



**GO
FURTHER
WITH...**

St Christopher's Sixth Form, Accrington

PROSPECTUS 2027 ENTRY

Established in 2010, St Christopher's is a Church of England Sixth Form based in Accrington, in which the person of Jesus Christ and the message of the Gospels lie at the heart of everything we do.

We warmly welcome students of all faiths and none, and value the contribution that each and every student, from whatever background, makes to our community. Relationships, respect for each other and mutual support are part and parcel of life at St Christopher's.

It is this environment, with the emphasis on the nurturing of each person's well-being as a whole, that provides the ground for academic success.

The Sixth
Form provision is
exceptional.

SIAMs 2024

Consistently
excellent
outcomes.

Students
thrive.

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A Warm Welcome

Celebrating over 16 years of success

The choice of where to study after compulsory schooling can be daunting. Since opening in 2010, St Christopher's Sixth Form has already established itself as a leading force in the delivery of A-levels and you can be confident that our well qualified and experienced staff are well placed to get the very best from every student. Our outstanding pass rate and consistently excellent results for grades A*- C already place us in the top 100 schools nationally, and as a top five provider in Lancashire. The majority of our university-bound sixth formers gained a place at their first choice university or degree level apprenticeship, with a significant proportion now studying at Russell Group institutions, including Oxbridge. These achievements have already opened doors to a brighter future for hundreds of students.

We believe that well-supported, happy and fulfilled students not only perform better in examinations but are also better served by their school and so we place a great emphasis on supporting you culturally, spiritually, physically, and, of course, academically. Ensuring the development of every individual helps to make St Christopher's "an outstanding" Sixth Form Centre (Ofsted). Each person is cared for by our committed pastoral leaders, our personal tutors, our Chaplaincy Team, and our Learning Support Department. We work to ensure that every student has high aspirations, a commitment to others and an awareness of the deeper issues of life. Young people thrive in the supportive ethos of our Church school.

Should you choose to study with us you will be taught in one of the most modern and complete school sixth forms in the country. The many social spaces - a vibrant student hub and roof garden - are complemented by excellent IT facilities including access to free wi-fi for students, purpose built specialist classrooms and a dedicated library.

We welcome students of all faiths, as well as those of none, who embrace our values and who wish to join us to study here working towards the future they dream of.

Canon R D Jones

Headteacher



We are delighted that you are considering St Christopher's Sixth Form, and hope you will enjoy reading our prospectus.

The curriculum
is broad and ambitious.

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Our Sixth Form has now been open for sixteen years, during which time we have seen many students pass through our community and go on to be successful in the careers they aspire to at university, degree level apprenticeships or in the work place. Former students of St Christopher's Sixth Form now work and live throughout the UK and abroad, and it is a delight that they keep in touch so we can follow their exciting and diverse careers.

Supporting our students as they start their A-level journey looking forward to university, apprenticeships or the work place is both a priority and privilege for us. Our aim is for students to achieve their maximum potential both academically and personally and with the combined emphasis on both academic rigour and pastoral support they go on to achieve highly.

At St Christopher's we strive to put the message of the Gospel at the heart of all we do. This drives our pastoral programme and it is wonderful to see students from all backgrounds supporting each other, forming great friendships and encouraging each other to do well academically. As we said goodbye to our Upper Sixth in August and wished them well for the future, we look forward to welcoming all the students who will follow them.

Come and see us at our open evening, arrange a visit or look at our virtual Open Evening on our website and discover how St Christopher's can play a part in your success story.

Helen Davies

Director of Sixth Form / Assistant Headteacher

Give me ten outstanding reasons...

There are many reasons for choosing to study at St Christopher's, a sixth form which offers the best in teaching, support, facilities and preparation.

Outstanding track record of academic success with a consistent high percentage pass rate and top grades at A-level achieved.

Outstanding choice of nearly thirty A-level courses ranging from the traditional to the more vocational and practical.

Outstanding information, advice and guidance on higher education, apprenticeships and work.

Outstanding record of securing places for students at Oxbridge, top universities and degree apprenticeships.

Outstanding teaching from our enthusiastic and qualified teaching staff who make a real effort to respect you as an individual.

Outstanding support from your personal tutor who will help you to set targets and monitor your progress.

Outstanding programme of enrichment and super-curricular activities which will help you to prepare a strong application for university or degree level apprenticeship.

Outstanding opportunities for leadership across many areas from sport to music, ecology to spirituality.

Outstanding and well resourced Library with IT facilities offering a range of materials to support research and learning.

Outstanding programme of induction which allows you to feel part of St Christopher's from the moment that you join us.

Aaliyah Hussain
Now studying Medicine
at the University of
Manchester

A-levels:
AAA

How to apply

Admission to the Sixth Form is for those students who wish to study within the ethos of a Church School, whose school record shows an aptitude for study, and who fulfil the academic criteria specified for the courses for which they apply.

The admissions number for the Lower Sixth, subject to student course choices, is 135.

Entry Requirements

All A-level courses require a minimum of 4 GCSEs grade 5 or above, plus at least a grade 4 in English and Maths. Some subjects have additional requirements and these are set out under the subject heading.

All applicants will be invited to attend a short informal interview. We will discuss with you the best programme of study for you to follow and get to know what sparks your interest in subjects and the extra curricular activities that you participate in.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is to be held on the 13th October 2026 and will be an opportunity to find out more detailed information about the courses that are available. St Christopher's will also be present at the post-16 opportunities events to be held at local high schools.

In the event of over subscription, the following criteria will be applied in order.

1. Students who studied throughout Key Stage 4 at St Christopher's.
2. Students who live in Hyndburn and for whom there are vacancies on the courses chosen.
3. Other students for whom there are vacancies on the courses chosen.

