



St Katherine's School

Sixth Form Prospectus



RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • RESILIENCE

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A warm welcome



We are a small, community-focused Sixth Form in a beautiful rural setting, which allows students to flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

As I embark on my sixth year as Head of St Katherine's Sixth Form, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I reflect on all the exceptional things our students have achieved.

Once again, the summer of 2025 saw us sending off a triumphant cohort to exciting destinations ranging from acclaimed academic institutions such as the universities of Manchester, Exeter and Bristol, as well as Imperial College London, to vocational placements including with the police, and three students beginning careers in medicine. Knowing that we have acted as a vital stepping stone in so many exciting journeys is why I believe St Katherine's is a truly exceptional post-16 option for students with big dreams and aspirations. We have also moved into our new location: a fresh, modern, bespoke Sixth Form Centre which gives students a calm working space, separate from the wider school. In the midst of the lush greenery of North Somerset, yet only five miles from the bustling heart of Bristol, we offer you space to breathe and a platform to thrive.

We are proud of the culture we have built in our small but thriving Sixth Form. We have high expectations of each and every student, building resilient and curious independent learners and critical thinkers who are prepared for undergraduate study, whilst also helping shape our young people holistically. We want each student to be open-minded by engaging with our varied

"A vital stepping stone to your future."

enrichment programme, and aim to turn each student into a leader of the future by contributing to the wider school community.

We work closely with the partner schools in Cathedral Schools Trust, and benefit significantly from the facilities and experience of Bristol Cathedral Choir School Sixth Form.

We achieve strong results each year due to the exceptional base of knowledge and expertise of our Key Stage 5 teachers, whilst smaller than average class sizes means more feedback and teachers who understand how you learn and truly get to know you, both as a person and a student. Equally, our experienced and dedicated pastoral team will ensure your wellbeing is our priority - you will be listened to and supported each step of the way across these challenging two years.

We understand how difficult choosing a sixth form is for you, and in order to decide who to trust with these two all-important years of your life, you must be fully informed. We hope this prospectus will answer as many questions as possible about sixth form life, what St Katherine's can offer, and each of the subjects you may choose to study. Most importantly, if you want to find out more, come and visit us in person at an open event, or via appointment. We can't wait to welcome you into our community.

Geraint Davies
Head of Sixth Form



St Katherine's student stories

Sophia Harper, Charlie Topp and **Hector Andrieux** flourished in their role as St Katherine's Head Students. As they embark on their next steps - Sophia with an Art Foundation course, followed by studying TV and Set Design at the University of South Wales, Charlie studying History at Exeter, and Hector English at Brighton - they speak warmly about their time in the Sixth Form.

For Charlie, staying at St Katherine's was the natural choice, having excelled in his GCSEs. "I chose to come to St Katherine's because I had developed trust and security in the teachers that helped me achieve my goals," he says. "It was natural to continue building those relationships further during Key Stage 5."

All three students studied English Literature, and all three achieved an A* in the subject. Sophia attributes her academic achievement to the more collaborative nature of A Level learning, stating that "The best thing about my academic experience was getting to discuss and debate in my English classes." It's a sentiment echoed by Hector, for whom "developing critical thinking skills and gaining a wider understanding of the world around me" was the core academic memory of St Katherine's that he will take on with him to university. Whilst Charlie and Hector both studied Biology, Charlie's third subject was History and Hector PE, as he was considering a career

in Physiotherapy. Sophia took a more creative pathway, studying Art and Product Design, and excelled across the board. All three agreed that relationships were at the core of their St Katherine's experience: Charlie describes "the breadth of personalised support offered at St Katherine's. The close-knit relationship between pupil and teacher meant that the teaching is tailored to your needs, as opposed to the 'one-size-fits-all' approach of a larger college."

In their roles as Head Students, all three students made valuable and lasting contributions to the school, whether through supporting their peers, representing the school at events such as the North Somerset Debating Society, building relationships with the lower school including acting as judges in the Year 7 poetry slam, or leading on whole school events such as the Pride Parade, the Black History Month football tournament, or Culture Day. They reflect just as fondly on their experiences outside the classroom as within it. For Sophia, the HE+ programme and its culmination of a trip to Cambridge is most memorable. For Charlie, he will always remember trekking to the Himalayas at the end of Year 13: "It was an incredible opportunity to test myself physically and restart after the intensity of the A Level period," he recalls. Hector's most memorable moment is a little closer to home: "Mr Davies's Christmas Decoration competition. I'll never forget those!"



Our way of learning

We are, first and foremost, an educational institution, and our entire ethos is guided by our core principle of giving you the best possible education. Each subject is guided by a **curriculum** which has been designed and honed by experienced, expert practitioners to help ensure the best possible results for you.

Common threads you will see in all your lessons will include frequent, probing **questioning** designed to deepen understanding and improve oracy; **retrieval practice** at the start, and throughout, lessons to create 'joined-up thinking' and reinforce key concepts; **modelling** of tasks in order to support all learners to understand what top grade work looks like; and **flipped learning**, which puts emphasis on students to independently pre-learn content and bring this knowledge to their lessons.

