Form Centre, meet our girls and speak to our Sixth Form team to discover what makes St Catherine's such a special place to take the next step.



THE SIXTH FORM JOURNEY



LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

Our specially designed Sixth Form Centre gives girls a space to call their own, with a Common Room and Kitchen, dedicated silent study room and Sixth Form Library, allowing them to balance focused academic study with friendship and downtime. Form groups bring Years 12 and 13 together, encouraging friendship, collaboration and the sharing of experiences, while an experienced Form Tutor provides a familiar and trusted point of contact for girls and parents, supporting both personal and academic development.

Girls can wear their own clothes, leave the School site at break and lunchtimes and enjoy greater flexibility for private study, while taking on important leadership roles across the School through our House system, committees and wider activities. They have opportunities to support younger pupils and contribute to sport, assemblies and competitions, developing their confidence and sense of responsibility along the way.

While girls have their own dedicated Sixth Form space, they remain an important part of the wider St Catherine's community, with access to our excellent facilities, including our swimming pool, sports field and the Library. Whether their strengths lie in academia, the arts, sport, leadership or supporting others, every girl is encouraged to make her own contribution, pursue her interests and make the most of the opportunities that Sixth Form life brings.

Engaging with challenging A level courses, thinking about the future whilst balancing enrichment and co-curricular, can make Sixth Form Life seem very busy and at times, overwhelming. At St Catherine's, the Head of Sixth Form, the Tutors and Teachers are all here to support the girls as they progress through their final two years of school.



CURRICULUM

At St Catherine's we believe that A levels provide an excellent academic structure and assessment for Sixth Form study. A levels are specialist courses and in Year 11 or as new joiners, your daughter will be supported to select A levels for Sixth Form studies.

We endeavour to accommodate pupil subject choices within our timetable, ensuring that every girl can study the subjects which suit her own strengths and aspirations.

Our current A level offering at St Catherine's

For further information about course content, assessment style, exam board and entry requirements please scan the QR code below.

Art and Design	Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science
Drama	Economics	English Literature	
French	Geography	History	Maths
Further Maths	Music	Physical Education	
Photography	Politics	Psychology	 SCAN
Philosophy and Ethics	Physics		
Spanish	Sociology	Textiles	

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

During the Autumn Term of Year 12 girls will be prepared for the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). They will explore a topic that inspires them, creating and delivering a research project from start to finish. This can take the form of a 5,000 word essay, or creating an artefact (such as artwork, performance or a product) alongside a 2,000 word report. The project requires a reflective log to capture the thinking, choices and challenges along the way. This taught skills programme is designed to impart the key knowledge and skills required for successful independent research and study for your A levels and at university.

They will learn to plan their own research, identify source material and manage their time effectively. In the Spring of Year 12 girls start researching their own EPQ with the support of a designated supervisor, with final project submission and presentation to an audience of teachers and girls at the end of the Summer term. For most girls this will lead to completing the Level 3 EPQ which is worth half an A level and highly valued by many universities.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Enrichment and Leadership

In addition to their subject lessons, girls receive a lesson a week of RE and PE, and two lessons of the Futures Programme. These lessons add valuable breadth and enrichment to the curriculum. The Futures Programme encompasses sessions on developing the skills and confidence they need for life beyond school, study skills, interview techniques, university applications and careers advice, alongside practical sessions such as presentation skills, finance, wellbeing and first aid. Girls are encouraged to take up work experience placements and, through our Siena Series, benefit from a programme of talks and events designed to broaden their horizons and support them to explore different pathways beyond St Catherine's. The series brings a range of guest speakers into School, giving girls the opportunity to hear first-hand about different careers, universities, industries and experiences, and to ask questions and make connections that can help inform their future choices.

Sixth Form is a bridge to the girls' future, encouraging them to grow in confidence as young adults and future leaders. Throughout their time in the Sixth Form, every girl is given opportunities to make her mark as a leader, whether through school committees, the Big Sisters Mentoring programme or taking the lead in activities and initiatives of her own. Sixth Formers are encouraged to play an active role in the wider School and to act as positive role models, with formal leadership opportunities including the Head Girl Team, Prefects, House Prefects and Committee Chairs.

Sixth Form life extends well beyond the classroom, with a varied programme of socials, trips and shared experiences throughout the year. The year begins with a Residential Retreat, giving the girls time to build friendships and strengthen their sense of community, while regular socials include bowling, laser tag, ice skating, dinners, theatre trips, escape rooms and our much-loved Sixth Form sleepover. Our bi-annual trip to Rome in the Spring offers a particularly special opportunity to explore the city's rich history, culture and Catholic heritage. Together, these experiences provide plenty of opportunities for girls to relax, have fun and create lasting memories with their friends.