Further details of the admissions procedure, including information on appeals are available from the school.

The first deadline for the receipt of applications is Friday 8th January 2027, but we welcome applications throughout the year via our Sixth Form website.

Attendance rates have been **sustained above** the national average over time.

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Jonathan Rides
Now studying Marine Biology at the University of Newcastle

A-levels:
A*A*AB



Meet our Senior Team

The whole senior team made St Christopher's our top choice for post 16 education. It's the clear choice for academic study in Hyndburn and East Lancashire. Since joining, we definitely feel that decision has paid off! St Christopher's provides an environment which fosters our ambitions and intellectual curiosity, no matter what our specialities or struggles are. St Christopher's is a tight-knit community, which ensures the success of each individual, not only academically, but also personally.

There are over 27 subjects on offer which allow students to explore their academic pursuits in depth and this is combined with a wide range of extracurricular enrichment activities including, EPQ, Pathways to Law, Medicine, Apprenticeships and Teaching as well as physical activities such as netball, badminton, gym sessions and football. This is the perfect opportunity to decompress from A-Levels and connect with likeminded individuals, whether that be through sporting endeavours or more career-driven pursuits. You will be able to pick up a lunchtime lecture delivered by academic staff on areas they have a passion for and this will help expand your super-curricular knowledge.

St Christopher's offers a supportive, academic environment, whilst also challenging its students to go the extra mile in their own time to attain the grades they have the potential to. Students are given the freedoms of a college experience whilst also benefiting from the structure and support network to ensure success for everyone. They are determined that you should be the person you want to be. The

pastoral support available to all students makes the transition easy between secondary school and Sixth Form and ensures that all students thrive.

Our Sixth Form was the proud winner of the 2025 regional Bar Mock Trial competition allowing us to participate at national level at the Royal Courts of Justice in London; both a tremendous achievement and great fun. Our footballers were finalists in the 2026 Lancashire Cup, alongside the netball team with a long held winning streak. Music is highly regarded both in the curriculum and in extracurricular activities such as Jazz Band and the Sixth Form award winning choir, Cantores. They have just returned from a highly acclaimed tour of Northern Italy. Students are also given the opportunity to embark on subject specific study tours, combining education and exploration, to destinations such as Iceland, Paris and New York. It is these opportunities which provide students with an unrivalled experience during the two years they spend with us and ensure you leave with memories and experiences you will never forget.

We look forward to seeing you at our open events and taster days and urge you to let us help you write the next chapter in your academic journey.

Eden, Grace, Lincoln, Evie, Sam & Lillia St Christopher's Sixth Form Senior Team

Tutorial system

St Christopher's enjoys an outstanding reputation for the quality of pastoral care offered to students.

You will be part of a tutor group of about twenty students with your own personal tutor whom you will meet on a daily basis. Your tutor will be there to offer support, guidance and encouragement, organising one-to-one reviews to make sure that you are on track to achieve your target grades. If you need additional support or assistance then our Learning Support team and qualified counsellor will be on hand to intervene and help. Their expertise will help you identify how problems and difficulties can be overcome. Your parents will be kept informed of your progress on a regular basis with written reports, information evenings and an annual Parents' Evening.

All students have access to our Chaplain Rev'd Alex Oehring, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Colne. Alex will often be found milling round the hub and is happy to chat to any students. He will help plan tutor group and year group communion services. A Chapel is situated in the Library within the Sixth Form Centre.

An attendance figure of 96% and remarkably high retention rates, suggests that students at St Christopher's enjoy their time in the Sixth Form.

Foundation Pathways

The Foundation Pathways course offers a small number of young people with particular needs opportunities to gain Level 1 qualifications and to develop important life skills. Foundation Pathways is a specialist provision aimed at those students requiring a more accessible, supportive and structured approach to their post-16 education.

For more information please turn to page 47 or contact Ms Holmes, SENDCo and Associate Assistant Headteacher, as well as our Foundation Pathways Course Leader at s.holmes@st-christophers.org

Financial Support

Students can access funding to help support them in their studies such as the 16 - 19 Bursary and Free School Meals. Help with transport is available and with everyday costs associated with a student's study programme. Further information can be found on the website or from the Sixth Form Office.

Students
are **successful**
in securing places
on ambitious course
for further study or
apprenticeships.

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Laila Saudi
Now studying Law
at the University of
Manchester

A-levels:
A* A* A

Enrichment and Super-curricular

Our extensive and varied enrichment and super-curricular programme will develop your skills outside of academic study. You will find courses and clubs to improve your future prospects, and a caring and fun community ready to support you and help you achieve your dreams. It is the way we do enrichment that makes St Christopher's so special.

A sample of some of the enrichment opportunities on offer:

Programmes and Qualifications

These are one year enrichment courses that lead to accredited AS-level qualifications, or develop essential skills for specific university courses or employment.

- Aim Higher Oxbridge Programme
- AS-level Core Maths
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Professional Pathway to Medicine
- Professional Pathway to Teaching
- Professional Pathway to Law
- Professional Pathway to Degree Apprenticeship

Enrichment Opportunities

There are various activities you can get involved in. These include:

- Debating Society
- Football Teams
- Games Skills Lab
- Judo
- Netball Team
- Sport and Fitness
- Work Experience

Extra-curricular Activities

Our extra-curricular clubs take place throughout the week and give students the freedom and creativity to pursue their passions, or experience something new. Students often lead and establish their own clubs based on their personal interests.