While we offer mostly academic A Level subjects, there is still a small range of Level 3 BTEC options available. Whatever you choose to study, these are a serious **commitment**, and all students should understand this before embarking on them. Most students will study three subjects, with some students opting to pursue four. Each A Level/Level 3 BTEC subject is allocated four hours of lessons. Students are then expected to complete six to eight hours of independent study, per subject, per week. Some of this can be completed in the six hours of timetabled study periods students are allocated each week.

Considering the size of this commitment, **choosing the right subject is vital**. Following your application, you will be invited to a Course Consultation Meeting with one of the Sixth Form team, as well as being offered Subject Taster Sessions in Term 3. Think about what subjects inspire you to continue your learning outside the classroom, in what subjects you consistently achieve results that make you proud, and what subjects may help facilitate your desired future pathway.

We aim to embed positive **study skills** and **learning habits** throughout our curriculum, both in lessons and our tutorial programme, empowering students to be independent, autonomous learners who are self-motivated and committed to their studies. These learning habits include **Organisation, Wider Reading, Consolidation, Responding to Feedback** and **Revision Skills**.

We are committed to preparing students for 21st century society by providing **21st century learning**. Online platforms such as Google Drive, Google Classroom and Classcharts ensure that work and resources are accessible 24/7, whether on or off-site, whilst also helping communicate vital information such as coursework deadlines, homework assignments and upcoming assessments. Most work is completed online, and therefore it is important that students have their own laptop. Families experiencing financial hardship can access support in this area.



Putting you first

St Katherine's Sixth Form prides itself on providing truly exemplary **pastoral care and guidance** to every student who walks through our gates. We know that you matter, we understand that each individual has their own needs, and we are here to support you. As a small, community-centred Sixth Form, each member of the team will get to know you, and you them.

Your first point of contact and your biggest champion will be your **sixth form tutor**. Our tutor team is experienced and dedicated to this all-important role. This is why we place such value on our daily 25 minute tutor time, where you can benefit from their experience, whether it's guidance on your post 18 destinations, to support with managing time and study skills, or a wellbeing concern. Equally, our Sixth Form Leadership Team of Mr Davies (Head of Sixth Form) and Mrs Weatherson (Deputy Head of Sixth Form) operate an open-door policy.

A vital member of our Sixth Form team is our Sixth Form Learning Mentor, Mrs Garrett. She provides expert advice on managing workload and utilising your time efficiently, whilst her office also acts as a safe space for all students who are struggling, either personally or academically.

If you require more specific forms of professional help, school-wide services such as the **school nurse** and our incredible **school counsellor** are available for Sixth Form students and can be accessed either through self-referral on the school website, or you can be referred by a member of staff. We also work closely with some exceptional local charities, such as Off The Record who can provide mental health support to young people. Students can also access **student support groups**, where you find help and guidance from your peers.



“I felt listened to by my tutor. There was a real sense that they cared about my future and made time to give me one-on-one support when I really needed it.”

An enriching experience



We place great emphasis on your **holistic development**, and don't believe that education should end at the classroom door. That's why we have worked hard to develop a range of developmental opportunities and enrichment options built around our '5 Cs': **challenge, converse, create, compete** and **contribute**. Where possible, we invite students to select their enrichment options on a carousel basis, and aim to offer you a new enrichment opportunity each term.

Enrichment options include: **Business Enterprise and Charity Fundraising, Outdoor Education** (including the chance to work towards your Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award) alongside **Adventure Training Club** (including surfing, climbing and caving trips), **Yoga, British Sign Language, Martial Arts, Documentary Filmmaking, Blogging, Art Club**, taking part in the **school musical, Sports Leadership**, our joint **CST Rugby Team** alongside **Bristol Cathedral Choir School** and many, many more.

You can also take the opportunity to add to your qualifications by undertaking one of our additional courses, delivered as part of enrichment.

EPQ: The **Extended Project Qualification** is a widely recognised course which is the equivalent of an AS or half an A Level. This qualification is hugely valued by top universities as it helps develop undergraduate skills such as independent research, critical thinking and time management. You will work with a supervisor to produce either an extended essay-style piece of writing, or an artefact. The best bit? Your EPQ can be about **whatever you like**, allowing you to explore your passions and interests and produce a piece of work of which you can be proud.

ESB: We are one of the few state schools who offer the **English Speaking Board** qualification. Through working on your presentation and discussion skills, you will work towards the Level 3 Certificate in Speech (Grade 8), the highest spoken language qualification in the country. On the way, you will build your confidence and grow your voice.

Building leaders of the future

As members of the Sixth Form, you will be seen as natural leaders within the school. By building up your leadership qualities, you can not only act as role models and make a difference to the lives of others; you can also build a range of vital skills which employers and universities are always looking to see.

We have a thriving **Sixth Form Leadership Team**, overseen by Head Students Sophia Harper, Charlie Topp and Hector Andrieux. They keep things running smoothly in the Sixth Form block, act as a conduit between students and staff, and lead on a wide range of initiatives, whether raising funds for charity, leading assemblies or PSHE sessions across the whole school on vital issues, or organising events such as socials and the Year 13 prom.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of what we do, and our student leaders have made a massive difference both within the Sixth Form, our school and across the Cathedral Schools Trust, of which we are a part.

