



St Benedict's Catholic High School



Welcome to  
**St Benedict's Sixth Form**



September 2019

St Benedict's Catholic High School Sixth Form  
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## Headteacher's Welcome

November 2018

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Thank you for taking the time to visit us on Open Evening.

As a parent or carer, it seems that you are continually making choices for or with your children regarding education. First it was primary school, then secondary school and more recently it was option choices. Traditionally, the post-16 choice was a little easier: A -Levels, vocational courses or nothing. I am delighted to be able to offer you an additional and better choice: The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

No longer do students need to limit choices down to three A-Levels. With the IB, students can choose six subjects – three studied in greater depth and three at standard level. This will leave future degree and career options open and help to develop skills across a wide range of areas.

Tonight, we hope to answer your questions and perhaps correct some misconceptions regarding the IB.

The IB is a well-established qualification; it is fifty years old this year. One million students study it worldwide in nearly one hundred and fifty countries. It offers breadth and challenge for all students, regardless of ability.

Despite its relatively recent inception, our Sixth Form has a proven record of success. Our academic progress puts us in the top 20% of Sixth Forms nationally and our attainment places us in the top 5 non-selective IB state schools in the country.

This year, over 66% of Year 13 continued their studies at university with 35% gaining a place at a Russell Group university.

Running alongside the IB, St Benedict's offers the BTEC Health and Social Care Extended Diploma; a course that delivers not only the essential knowledge but also the skills and experience for careers in nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, social work, psychology, sociology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Our applied general qualification progress placed us as the highest performing Sixth Form in Warwickshire in 2017.

We also offer a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, including Duke of Edinburgh, overseas visits and a variety of sporting and cultural activities.

It is fitting that we are part of the 'Holy Family Catholic MAC' as our school is regularly described as a 'family'. It permeates every aspect of our work here at St Benedict's and our partner primaries. I hope that you enjoy being part of our family.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Hughes  
**Headteacher**

# Sixth Form Progression Routes



St Benedict's provides a comprehensive suite of progression routes that are tailored to suit a range of student abilities and career paths.

## 1. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Students complete

- 3 Higher Level subjects
- 3 Standard Level subjects
- The Core - CAS, TOK and Extended Essay

This provides access to the following

- All UK universities and many global universities
- Higher Apprenticeships
- Employment

'The IB does put you significantly ahead in the global race for the best universities.

Marks: 10 out of 10.'

*The Financial Times*

For further details and entry requirements please refer to the IB Diploma Programme Booklet

## 2. International Baccalaureate Programme Courses

Students complete

- 3 Higher Level IB Diploma Programme subjects
- 1 Standard Level IB Diploma Programme subject
- The Core - CAS, TOK and Extended Essay

This provides access to the following

- Some, but not all, UK universities
- HNDs and HNCs
- Higher Apprenticeships
- Employment

'All groups of students make excellent progress, regardless of their background or ability level'

*Ofsted 2012*

For further details and entry requirements please refer to the IB Diploma Programme Booklet

## 3. BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care

Students complete

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (3 A Level equivalent)
- plus
- IB CAS

This provides access to the following

- Many, but not all, UK universities
- HNDs and HNCs
- Higher Apprenticeships
- Employment

'Figures show that admissions to UK universities by BTEC students have risen by 30% year-on-year'

*Pearson Education*

For further details and entry requirements please refer to the BTEC Booklet



## St Benedict's Catholic High School

St Benedict's is a voluntary-aided, co-educational Catholic high school serving a very wide catchment area which includes the Catholic parishes of Alcester, Bidford, Broadway, Chipping Campden, Evesham, Henley, Stratford and Studley.

The school was founded in 1963 and is blessed with an eleven acre site close to the centre of the historic town of Alcester. There are over one hundred well-qualified full-time and part-time members of staff who, in keeping with the aims of the school, help provide our students with a spiritual, academic and pastoral environment which enhances their development.

The purpose-built Sixth Form building was opened in 2011 and provides a spectacular modern working environment.