Some extra-curricular clubs on offer are:

- 'Cantores' – SATB Chamber Choir

- Charity Committee
- Christian Union
- Eco and Sustainability Group
- Lunchtime Lectures
- Jazz Band, Wind Band and Orchestra
- Musical productions

Improving culture

We want students to experience the world around them and improve their cultural capital. During your time at St Christopher's trips offered will include a Politics, cultural trip to New York and Washington, Music Tours for choirs and bands to Europe and beyond, Geography Field Work Trip to Iceland, Physics and Chemistry visit to the Hadron Collider in Cern and a Business and Languages trip to Disneyland Paris, amongst others! We invite future employers such as BAE Systems and Rolls Royce to talk about apprenticeships and job opportunities in industry including accounting, manufacturing, and retail.

There are university visits to Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, York, Leeds and Lancaster. All prestigious universities. Our Discovery Day explores degree apprenticeships and more local university options for those who wish to study closer to home.

Student voice is important and we want all students to feel their opinions are heard and valued. Our Sixth Form Student Council meets half-termly and offers all students a voice in offering suggestions to improve our Sixth Form community.

Further Education: Advice & Guidance

Most of our students progress to university or Degree level apprenticeships. You will have the support of staff, outside agencies and a dedicated careers library containing up-to-date information on all universities and courses as well as opportunities in employment. All students will attend UCAS Conventions, visit both campus and city based universities and are able to book to attend up to four University open days during term time.

Oxford and Cambridge

We are committed to academic excellence and part of this involves supporting and guiding students who have the necessary ambition and ability to apply to Oxford or Cambridge. Students considering Oxbridge entrance receive a lengthy programme of support including tutorials, mock interviews and residential visits to our link colleges. A similar programme is offered to those who wish to apply to one of the Russell Group universities.

Pre-Professional Programmes

Students who wish to enter one of the professions – medicine, midwifery, nursing, veterinary science, dentistry, pharmacy, law, teaching – are offered support from one of our pre-professional programmes. This includes a sustained period of work experience, targeted UCAS application support and presentations and workshops from experts. This enables students to make a competitive application.

Aspirations Programme

Students are offered a wide and varied programme of talks and lectures from visiting academics and employers. These sessions offer a valuable insight into topics beyond the exam specification.

Degree Level Apprenticeships

This tailored support package offers students targeted support throughout their degree apprenticeship application including advice on work experience and super-curricular activities. This support puts students in a strong position in such a competitive environment.

Leaders insure that **students gain the knowledge** they need to make informed choices about their futures.

Ofsted 2026

Molly McCarthy
Now studying Medical
Biosciences at Imperial
College, London

A-levels:
A*A*A

Student Destinations 2026 – 2027

- Universities
- Degree Level Apprenticeships



Where Are They Now?

Over 15 Years of Success

Dr Charlotte Maden

Cardiff University School of Medicine
Academic Speciality Trainee Doctor in Obstetrics & Gynaecology

St Christopher's is an outstanding school that caters for all needs and aspirations. It has a strong Christian foundation which ensures that everyone feels cared for.

St Christopher's provided me with the confidence to aim high and know that anything is possible if you work hard.



Harry Kershaw

History at University of Lancaster with further study for teaching

Why would you recommend St Christopher's Sixth Form?

I really enjoyed my time at Sixth Form as it provided me with a really supportive environment and community in which I could achieve and prepare for study at university.

How did St Christopher's Sixth Form help you?

By studying history, I was able to develop a strong foundation of key skills, learning how to think critically and write effectively, before transitioning to the subject at university.



Madeleine Gadd

Medicine at University of Birmingham

I would absolutely recommend the Sixth Form here at St Christopher's. The support I received, both academically and personally, was invaluable.

Even during challenging times in my personal life, they were always there to offer support. The sixth form not only prepared me for university but also helped me grow in confidence. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities and guidance I received, and I wouldn't be where I am today without it.



Our students are our greatest asset, so what do former St Christopher's sixth formers remember about their two years with us?

Great results but so much more!



Christopher Chilvers

Architecture at the University of Cambridge

St Christopher's is an excellent place to begin fostering creative curiosity, whichever career path you may take

Studying at St Christopher's provided me with a means to communicate in a visual language and explore a diverse range of media in which I could realise design ideas. From communicating with peers and studio tutors to engineers and urban planners, these skills continue to be essential to my current studies in architecture.

Lauren Southwell

Sheffield Hallam for both masters & undergrad. Deputy Hotel Manager

Why would you recommend St Christopher's Sixth Form?

Sixth form was such a happy place for me. Teachers really cared about you and your education and supported you all the way through which I was worried about losing when we left school. It was such a friendly family / community feel.

How did St Christopher's Sixth Form help you?

St Christopher's made me realise that I was able to do something great for myself. It pushed me to see what I was capable of and what I could achieve when I put my mind to it. We had all the support we needed but it really motivated me to learn independently and realise I could do it!



Archie Stronach

Newcastle University - Mechanical Engineering

Studying Religious Studies was one of my highlights from my time at St Christopher's. The course had an air of energy and curiosity not always present in school environments, and was a truly rewarding subject to take."

The course, and my incredible teachers, helped me to solidify my own beliefs, while continually prompting fascinating challenges and forcing me to ask questions I had never previously considered.

Choosing your A-levels

It is not always easy choosing your subjects and we will offer advice at interview. The first thing to remember is that you must achieve the GCSE grade required by that particular subject. Our recommendation is that you choose four subjects to study in the first year and then drop to three after Christmas or at the end of the Summer term – and take your best three through. Taking four subjects at the start will provide some flexibility and allow you to experience a broad range of subjects before specialising in your chosen three.

Choose subjects that interest you, or that will enable your chosen career path. In the following pages we outline the career paths that some of our former students have taken and recommend possible A-level

subject combinations. We hope these examples will help you choose the subjects you wish to study.