Since its inception eight years ago by former Head Student Alex Leakey, **Team Pride** has been at the forefront of championing the rights of the LGBTQI+

community and its allies in our school, and its impact has been fully felt in the incredible scenes of our whole school Pride March, with hundreds of students gathering together to celebrate.

Since last year, the school has encouraged neurodivergent students to gather on a weekly basis as part of our **Neurodiversity Group** and discuss the challenges, strategies and successes which are part of day-to-day life at school. This group has been powerfully led by a Year 13 student alongside Ms Wild.

Ever-growing is the school's **BAME Network**, led by Ms Jefferson alongside student equalities lead Tom Stancliffe. Through this group, we aim to ensure that St Katherine's is an actively anti-racist school, through the values of 'Educate. Celebrate. Give Voice.'

Other ways that students can become leaders includes being trained as a **Peer Listener**, changing the lives of lower school students through listening sessions; supporting a range of lower school enrichment as **Subject Ambassadors**; leading school initiatives as **Environmental Ambassadors**; supporting literacy in the lower school as **Reading Mentors**; or creating promotional videos and posters as part of our **Media Team**.



Where next?



Your **future pathway** is our number one priority. Over the last three years, St Katherine's students have progressed onto a wide range of world leading universities including **Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh**, and even progressed overseas on sports scholarships at the **University of Utah** and **Oregon State**. Other pathways include progression onto **apprenticeships** in education, hospitality and property management, art colleges and faith schools and **careers** in trades, the armed forces and healthcare.

At St Katherine's we have a **higher than average proportion of students progressing to university**, with 72% in 2025 and 82% the previous year. Of these, 25% (2025) and 26% (2024) are attending prestigious Russell Group universities. Over the last two years **over 95% of our students have received offers from their first or insurance choice universities**. This year 46% of students going on to higher education are the first generation of their family to do so.

As well as facilitating significantly above-average progression to universities, St Katherine's works to promote **high-level apprenticeships** through regular visits from ASK Apprenticeships, a trip to the National Universities and Apprenticeships Fair, promotion of apprenticeship search

tools and support with writing cover letters and preparing for interviews.

We promote the use of **Unifrog**, a one-stop destinations platform available to all sixth form students, which includes search tools for apprenticeships and universities, know-how articles on all types of varied pathways, and writing tools for CVs, cover letters and personal statements.

St Katherine's Sixth Form works closely with Bristol University and UWE to offer **frequent insights into university life**. This includes the opportunity to apply for the exceptional Access to Bristol scheme which allows students weekly visits to the University of Bristol for a term. We also work with **Oxford and Cambridge universities** on programmes such as STEM Smart and HE+, all aimed at raising aspirations.

Our Careers and Work Related Guidance team work to bring a wealth of **varied and enriching speakers** into school to speak about pathways: we have visitors from employers such as Wessex Water and Thatchers; speakers discussing their own careers in tech, sports coaching, law, entrepreneurship and creative media and a range of local post-18 colleges.

"I was given the information and guidance I needed to make the right choice for me, and I was supported every step of the way in my application."

Art and Design



What our students say:

“In art we are given the freedom to find our own style and voice, and produce pieces of work we can be really proud of.”

Why this course is right for you:

Bringing together influences from history's greatest visual artists through the prism of your own response to the world around you is what A Level art students do. We offer you a creative, dynamic course which helps you to develop your technical and analytical skills through a broad range of media to create a personal portfolio. Commitment to the course is vital: you will work independently, and you will create every day.

All students study a core curriculum covering drawing, mixed media, painting, sculpture and printmaking in order to find your own artistic voice. Working from a range of primary and secondary sources in the classroom, regular gallery visits allow you to experience the work of other artists first hand.

If you're interested in working in the media, being an artist, creative, animator, film maker, designer or photographer, you should study this course.

What you need to know:

Exam board: AQA

Who to speak to: Ms Tallis

Topics Covered:

In the first year of the course students are given a thorough grounding in core skills through experimentation. After the spring break, students continue to develop their own ideas and specialisms more thoroughly whilst working on a personal coursework project.

Assessment:

Year 1 - Continual, ongoing assessment. Students have specific, personal targets written in consultation with teachers. Final personal coursework starts at the spring break.

Year 2 - One complete coursework personal project produced in eight school months. Exam preparation for three months and a final piece completed in a 15 hour exam.

Entry requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Art required

Grade 6 in GCSE Art desired

Co-curricular/trips:

Annual visits to both local and national galleries and exhibitions. Enrichment life drawing is organised every year, with visiting tutors from Weston College.

Biology



What our students say:

“The depth of the course and the studies of the human body were really rewarding, but as someone interested in a career in forensic science, this topic was particularly fascinating.”

Why this course is right for you:

Biology is about examining fundamental questions about the natural world and everything within it, including investigating how the human body works. If you are interested in how living beings function and came to be as they are, you should study biology.

Through learning about biological principles, you will appreciate how biologists approach problems and provide solutions with efficacy. A Level biology will develop the essential skills of investigating a problem with the aim of generating evidence from which valid conclusions can be drawn.