Co-Curricular

We offer a vibrant co-curricular programme, with opportunities across sport, music, drama, the arts, societies and wider school life. Girls are encouraged to pursue their interests, try something new and take on new challenges, whether performing on stage, representing the School in sport, joining a club or society, or helping to create something of their own. Sixth Formers remain an important part of the wider St Catherine's community, contributing their talents, energy and enthusiasm across the School.

Looking to the future

The Sixth Form years are a unique crossroads: a time when academic aspirations, personal identity and future ambitions begin to come together. Our support is a journey through Sixth Form, helping each girl to understand her strengths, discover new interests and make informed choices about the future. Alongside expert guidance on university, higher education and careers, girls are encouraged to extend their learning beyond the curriculum through super-curricular opportunities, academic societies and wider reading. Our Medicine, Law and Early Entry groups provide opportunities to explore particular pathways in greater depth, while the Siena Series brings a range of inspiring speakers into School, allowing girls to hear first-hand about different professions, experiences and routes beyond St Catherine's.

We also encourage girls to gain meaningful experience of the world beyond school through work experience placements, university taster courses and alumnae connections. Our biennial Futures Festival, with its university fair and programme of speaker sessions, provides another valuable opportunity to explore different pathways, ask questions and make connections. Through Unifrog, individual meetings with the Head of Sixth Form and personalised support with applications, CVs, personal statements and interviews, each girl is guided towards the pathway that is right for her, whether that is an apprenticeship, university or a particular career. Our aim is that every girl leaves St Catherine's not only with excellent qualifications, but with the curiosity, confidence, resilience and ambition to take her next steps and make a positive contribution to the world.





UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

This year's leavers have pursued an exciting and diverse range of pathways, reflecting the individual interests, strengths and ambitions of each girl. From History, English, Philosophy and Sociology to Psychology, Finance, Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Photography, Fashion, Marine Conservation and Business, the breadth of destinations reflects our commitment to helping every girl find and pursue the path that is right for her.

- UCL (University College London)
- The University of Edinburgh
- King's College London
- University of Warwick
- University of Bristol
- University of Manchester
- University of Bath
- University of Exeter
- Durham University
- University of Leeds
- University of Nottingham
- Cardiff University
- University of York
- University of Southampton
- Loughborough University
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Liverpool
- University of Sussex
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Cardiff University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Keele University
- Nottingham Trent University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- University of Plymouth
- Bath Spa University

INSIGHTS FROM ALUMNAE



ROBYN

A LEVELS Textiles • Biology • Chemistry
UNIVERSITY OPTIONS Veterinary Medicine or Fashion Design

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

"There are many opportunities for everyone to be a leader in St Catherine's Sixth Form, from being in the Head Girl Team to being a House Captain. Even without an official role, you will still have the opportunity to start a society."

WHO THRIVES AT ST CATHERINE'S?

"A girl who aims high and is willing to work to her fullest potential; while also maintaining a kind and compassionate spirit."

WHAT ABOUT WELLBEING?

"The Sixth Form has a great support network of staff who are always available and willing to help you along the way. It's really comforting to have staff you can trust and feel comfortable around when you feel you need support."

"Take every opportunity available and get involved!"

*Have lots of fun • Build friendships • Make great memories
• Have lots to add to your UCAS application*



SOPHIE

Currently studying towards a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Studies (BMus) at a conservatoire

HIGHLIGHTS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE

"Definitely the school trips, these included a choir tour to Belgium and the Netherlands and performing at the Edinburgh Fringe."

UCAS SUPPORT

"I had two different applications (both for university and conservatoire) and I was supported throughout both processes. Teachers checked my personal statements and provided me with endless support and encouragement during the audition period."

"The Sixth Form is a welcoming community where every girl is empowered to reach her full potential."

ADMISSIONS AT 16+

Entry Requirements

Girls wishing to study in the Sixth Form are expected to have achieved six GCSEs at grade 6-9, including passes at Maths and English. We encourage girls to select A levels where they've already demonstrated strong achievement and motivation. We recommend choosing subjects in which you have achieved grade 8 or 9 at GCSE, and we require at least a grade 7 in the subject at GCSE to choose it at A level. For subjects not studied at GCSE, the entry requirements by subject are listed in the online subject guides. If your daughter is close to this grade level and shows aptitude and willingness in other ways, entry can be discussed with the Head of Sixth Form.

Scholarships

St Catherine's offers Sixth Form scholarships in the following categories: Academic, Drama, Art, Music, Sport. The 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. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications by the end of the Autumn Term.

Bursaries

A small number of means-tested bursary awards are available to those girls who show strong academic ability.