These are examples and NOT definitive. Subject choices and combinations are discussed at interviews.

Core A-level Subjects: Universities will normally expect students to have studied at least one of these subjects.

Recommended A-level Subjects: It is desirable to study these subjects.

Helpful A-level Subjects: A background in these subjects may be useful for some elements of the degree course.

Subject	Core	Recommended	Helpful	Degree in	Career as
Business	• Business • Economics • Maths	• Geography • Law • Politics	• Computing • Modern Foreign Languages	• Business Management • Finance • Economics • Analytics	• Digital Specialist • Market Researcher • Accountant • HR Manager
Creative Arts	• Art & Design • Music • Performing Arts • Product Design • Textiles	• English Literature • History • Modern Foreign Languages	• Psychology • Classics • English Language	• Textile Design • Drama • Theatre Studies • Graphic Design	• Fashion Designer • A & R Music Talent Scout • Animator • Studio Photographer
Earth Sciences	• Geography • Maths	• Biology • Further Maths • Physics	• Chemistry • Computing	• Environmental Science • Physical Geography • Ocean Sciences • Geochemistry	• Marine Biologist • Environmental Health Officer • Cartographer • Meteorologist
English and Media	• English Literature and/or Language	• Classics • History • Modern Foreign Languages	• Psychology • Sociology • Religious Studies	• Creative Writing • Media Studies • Linguistics • Classical Studies	• Magazine Journalist • Advertising Copywriter • Author • Translator

Subject	Core	Recommended	Helpful	Degree in	Career as
Humanities	- History - Politics - Religious Studies	- Geography - Law - Modern Foreign Languages	- Biology - English Literature - Sociology	- Archaeology - Theology - Ancient History - Middle Eastern Politics	- Archivist - Art Gallery Curator - Politician - Research Associate
Legal	- Law - History	- Economics - English Literature - Politics	- Classics - Modern Foreign Languages - Psychology - Sociology - Religious Studies	- International Law - Maritime Economics - Legal Practice - Criminology	- Barrister - Probation Officer - Licensing Officer - Paralegal
Material and Natural Sciences	- Biology - Chemistry	- Maths - Physics	- History - Psychology - Sociology	- Natural Science - Bio-Chemistry - Bio-Medical Science - Animal Behaviour	- Landscape Architect - Pharmacist - Nurse - Arboricultural Officer
Maths, Physics and Computer Science	- Maths - Further Maths - Physics	- Biology - Chemistry - Computing - Product Design	- Economics - Geography - Geology	- Engineering - Building Surveying - Computer Science - Architecture	- Accountant - Architect - Acoustic Engineer - Data Programmer - Nuclear Physicist
Medical	- Biology - Chemistry	- Maths - Further Maths - Physics	Psychology	- Dentistry - Medicine - Physiotherapy - Veterinary Medicine	- GP - Vet - Surgeon - Radiographer
Social Sciences	- Economics - Psychology - Sociology - Religious Studies	- Biology - English Literature - History - Maths	- Classics - Law - Politics	- Philosophy - Politics & Economics - Social Policy - International Relations	- Social Worker - Police Officer - Clinical Psychologist - Education Welfare Officer
Sport	- Biology - Physical Education	- Business - Maths - Psychology	- Geography - Law - Physics	- Sport Studies - Exercise Science - Psychology - Business & Management	- Nutritionist - Sports Coach - Personal Trainer - Physio

These are just a few suggestions and recommendations to help you consider which subjects might work well together and where they might lead in the future. It is essential that you undertake individual research on GCSE and A-level subject requirements for specific degree courses, which can vary between universities.

Subject specific GCSE requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements of 4 GCSE grades at grade 5, plus a grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics, there are also some specific requirements for the subjects listed opposite.

For more information

More information about our courses follows these pages but you can learn more about them, what you will study and how you will be assessed by visiting:

www.st-christophers.org/sixth-about/courses

If you would like to apply to study with us then visit:

www.st-christophers.org/sixth-about/online-application-form

Zainab Hussain
Business Accounting
at the University of
Manchester

A-levels:
A* A A

Art & Design	Grade 6 in GCSE Art or equivalent and a portfolio.
Biology	Grade 6 or above in Biology plus one other from Chemistry or Physics. If studying Combined Sciences at GCSE, grade 7 or above preferred. Maths at grade 6 is desirable.
Business	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Chemistry	Grade 6 or above in Chemistry, plus one other from Biology or Physics is preferred. If studying Combined Sciences at GCSE, grade 7 or above. Maths at grade 6 is desirable.
Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in English Literature and/or History is desirable.
Computing	Grade 5 in Mathematics.
Economics	Grade 5 in English and grade 6 in Mathematics.
English Language	Grade 6 in English.
English Language & Literature	Grade 5 in both Language and Literature.
English Literature	Grade 6 in English.
French	Grade 6 in French.
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Maths.
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography.
History	Grade 6 in History is desirable.
Mathematics	Grade 7 in the full GCSE higher course.
Music	Grade 5 or equivalent in chosen instrument / voice
Performing Arts	Merit or above in BTEC Performing Arts or GCSE Grade 5 in Drama or Dance.
Physical Education	Grade 5 in Combined Sciences or two grade 5s from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or PE.
Physics	Grade 6 or above in Physics, plus one other from Chemistry or Biology is preferred. If studying Combined Sciences at GCSE, grade 7 or above. Maths at grade 6 is desirable. Other subjects studied in Year 12 should include Maths.
Product Design	Grade 5 is desirable in Design Technology GCSE.
Psychology	Grade 5 in English and Maths.
Sociology	Grade 5 or 6 in English Language/Literature is desirable. Grade 4 in GCSE Sociology if studied.
Spanish	Grade 6 in Spanish.
Textiles	Grade 6 in Art or Textiles is desirable.