If you're interested in further study in genetics, medicine, nursing, environmental sciences, forensic science, zoology, veterinary science or ecology, biology is right for you.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel Biology (Salters Nuffield)

Who to speak to: Mrs Ivey

Topics Covered:

Topic 1: Lifestyle, Health and Risk
Topic 2: Genes and Health
Topic 3: Voice of the Genome
Topic 4: Biodiversity and Natural Resources
Topic 5: On the Wild Side
Topic 6: Immunity, Infection and Forensics
Topic 7: Run for your Life
Topic 8: Grey Matter

Assessment:

100% written examination in Year 13

Year 1:

Ongoing in-class assessment and mocks

Year 2:

Paper 1: The Natural Environment and Species Survival
Paper 2: Energy, Exercise and Co-ordination
Paper 3: General and Practical Applications in Biology

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required
Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or grades 7, 7 in Combined Science desired

Grade 6+ in GCSE Maths required Grade 7+ in GCSE maths desired

We recommend that students take A Level biology alongside A Level maths and/or chemistry and/physics

Co-curricular/trips:

We The Curious and Studland Bay

Business



What our students say:

“I really enjoyed how active the learning was in business, whether we were examining case studies and learning how businesses work, or coming up with our own ideas.”

Why this course is right for you:

Business is all around us, whether we are conscious of it or not. We rely on businesses to deliver the goods and services we need and to build the society we are part of. The study of business allows you to understand these vital building blocks, and how to become a successful business person in your own right.

When you study for a vocational qualification, you 'learn by doing.' So, expect a mixture of conventional classroom theory and real world practical application, just as you would in a workplace. The course provides opportunities for visits to local businesses, to run your own events and business projects, and guest speakers to work with you in the classroom. Problem-solving, teamwork and communication are essential skills to be successful.

If you want to work in leadership, management, human resources, accounting, marketing or finance, business is right for you.

What you need to know:

This is a vocational course (BTEC) and you will study the Level 3 Extended Certificate in business.

Who to speak to: Mrs Reade

Topics Covered:

Exploring business
Developing a marketing campaign
Personal and business finance
Recruitment and selection process

Assessment:

Exploring business coursework
Developing a marketing campaign exam
Personal and business finance exam
Recruitment and selection process coursework

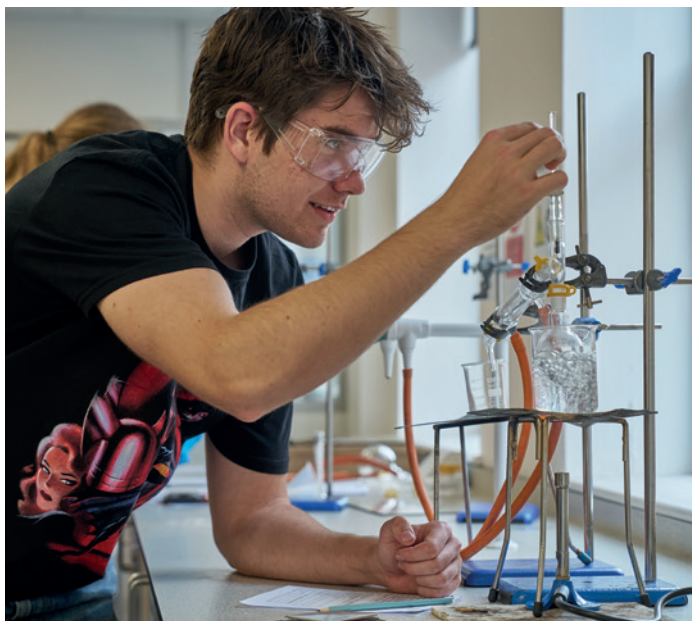
Entry Requirements:

Grade 4 in GCSE English Language required
Grade 4 in GCSE Maths required
GCSE in Business Studies not essential

Co-curricular/trips:

Young Enterprise – set up and run your own business,
The Royal Mint, Bank of England

Chemistry



What our students say:

"I want to study medicine, so chemistry was a natural choice. The A Level was definitely really challenging, but teachers always went the extra mile to help me understand key concepts."

Why this course is right for you:

Everything in the universe, from you to the stars, is made of 92 naturally-occurring elements. To understand chemistry is to understand the universe. Countless aspects of our lives are interconnected due to chemistry, and chemists explore the world at its molecular level.

As an A Level subject, this course fosters scientific curiosity, logic and creative problem-solving, working in the lab in an experimental capacity.

If you see a future in biochemistry, medicine, nursing, environmental sciences or forensic science, study chemistry. However, chemists also go on to have a huge range of careers outside STEM, from marketing to law and politics.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR A

Who to speak to: Miss Hodder

Topics Covered:

- Topic 1 - Development of practical skills in chemistry
- Topic 2 - Foundations in chemistry
- Topic 3 - Periodic table and energy
- Topic 4 - Core organic chemistry
- Topic 5 - Physical chemistry and transition elements
- Topic 5 - Organic chemistry and analysis

Assessment:

100% written examination in Year 13

Year 1:

Ongoing in-class assessment, early hurdle and module tests and mocks

Year 2:

Module tests

Paper 1 - Periodic table, elements and physical chemistry (100 marks)

Paper 2 - Synthesis and analytical techniques (100 marks)

Paper 3 - Unified chemistry (70 marks)

Entry Requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE chemistry or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required

Grade 6 GCSE Maths required

Grade 7 in GCSE chemistry or grade 7, 7 in Combined Science desired

We recommend that students take A Level chemistry alongside A Level maths and/or biology and/physics

Co-curricular/trips:

Chemistry Olympiad, STEM Smart (Cambridge University)

English Literature



What our students say:

“The atmosphere in lessons is perfect, because it makes us grow together as a class. The lessons are interesting and fun, and I can see my work getting better from feedback.”