## Sixth Form Ethos

**The ethos and philosophy of St Benedict's originates in our faith in Christ. All students feel part of a caring, Christian family and we warmly welcome non-Catholic students. St Benedict's is known as a family school and there is a genuine rapport between staff, students and parents.**

Respect for others, self-respect, genuine effort, honesty, good manners, initiative, self-esteem, charity, caring and other similar qualities are actively encouraged. Rules are kept to a minimum and designed to promote the happiness, safety, progress and good conduct of our young people. Our expectation is that all members of our Sixth Form will fully embrace our ethos and standards.

The school expects parents to support our Christian ethos, its system of rewards and sanctions and to reinforce the school's expectations of conduct, attendance, dress and attitudes to study.

"The work ethic instilled in you at St Benedict's is phenomenal. The atmosphere is very welcoming"

*PD - former student*

## Catholic Life in our Sixth Form

As a Catholic school we provide a religious education in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. All students follow a core RE programme in both Year 12 and 13, delivered in a one-hour period each week, taught by experienced teachers. Over the two years, the course involves a study of the social teaching of the Church, including community cohesion, creation and stewardship, and human rights. The course also provides an introduction to philosophy of religion, applied ethics, Buddhism and religion and the media.

Lessons employ varied teaching methods, discussions and visiting speakers, preparing students to learn and reflect on what it means to be a mature, modern Christian living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a non-examined course with no homework that complements the TOK section of the IB Diploma.

Spiritual and moral development is a vital component in the formation of young adults living and working in a global age. Throughout the two years, students will attend masses and services linked to the church year which is an indispensable part of school life.

Students are also encouraged to actively involve themselves in charity work and fundraising activities throughout their time in the Sixth Form.



## Pastoral Care



**The Pastoral Head of the school works with the Head of Sixth Form, together with the Heads of Year 12 and 13, to provide high quality care of the students, working with outside agencies where appropriate.**

Each student will be placed in a form which has a tutor who is responsible for the welfare of their students. The tutor's role is pastoral - a guide, who supports, leads, oversees and, if necessary, disciplines. Discipline at St Benedict's is firm but kind; praise, encouragement and caring engender responsiveness and responsibility. Our students' attitude is characterised by traditional politeness, helpfulness, warmth and thoughtfulness. The form tutor is the first and most important source of help as well as being the initial point of contact for parents. We believe in a triangle of communication between parents, students and staff, where channels should always be open.

Student support is important and reflects the need for growth of independence. Sixth Form years can be very stressful. We seek to provide an open door for all those with problems or concerns. Our pastoral care aims to enable our students:

- to form good relationships with others based on mutual respect and trust
- to develop positive attitudes
- to use initiative to become 'well-rounded' leaders of the future
- to contribute to our St Benedict's family
- to take their place in the world as good citizens having reached their academic potential

To encourage good communication and to aid organisation we produce a Sixth Form calendar at the beginning of the Autumn Term outlining key dates, deadlines and events over the two year cycle of study. Each student will be issued with a planner to assist in the development of sound organisational skills.

"The Sixth Form is like a huge family where everyone knows everyone. As long as you put the work in, everyone will do their best to make sure you achieve your potential"

*LD - former student*

## UCAS Applications and Careers Advice

**Providing our students with informed advice about their future career opportunities is one of our top priorities in the Sixth Form. Staff and external agencies will introduce students to the range of options that are available to them on leaving school.**



Whilst in the Sixth Form, the Heads of Year 12 and 13 support students making University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) applications. Those students who are intending to apply to university have to work to precise deadlines that are set by UCAS. During Year 12 students will receive crucial guidance on how to complete the UCAS form using the UCAS website and also the structuring and writing of their personal statements. Parental support in helping your son or daughter to meet these deadlines will be essential. The International Baccalaureate also allows our students to apply to overseas universities.

Opportunities to attend University Taster Days and Masterclasses are made available to students as well as visits to UCAS Conventions.

Those students not intending to apply to University are supported in their search for employment and apprenticeships or may be given guidance regarding taking a Gap Year.