Key Dates

The following key dates will help you to plan the application process for Sixth Form as you consider the vital steps towards your chosen career.

2026

13th October (5.30pm – 7.30pm) – Open Evening

This is a chance for you and your parents to find out more about the Sixth Form and chat to students and staff. Please keep checking our website and social media channels for more details and any other events we may host in person or online.

2027

8th January – Application Deadline (first round)

Applications received by this date will be considered first.

20th January (5.30pm – 7.30pm) – Open Evening 2

A second chance for you and your parents to find out more about the Sixth Form and chat to students and staff. This is open to both Year 10 and 11 pupils

Early February – Interviews

Applicants will be invited to attend an informal interview to discuss their course selection and options.

March – Offer of provisional places to first round of applicants

Successful applicants will be notified that a provisional place has been offered, usually dependent on GCSE grades.

25th June – Taster Day

A Taster Day for all applicants with sample lessons in the subjects you have chosen and for you to experience a day in the life of the Sixth Form.

19th August – GCSE Results Day & Enrolment

Students confirm the formal acceptance of their place at St Christopher's after obtaining their GCSE results.

2nd September – Term starts

Students thrive. They are proud of their Sixth Form.

Ofsted 2026

Tom O'Doherty
Degree Apprenticeship
with PwC UK

A-levels:
A* A A

Courses on offer

A wide range of A-level courses and one BTEC are offered at St Christopher's. Most students study four subjects in the Lower Sixth (Year 12) and continue with three of these in the Upper Sixth (Year 13).

Teaching groups at St Christopher's are small and a range of teaching styles adopted, partly to prepare students for the less structured teaching approach they will meet at university. Sixth formers are encouraged to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to make well-informed and realistic choices about their future.

Our aim is to challenge each student, helping them to fulfil their potential and to appreciate the satisfaction gained from academic study. Sixth formers are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop independent thought and self-discipline.

All A-level courses will require a minimum of 4 GCSEs Grade 5, plus at least a Grade 4 in both English Language and Mathematics.

The courses offered are as follows:

Art & Design

20

Biology

21

Business

22

Chemistry

23

Classical
Civilisation

24

Computing

25

Economics

26

English Language

27

English Literature &
Language

28

English Literature

29

French

30

Further
Mathematics

31

Geography

32

History

33

Law

34

Mathematics

35

Music

36

Performing Arts
(BTEC)

37

Physical Education

38

Physics

39

Politics

40

Product Design

41

Psychology

42

Religious Studies

43

Sociology

44

Spanish

45

Textiles

46

Art & Design

Introduction

Creative skills are vital to British industry. A-level Art and Design will enable you to develop your artistic ability across an exciting range of techniques, experimenting with effects and concepts. This course is hands-on, with the emphasis on creating imaginative individual work. Students will visit galleries and take part in Art workshops to extend specialist skills and knowledge.

Why Art & Design?

- You will be well prepared for a future career in a creative industry.
- Many students go on to further study leading to careers in graphic design, fashion, illustration, architecture, painting, sculpture and photography.
- You will build a portfolio to use in university interviews.
- You will have an opportunity to further develop your artistic skills.
- Studying a practical subject can offer a contrast to more traditionally academic A-levels.

Any special requirements?

Entry will be determined by interviews, at which students must present a portfolio of work.

Art GCSE grade 6 or equivalent is also required for course entry.



“Art has allowed me to branch out and experiment with a multitude of different media and enabled me to develop my own personal style. Fine art has encouraged creative thinking and given you the freedom to express myself in my work. This has encouraged me to further pursue fine art at degree level.”

Megan Bladen
(formerly Blessed Trinity RC)

Biology

Introduction

Biology is the scientific exploration of the vast and diverse world of living organisms. This exploration has expanded enormously over the past four decades, revealing a wealth of knowledge about ourselves and the millions of other organisms with whom we share the planet. Today, biological research spans an almost infinite spectrum, from molecules to landscapes.

Why Biology?

The study of Biology has an immediate relevance to our daily lives. It is important for everyone to develop a sense of how we fit into the complex ecology of our planet without wreaking horrendous destruction. Some of our greatest engineering feats of the future are likely to involve bio-engineering projects, particularly concerning the disposal of municipal and industrial waste, and the development of renewable resources. A-level Biology can lead to a university education in medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, physiotherapy, pharmacology, environmental science, forensic science, microbiology, genetics and a range of other science courses.

Any special requirements?

If students have taken Separate Sciences at GCSE, they must have achieved grade 6 or above in Biology plus one other from Chemistry or Physics. If students have taken Combined Science at GCSE, it is desirable that students have achieved grade 7 or above. As the maths content of the A-level course is quite substantial it is desirable that students should also have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

“Studying Biology has been an incredibly engaging and rewarding experience. One of the most enjoyable aspects has been exploring complex processes in greater depth, discovering the intricacies of each biological system. The practical activity groups bring theoretical concepts to life.”

Jason Zhou
(formerly Colne Primet High)

Business

Introduction

Business is a popular subject to study at A-level, providing a valuable academic and work-related qualification whilst also developing useful life skills. It combines well with any other subject and it is held in high regard by many employers. Business students will learn not only about business behaviour but also about how businesses adapt to dynamic markets and competition.

Why Business?

- If you want to learn about the issues involved in managing a business, the Business course will provide you with a stimulating insight into marketing and business management.
- Learn about financial literacy and problem-solving, working as a team, and managing day-to-day operations of a business.
- The global factors affecting businesses including Brexit, joint enterprises, and global tax evasion.
- Study new, existing, and international businesses by analysing, interpreting and evaluating complex business information.