Why this course is right for you:

Literature is a prism through which we understand the world around us, as it is now, and as it was in the past. This course compels you to interrogate the greatest pieces of literature ever written, to discuss and debate meanings and interpretations, and to have a voice.

English Literature A Level is dedicated to critical thinking, evaluation of high order concepts and writing coherently and fluently. The skills you develop as a student of this subject will empower you for life. Learners encounter a rich range of literary texts and develop skills of reading, analysis and synthesis. Wider reading is an essential part of the course. Communication, including the ability to discuss the critical context of texts and expressing ideas in an academic register, is at the heart of the subject.

If you are interested in a career in academia, journalism, teaching, law, advertising, or anything which requires the ability to form an argument and write with skill, study English Literature.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Who to speak to: Ms Jefferson

Topics Covered:

Unseen prose and poetry
Charlotte Brontë's 'Jane Eyre' alongside 'Wide Sargasso Sea' by Jean Rhys.
The poetry of Larkin and Duffy
Prebble's 'Enron' alongside Marlowe's 'Dr Faustus'
Milton's Paradise Lost
Shakespeare's King Lear

Assessment:

Year 1:

In-course assessment to ascertain priorities for Year 2; first draft of coursework

Year 2:

80% summer examination
20% coursework

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature required
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in GCSE English Literature desired

Co-curricular/trips:

Theatre trips, guest speakers from universities and an overnight trip to visit the Brontë parsonage in Haworth, Yorkshire

Geography



What our students say:

“You can see the teachers’ passion for the subject which makes the lessons really engaging. We study a wide range of topics - everything from plate tectonics to global politics.”

Why this course is right for you:

If you have ever wondered how vast natural landscapes came to be as they are, or considered how global geopolitics have evolved to the situations you currently see on the news, you should consider studying geography at A Level.

The course provides you with knowledge and understanding that is essential for any citizen of the planet in the 21st century. Through a range of exciting topics, you will understand the nature of physical and human geography whilst unpicking the debates surrounding contemporary global challenges.

The course will equip you with the skills necessary for success in higher education and the world of work. Geography is a multidisciplinary subject in a world that increasingly values people who have the skills to work across the physical and social sciences.

This course prepares you for careers in environmental engineering, politics, archaeology, planning and development, international relations, conservation, and much more.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who to speak to: Mr Jones

Topics Covered:

Tectonic Processes and Hazards
Coastal Landscapes and Change
Water Insecurity
Energy Security
Globalisation
Diverse Places
Superpowers
Health, Human Rights and Intervention

Assessment:

Paper 1: Physical Geography
(Written examination, 30%)
Paper 2: Human Geography
(Written examination, 30%)
Paper 3: Synoptic Geography
(Written examination, 20%)
Independent Investigation (Coursework, 20%)

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Geography required
Grade 6 in GCSE Geography desired
For high-attaining students, GCSE Geography may not be required

Co-curricular/trips:

Three days of group fieldwork, coastal and urban.
One independent day of fieldwork to complete Independent Investigation.

Health and Social Care



What our students say:

“I like the mix of coursework and exams. In both we get to apply theoretical knowledge to real life situations.”

Why this course is right for you:

Health and social care workers are the heartbeat of our society. From healthcare to social care to childcare, working with vulnerable people of all ages and backgrounds, and providing vital attention, expertise and guidance to those who need it most, when they need it most, the country could not run without these individuals.

This vocational qualification in Health and Social Care aims to provide an introduction to this all-important sector. Learners can also benefit from opportunities for deep learning where they are able to make connections among units and select areas of interest for detailed study. As a vocational course, students are also encouraged to 'learn on the job' through work experience, applying their learning in real-life settings and developing their employability.

Students of HSC typically go on to work in the care sector, including mental health support, nursing, midwifery, adult care, child care, social services and public services.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR Advanced National in Health and Social Care

Who to speak to: Ms Wilsher

Topics Covered:

Mandatory:

FO90: Principles of health and social care
FO91: Anatomy and physiology for health and social care
FO92: Person-centred approach to care
FO93: Supporting people with mental health conditions

Optional:

FO95: Investigating public health
FO96: Supporting people in relationship to sexual health, pregnancy and post-natal health

Assessment:

Two units examined (40%): FO90+FO91
Four units coursework (60%)

Entry Requirements:

Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Grade 4 in Biology/Combined Science Required
Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in Biology/Combined Science desired
Level 2 Merit in Cambridge National Health and Social Care

Co-curricular/trips:

Visit to UWE Glenside campus to experience a 'taster day.' First hand experiences of teaching of health-related degrees such as midwifery and nursing.