"If we could fill our university with IB students we would. It is perfect for going on to university. An IB student settles down much quicker into university life"

*Alix Delany - Head of Admissions, UEA*



## Overseas Visits

St Benedict's has a long tradition of expanding the horizons of our students by offering them the opportunity of overseas visits. In recent years this has involved trips to China, Iceland, Spain, South America, Uganda and Italy as well as exchange trips to France, Spain and Hungary.

Trips to Iceland and Spain are taking place in 2019 with further overseas visits scheduled for 2020.



## Sport

All Sixth Formers will be expected to take part in some form of sport. In line with other local schools, Wednesday afternoons is earmarked for sporting activity and inter-school fixtures. International Baccalaureate students may develop their participation in sporting activities as part of their CAS element of the Diploma Programme.

Not only do we consider regular exercise as essential for physical well being, but it is also important in establishing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle - students need to take time out from academic studies.

Sixth Formers are encouraged to make use of our sporting facilities during lunch times and after-school. Assisting in the coaching and training of younger students is very much encouraged and is viewed positively by employers and universities.



## CAS and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) component of the IB Diploma Programme is completed by all Sixth Formers. Students have the opportunity to join one of the following schemes as part of their CAS



commitment - Young Enterprise, Sports Leaders, B-Inspired or Arts Award. In addition, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is offered - a programme of activities designed by individual students and carried out in their free time.

The Gold DofE Award includes a physical and skills section, a volunteering component, an expedition and a residential. We provide training for the expedition and give guidance on suitable activities. Interested students meet regularly to plan and train for the expedition which takes place in the summer term.

## Dress Code



The overall tone of Sixth Form dress should be appropriate to a professional working environment.

Our dress code is based on what a professional man or woman would be expected to wear for his or her work. Full details will be given to students on the Induction Day in July.

## Entry Requirements

Full details of the Entry Requirements for both the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and the BTEC course are given in the accompanying booklets.

In the event of the Sixth Form being over-subscribed, the St Benedict's Admissions Policy: 2019/2020 will be applied (see school website for details).

## Application procedure

**Our deadline for applications is Friday 8 February 2019. Please ensure that your application is received by our Sixth Form Administrator, Mrs McCaslin, by this date.**

Applications can be made using the Application Form enclosed with this prospectus. An electronic version of the Application Form can alternatively be downloaded from the Sixth Form page of the St Benedict's website.

Please ensure that second choice subjects are included on the Application Form. It should be noted that if a subject or course is under-subscribed then it may not be run.

Applications received after 9 February will still be considered, but priority will be given to applications received by the official 9 February deadline.

Individual interviews will be held in March and April 2019, with offer letters being sent to applicants by the end of April.

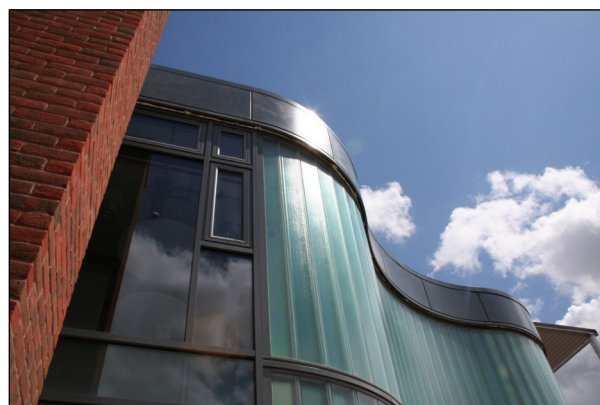
'Students, staff and parents are, quite rightly, proud to be associated with this school'

*Ofsted*

## Induction Day

**Our Sixth Form Induction Day is on Monday 1 July 2019, to which all prospective St Benedict's Sixth Formers will be invited. This will give students the opportunity to visit our Sixth Form Centre, sample the subjects they would like to study and get a flavour of life post-16 at our school.**

This day will give students the opportunity to meet the teachers who will be delivering the courses and other key Sixth Form staff. It will also enable them to get to know students from other local schools, who are also considering St Benedict's for the next stage of their education.





# 2018 UCAS Applications and Destinations

Destination	%
First Choice University	87
Insurance Choice	9
Clearing	4