We run a trip to a business within the chosen industry to enrich students with the knowledge on how the business works and operates. We have had a visits from the experts at Chorley Group who gave a real insight into the motor industry and its future developments.

Any special requirements?

Candidates should have a keen interest in the current business environment, as they will write about real-life businesses in context during their examination.

A minimum of grade 5 in GCSE English and Mathematics is preferred.

"Business gave me a wide range of real-world knowledge. The skills I have learned throughout my time studying this course are ones I am able to use in order to drive my future success in Finance. I have thoroughly enjoyed the subject!"

Harry Taylor
(formerly St Augustine's)

Chemistry

Introduction

Chemistry is the science which bridges the gaps between most other sciences, be they physical or biological.

It answers questions such as: "How do chemicals react?" and "Why when combined, do some chemicals go 'Bang!' while others largely ignore one another?" Without Chemistry, there would be no new drug developments, indeed no new materials of any kind, whether for fashion or for stopping a speeding bullet. In short: Chemistry = Essential Science.

Why Chemistry?

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live, from the way our bodies work to the effects on our environment of human activity. It is an interesting subject even if you only intend to use it as a stepping-stone, and it complements many other subjects, particularly Biology and Physics but also Maths, Geography and Psychology. Chemistry is an essential A-level for a host of degree courses, including Medicine, Veterinary Sciences, Pharmacy and Dentistry.

Any special requirements?

If students have taken Separate Sciences at GCSE, they must have achieved grade 6 or above in Chemistry plus one other from Biology or Physics. If students have taken Combined Science at GCSE, it is desirable that students have achieved grade 7 or above. As the maths content of the new A-level course is quite substantial, it is desirable that students should also have at least a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.

"Chemistry has been a rewarding experience for me. One of the many reasons I enjoy it so much is my interest in Organic Chemistry. I find it amazing to see how different molecules interact, how reactions take place, and how these principles are applied in real-world contexts."

Syed Shah
(formerly Unity College)

Classical Civilisation

Introduction

Studying the classical civilisations of Ancient Rome and Greece is fascinating.

We cover a wide range of themes from this period, including philosophy, religion, comedy, and tragedy. The course intends to expand students' knowledge of the ancient world in order to gain a better understanding of the modern.

If you are looking to combine an interest in History and English Literature, this could be the subject for you.

Why Classical Civilisation?

- A highly regarded A-level which combines academic rigour with fascinating subject content, including insights into a different world of gods, heroes, empires and government.
- Supported by trips to museums, universities and theatres.
- The opportunity to study diverse topics and sources, including both literature and visual/material culture, which will inspire and motivate learners to engage further with the classical world.
- The course covers the foundations of Western culture
 - The study of the oldest surviving works of western literature; the origins of democracy; the birth of theatre; art and artistry.

Any special requirements?

The study of Latin and Ancient Greek is all completed in English translation so no prior knowledge is required. However, a grade 5 in English Literature and/or History is desirable.

"Classical Civilisation is a challenging yet rewarding subject. The world of the hero, accompanied by the study of ancient civilisation, provides a balance between learning of the remarkable literature of Homer and Virgil, and the incredible history of the Ancient World"

James O'Doherty
(formerly Bowland High)

Computing

Introduction

An interesting and varied subject with an emphasis on abstract thinking.

In today's computer age, it is essential that there are highly skilled people that have great computing knowledge, which is where the A-level Computing qualification comes into relevance. The A-level in Computing is varied, interesting and challenging and will appeal to students with most learning styles. You will need to have a logical mind and be good at maths because computing involves programming which is a logical and mathematical discipline. The course has an emphasis on abstract thinking, problem-solving, programming, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning and provides wide-ranging options for progression to university.

Why Choose Computing?

- A qualification in A-level Computing is highly regarded when you venture into employment as there are so many careers where A-level Computing is essential.
- This course will prepare you for many of the courses at university, including computing, software engineering and business or computer graphics, amongst others.
- You will develop the capacity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- You will acquire the ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of computing, in a range of contexts to solve problems.

Any special requirements?

The previous study of IT or Computing is not a pre-requisite for this A-level. Students should have an interest in computers and be prepared to work independently in order to complete the practical project in Year Two. Students must have achieved a minimum of a Grade 5 in Mathematics.

"I came in with no programming knowledge and halfway in, I'm quite confident of what I can achieve. Coding is the language of the future, and everyone should learn it. There is no gender bias when your code is successful."

Khula Ijaz
(formerly Mount Carmel)

Economics

Introduction

Why are banks 'too big to fail'? What's inflation, and does it affect me? I hear a lot about interest rates and payday loans, but I want to know what it means... Economics is where you find this out, and a lot more.

Why Economics?

- Understand how to make better choices in life, breaking down complicated real-life problems into easy decisions.
- Understand what governments do to improve society by fixing problems, and how this can sometimes go badly wrong.
- Gain an insight into why we trade with distant countries like Kenya rather than neighbouring EU countries – is this good for Kenya?
- Explore why petrol prices are so high despite oil prices falling, and how we stop this.

Any special requirements?

Candidates should have a keen interest in current affairs and world events, as they will be expected to write about recent affairs in their examination.

Grade 6/5 in Economics and a 5/4 in Business, with a minimum of a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics is required because of the data interpretation part of the course.

Studying A-level Mathematics alongside A-level Economics is encouraged for studying Economics at a higher level.

"The Economics course allows exploration of the complex machine of our country and the world, helping us to understand it better, to tackle real-world problems like poverty, and see the effects of decisions made on local, national and global scales. I now know just how relevant Economics is, from aspects of the environment to prices of goods and parliamentary decisions."