History



What our students say:

“Knowledgeable teachers help keep the content accessible but the challenge high. I have really enjoyed choosing my own topic for my coursework and being able to independently research a period I’ve always found interesting.”

Why this course is right for you:

As a facilitating subject, history not only develops your understanding of the past and how it has shaped the modern world, but also focuses on skills which will be applied across a range of other subjects.

In Year 12, students will hone their source skills, examining the challenges facing the later Tudor monarchs: Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. In contrast, they will consider Germany’s transition through democracy to dictatorship and the external events which influenced the course of this period of history.

In Year 13, students will have the opportunity to select an independent study topic of their choice to research and investigate. Recent topics have included the causes of the Nanjing Massacre, the reasons Mary I deserves the title ‘Bloody Mary’; and the view that the threat of communism was the main reason America became involved in the Vietnam War. Alongside this, students will also learn of the struggle of four key groups to gain freedom and equal rights in America from the end of American Civil War to the early 1990s.

Apart from being interesting, history is extremely useful. Employers recognise a range of skills, such as precise and analytical thinking and the ability to construct an argument effectively - particularly relevant to careers paths such as law, teaching, politics and curating.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR

Who to speak to: Mrs Cavanagh

Topics Covered:

English History: 1547-1603
German History: 1919-1963
Civil rights in the USA: 1865-1992
Topic-based essay

Assessment:

Unit 1: English History: 1547-1603: The Later Tudors (25%)
Unit 2: Democracy and dictatorship in Germany 1919-1963 (15%)
Unit 3: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 (40%)
Unit 4: Topic based essay (20%)

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE History required
Grade 6 in GCSE History desired

Co-curricular/trips:

Residential trip to Auschwitz

Mathematics



What our students say:

"I can honestly say the level of teaching is incredible, and while there is a substantial workload in the subject, having lots of practice helped me to achieve a top grade."

Why this course is right for you:

Mathematics at AS and A2 builds on work you will have met at GCSE, but also involves new ideas produced by some of the greatest minds of the last millennium. If you have a mathematical flair and enjoy the challenge of problem solving, this is the course for you.

Maths is not only a hugely valuable subject in its own right, but is a vital facilitating subject which will help you to thrive in other subjects.

Studying maths at A Level prepares you for a broad range of career-based applications, such as all forms of engineering, accountancy, aerospace and defence, manufacturing, the environmental sector, pharmaceutical and medicine, bioscience and anything which involves analytical thinking and numerical skills

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who to speak to: Mr Lee

Topics Covered:

Pure 1

Pure 2

Applied (Mechanics and Statistics)

Assessment:

100% written examination in Year 13:

Paper 1: Pure Mathematics (33.3%) - 120 minutes

Paper 2: Pure Mathematics (33.3%) - 120 minutes

Paper 3: Statistics and Mechanics (33.3%) - 120 minutes

Entry Requirements:

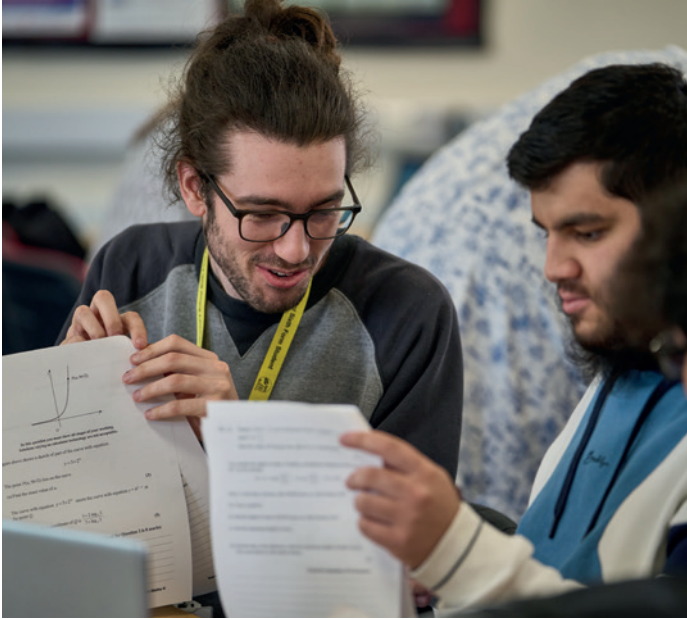
Grade 7 in GCSE Maths required

Grade 8 in GCE Maths desired

Co-curricular/trips:

You will have the opportunity to take part in the UKMT National Challenge competitions as an individual or as part of a team representing the school. Visits to maths events at UWE and Bristol University as well as Maths Inspiration at the Bristol Hippodrome.

Further Mathematics



What our students say:

“Further Mathematics made me think about maths in ways I’d never considered before, and the small class size meant lots of chances to ask questions and deepen my understanding.”

Why this course is right for you:

If you have flair, curiosity and passion for mathematics, and are considering pursuing the subject at post-18 level, then Further Mathematics will unlock the next level of challenge and understanding.