Isobel Smith
(formerly Bowland High)

GO FURTHER WITH...

English: Language

Introduction

The study of English Language is the study of all the significant aspects of human communication from the language choices of teenage tweets to the language choices of celebrated playwrights. This course encompasses this range. For anyone interested in human communication, English Language will prove a fascinating and rewarding subject.

The course seeks to provide answers to the following questions:

- How do children acquire language?
- Is one way of speaking superior to another?
- How does advertising work?
- Do men and women speak differently?
- How and why is English changing?

Why English Language?

This is a demanding course that provides a great deal of enjoyment. It enables students to develop and apply their understanding of linguistic concepts to the analysis and appreciation of the English Language. It provides a course of study for students wishing to develop research skills and investigative work related to the English Language.

Any special requirements?

Students must be self-disciplined and have an interest in the technical side of the English Language. They must be prepared to conduct their own investigations into different aspects of the English Language. Students must be able to express their ideas clearly and elegantly and be able to frame their ideas in the form of incisive and systematic arguments students should have achieved at least a grade 6 in English GCSE.



“Whilst studying English Language, I gained an enlightening insight into how our own language choices ultimately define us as human beings. I loved the Creative Writing section of the course which allowed me to learn how I can manipulate my own lexical and grammatical choices to develop genre and meaning. I found the course enlightening, and thoroughly enjoyable.”

Scarlett Atkin
(formerly St Christopher's)

GO FURTHER WITH...

English: Literature & Language

Introduction

This is a most enjoyable course which enables students who enjoy both the linguistic and literary aspects of English study, to continue to develop their interests. Students will study a number of great literary texts, and through this develop their skills in language analysis.

Why English Literature and Language?

It provides a course of study for those who do not yet wish to specialise in the study of either language or literature and allows them to maintain their broad interest. English is useful for innumerable careers and the foundation of academic study.

Any special requirements?

Students must enjoy reading and be prepared to study alone, bridging their ideas and opinions to class study. They should have achieved at least a grade 5 in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

“Studying English Literature and Language as a combined subject allows me to engage in all aspects of the subject at once. The variation of novels, plays and poems that we study really does emphasize the alternating features that English combined has to offer. If you are undecided on which English subject to choose, then perhaps English combined is the subject for you!”

Ellie Gudgeon
(formerly Ribblesdale)

GO FURTHER WITH...

English: Literature

Introduction

The course builds upon the work you have done for GCSE and introduces you to a more formal academic study of a wide range of fascinating, relevant and challenging texts.

Throughout the course you will study poetry, drama and novels.

Why English Literature?

English Literature allows its students to develop their learning in a wide variety of academic subjects, including philosophy, theology, history, and foreign and classical languages. To understand a society it is essential to understand its literature, and this course provides an excellent opportunity to do that. Literature also offers us a profound insight into the human condition.

Any special requirements?

The course involves a significant amount of reading. Students must be independent learners who are willing to read in their own time and be prepared to discuss in class their ideas about what they have read. Students must be able to construct systematic and incisive argument and express their ideas with elegance and clarity. Students should have achieved at least a grade 6 in English GCSE.

“A-level English Literature offers a profoundly fascinating insight into the human condition and provides us with an understanding of our collective motivations and beliefs. Studying English Literature allowed me to engage with literary works which I have found to be wholly inspiring and have shaped the way in which I perceive the world.”

Tayah-Jo Hudson
(formerly St Christopher's)

French

Introduction

We are an experienced team of enthusiastic, specialist linguists in French, who are committed to motivating and supporting students so they achieve their potential. You would benefit from our small group teaching and our wide range of up-to-date authentic resources. With a strong emphasis on oral skills during class time, you will develop into a confident speaker of your chosen language with a robust understanding of grammar.

Why French?

- For further study – universities really value language A-levels as they understand the skills you learn on the course. Having French A-level will definitely make you stand out from the crowd!
- For increased career opportunities – As well as traditional occupations such as translating, interpreting or language teaching, linguists can pursue careers in business services, government, contact centres, engineering, event management, financial services, marketing, media, public services, travel and tourism or voluntary and charitable work.
- For increased earning potential – People who learn a foreign language earn an extra £3000 a year – a total of £145 000 over their lifetime.

Any special requirements?

Students must have achieved at least a grade 6 in French.

“Studying French at Saint Christopher’s has allowed me to progress not only in my knowledge of the language and the culture, but also has strengthened my confidence in speaking and listening.”

Amy Partington
(formerly St Wilfrid’s)

GO FURTHER WITH...

Further Mathematics

Introduction

Further Mathematics is an A-level qualification which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A-level Maths. Any student considering a degree in a maths rich subject such as engineering, sciences, computing, finance or economics should seriously consider Further Maths.