Further Mathematics at AS and A2 should be studied in addition to AS and A2 Maths. It is an opportunity to both broaden and deepen your mathematical knowledge, through studying additional, more challenging topics in pure maths, as well as a wider range of topics in applied maths, including decision maths and mechanics.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who to speak to: Mr Lee

Topics Covered:

Decision Maths
Pure Maths
Mechanics

Assessment:

100% written examination in Year 13:

Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1 (25%) - 90 minutes

Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2 (25%) - 90 minutes

Paper 3: Further Mechanics (25%) - 90 minutes

Paper 4: Decision Mathematics (25%) - 90 Minutes

Entry Requirements:

Grade 8 in GCSE Maths required

Grade 9 in GCSE Maths desired

Media Studies



What our students say:

"There is a really good balance of theory and practical elements, where you get to apply your evaluation of media texts to your own creative practice. Being part of the Media Team has helped build up my experience in the field, and I'm now aiming for a career in media production."

Why this course is right for you:

Our lives are shaped and informed by the media landscape, and this qualification encourages students to study it in an academic context and apply the knowledge and understanding gained to their own media productions. They develop critical thinking skills as they study the media in both global and historical contexts.

Over two exams with four parts in total, learners gain a broad understanding of the subject and learn the skills to produce their own media artefacts. They develop their ability to analyse and deconstruct media images and representations. Students must complete all components (01, 02 and 03/04): Media messages (01) – a written paper, evolving media (02) – a written paper and making media (03/04)– non-exam assessment

Students develop their knowledge of digital processes and software through practical projects which would give them an advantage if applying for entry level roles in marketing such as a marketing assistant, media sales, as well as working as publishing assistants, updating websites and hosting content. Equally, careers or study in the fields of communications, marketing and advertising are well-suited to studying media.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR

Who to speak to: Ms Jefferson

Topics Covered:

The specifications are designed to widen the intellectual horizons of students through the analysis of both global and historical media. They foster the development of critical and reflective thinking to encourage engagement in the debates surrounding contemporary media. Students look at critical and theoretical approaches from the perspectives of both analytical consumers and producers of media products.

Students study nine media forms and associated set products using a theoretical framework that covers media language, media representations, media industries and media audiences. They also consider the social, cultural, economic, political and historical contexts of media products.

Assessment:

Two external exams worth 35% each
A production portfolio worth 30%

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Literature required
Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and Literature desired
An interest in media/ film essential

Co-curricular/trips:

Links with BFI Bristol, opportunity to gain practical experience.

Philosophy



What our students say:

“In every single philosophy and ethics lesson we are encouraged to think deeply, to discard any preconceptions, and be prepared to be challenged.”

Why this course is right for you:

Do you ever question life? If so, then this course will empower you with the skills to critically interrogate and debate the kind of ideas human beings have grappled with for centuries. You will be able to develop your interest and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of philosophy and ethics, and relate it to the wider world. You will adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach and reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of your learning. You will learn and understand how people make moral decisions and you will formulate your own opinions on various current ethical issues.

The study of philosophy and ethics combines with many disciplines. It can lead onto career paths including further education, politics, the civil service, marketing, advertising and law.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: AQA

Who to speak to: Ms Huzzey

Topics Covered:

What is knowledge?

Ethical theories: applied to stealing, killing in computer games, eating animals and telling lies

Arguments for the existence of God

Assessment:

Ongoing in-class assessment and mocks across two years
100% written examination at the end of Year 13

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in English Language and Literature required

Grade 6 in English Language and Literature desired

Physical Education



What our students say:

“The PE course is really well-structured and every lesson builds on the learning of previous lessons. We cover a really broad range of topics, and the ‘performance’ element meant that the practical side of PE was assessed as well.”

Why this course is right for you:

For those interested in sport, exercise and the workings of the human body, PE A Level is an academic course that develops and challenges you at every turn.

This course gives you a chance to study how the body responds to exercise and how biomechanical principles can be applied to sport, how individuals learn new skills and the influence the mind has on performance and behaviour, and how sport and society have developed from their historical beginnings to present day. Studying these components will improve your understanding of sporting performance, coaching and sports analysis.

Continuing the study of Physical Education can prepare you for careers in sports development, media, coaching, performance analysis, strength and conditioning, nutrition, physiotherapy, sports psychology and a wealth of other careers in the sports and exercise industry.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR

Who to speak to: Miss Ball

Topics Covered:

Physiological factors affecting performance
Psychological factors affecting performance
Sociocultural and contemporary Issues
Performance within Physical Education

Assessment:

You will have written examinations alongside practical assessment of your physical education performance.
Physiological factors affecting performance (30%)
Psychological factors affecting performance (20%)
Sociocultural and contemporary Issues (20%)
Performance within Physical Education (30%) - 15% practical / 15% EAP

Entry Requirements:

Every student must participate in regular club level sport outside of school in a sporting activity from the OCR approved activity list
Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or grade 6, 6 in Combined Science required
Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and GCSE English required
Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or grades 7, 7 in Combined Science desired
Level 2 Merit in Cambridge National Sport Studies

Co-curricular/trips:

We work with partners to access a range of facilities and placements.

Physics



What our students say:

“Our physics teachers show extensive knowledge of the subject and encourage us to engage with physics beyond the curriculum through wider reading and supercurricular activities. I really enjoyed learning about astrophysics.”

Why this course is right for you:

Look at the world around you; physics is the only subject which explains the universe from small to large, from the beginning to the end. Via topics ranging from Quantum Mechanics to the Origins of the Universe, physics A Level considers how and why things work. If you want to understand where you came from and where you are going to, then continuing your study of physics is right for you.

Time and time again, employers have listed physics as one of the most respected A Levels, and it can prepare you for careers including medicine, engineering, further education, research, the MOD and computer science.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: OCR

Who to speak to: Mr Arden

Topics Covered:

- Topic 1: Development of practical skills
- Topic 2: Foundations in physics
- Topic 3: Forces and motion
- Topic 4: Electrons, waves and photons
- Topic 5: Newtonian world and astrophysics
- Topic 6: Particles and medical physics

Assessment:

- 100% written examination in Year 13
- Breadth in physics examination
- Depth in physics examination
- Modelling physics examination
- Exploring physics examination
- Unified physics examination

Entry Requirements:

- Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grades 6, 6 in Combined Science and Grade 6 in Maths required
- Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grades 7, 7 in Combined Science and Grade 7 in Maths desired
- We strongly recommend that all students taking A Level physics also take A Level maths

Co-curricular/trips:

- There are a range of enrichment activities including the British Physics Olympiad and annual CERN trips.

Product Design



What our students say:

"The lessons are really interesting and fun, and each lesson switches between theory, practical and project work, which keeps us engaged and challenged. I have really enjoyed the independence of coming up with my own responses to design briefs."

Why this course is right for you:

Think about your day today - the things you've done and the places you've been. Everything you have come into contact with has been designed and developed by some form of product designers and design engineers. From the clothes you wear, the vehicles you use for transport, the buildings you live and work in, to the products that make each day easier and more enjoyable, product design has an undeniable impact on our lives.

This course is applicable to careers in industrial design, graphic design, interiors, and anything in the field of engineering.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: Edexcel

Who to speak to: Mr Simmons / Mr Fey

Topics Covered:

Core technical principles
Core designing and making principles
Additional specialist knowledge

Assessment:

Written examination: 50% - End of Year 13
Design and Make Project: 50% - Starts Term 3 of Year 12

Entry Requirements:

Level 2 Merit in Engineering Design required
Level 2 Distinction in Engineering Design desired

Co-curricular/trips:

STEM Club, various design competitions, trips to London and Glasgow

Psychology



What our students say:

"We use case studies and a wide range of scientific research to answer big questions about why people behave the way they do, and how factors like stress and social influence can influence human behaviour. I have enjoyed the course so much I'm going to study social sciences at university."

Why this course is right for you:

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour. We use scientific methods in order to explore how and why people behave the way that they do. Psychology covers a broad range of topic areas which aim to prepare learners for a variety of university courses and employment opportunities such as education, sport, health and media.

Psychology is suited to students who are interested in other people and the differences between each individual. It prepares you for future careers including psychologist, psychiatrist, counsellors, consulting, marketing, human resources management, and any roles that benefit from considering what makes people tick.

What you need to know:

Exam Board: AQA

Who to speak to: Ms Huzzey

Topics Covered:

Cognitive functioning, developmental psychology, research methodologies, social influences, biopsychology, issues and debates, relationships, stress, aggression.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Introductory topics in psychology

Paper 2: Psychology in context

Paper 3: Issues and options in psychology

Entry Requirements:

Grade 5 in GCSE Biology, Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in English Language required.

Grade 6 in GCSE Biology, Grade 6 in Maths and Grade 6 in English Language desired.

Co-curricular/trips:

Attend A Level conference in London with world-renowned keynote speakers. Trip to Glenside Hospital Museum. Opportunity for students to attend specialist exam-focused workshops.

How to apply

Find an application form on the Sixth Form Admissions section of the St Katherine's website. We strongly recommend applying as early as possible in order to guarantee a course consultation meeting and a place on your first-choice courses.



Entry requirements:

5 GCSE grades 4-9 are essential for any combination of subjects.

Subjects have individual entry requirements, which can be found on the course outline pages in this prospectus. Please note: While 5 GCSE grades of 4-9 are our basic entry requirements, a place in St Katherine's Sixth Form cannot be guaranteed unless you also meet entry requirements for your chosen subjects.

Sixth Form Bursary:

Young people who need financial support to help them stay in education or training after 16 can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund. All students will be given a bursary form at 'Step Into Sixth Form' Day. This bursary can be used for transport, trips or resources. There should be no obstacles to you accessing the best possible education.

Enrolment Timeline

31st January 2026

Application form deadline

January 2026

Subject taster sessions

**November 2025
- February 2026**

Course consultation meetings

June 2026

Step Into Sixth Form days

20th August 2026

GCSE results day and enrolment

September 2026

Begin your studies

Why study at St Katherine's:



- Personalised learning experience
- Exceptional pastoral care and expert guidance
- Small class sizes
- Value added +.21, indicating almost a quarter of a grade average improvement from GCSE outcomes
- Sixth Form Ranked 'Good' by Ofsted
- University destinations for 21-25 include Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol
- Enrichment and extension opportunities including EPQ, Access to Bristol, HE+ and the English Speaking Board



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