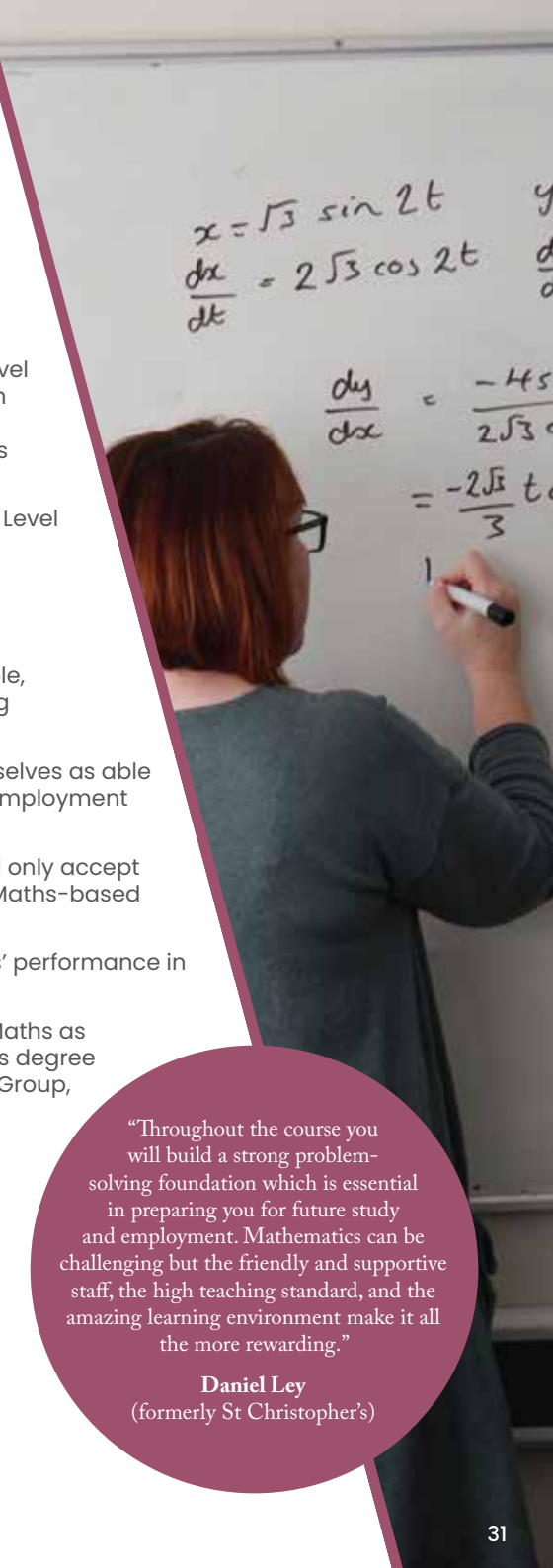
Further Mathematics is taught alongside A Level Maths.

Why Further Mathematics?

- Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience;
- It enables students to distinguish themselves as able mathematicians in the university and employment market;
- Some prestigious university courses will only accept students with Further Mathematics on Maths-based degrees;
- Studying Further Maths boosts students' performance in A-level Mathematics;
- 33% of all universities mention Further Maths as desirable or essential for a Mathematics degree and for those universities in the Russell Group, this proportion is 65%;
- Many universities are now encouraging students to take Further Maths if they wish to study Maths-related subjects such as Engineering, Sciences, Computing or Technology.

Any special requirements?

To study Further Mathematics you need to have obtained at least a grade 8 at GCSE.



"Throughout the course you will build a strong problem-solving foundation which is essential in preparing you for future study and employment. Mathematics can be challenging but the friendly and supportive staff, the high teaching standard, and the amazing learning environment make it all the more rewarding."

Daniel Ley
(formerly St Christopher's)

Geography

Introduction

Explore relationships between human populations and physical environment.

Geography is a 21st-century subject, for students who are interested in the dynamics of the modern world and how the people within are changing it. Recent current events have again highlighted the importance of the subject on a global scale. Geographers are taught to combine the study of natural processes and human interactions, and the subject can provide the vital bridge between 'humanities' and 'sciences'. Descriptive, analytical and evaluative skills are also taught. There are opportunities to experience the subject both in the classroom and through fieldwork as well.

Why Geography?

Geography will appeal to those students who:

- Are interested in current affairs;
- Have a concern for the environment and the people within;
- Enjoy travel and exploring new places, people, landscapes and events;
- Have a passion for learning.

Any special requirements?

Students should have achieved at least a grade 6 in GCSE Geography.

"I now appreciate how Geography influences my life! I now have a deeper understanding of the world around us. When I see a physiological process now, I understand why it happens and if I don't understand it, I find out why, to enrich my knowledge. I can't wait to take Geography on at university."

Tom Haworth
(formerly St Christopher's)

History

Introduction

History isn't a subject that's stuck in the past. Far from it. Historical events have shaped society into what it is today. History helps you to understand the value and significance of world events in the past. In the process, you'll gain a deeper understanding of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. Knowing how people lived in the past helps us to understand why people act as they do today. Your A-level in History gives you knowledge and skills which will prepare you for higher education, and which are useful in any career.

Why History?

Employers and universities value History very highly. The skills which are taught within the subject are very useful in work, study and life. Students who specialise in History can go on to become historical researchers, work in heritage organisations or become teachers. History also supports other career paths, such as journalism, politics, law, social work and public services.

When studying History you will:

- Use information effectively by weighing conflicting factors carefully before taking critical decisions;
- Be analytical and critical when considering information presented to you;
- Understand how and why humans behaved as they did;
- Learn the arts of oral debate and expressing a clear personal point of view.

Any special requirements?

GCSE History is not essential, but a grade 6 or above in GCSE History would be advantageous.

"The History course offers an engaging journey through pivotal moments in history from Tudor England to the conflict of the Cold War. I have found history challenging but it has inspired me to interact with material outside of the classroom. The level of support you receive is outstanding!."

Layla Walker
(formerly St Christopher's)

Law

Introduction

Is a robust legal system the foundation of a fair and civilised society?

Can a society be judged by the way it treats criminals? How can I sue someone who has been negligent towards me? Regardless of whether you see yourself as a Barrister or Solicitor in the future, studying law will help you to develop valuable transferable skills such as logic, problem solving, analysing and evaluating. It enhances your ability to communicate opinions and come to conclusions clearly and succinctly, it will also help you substantiate arguments and develop a critical and enquiring mind. As such it provides an excellent background for many university courses and careers.

Why Law?

Law plays a vital role in society and affects virtually all aspects of our lives from driving a car, purchasing goods or negotiating a business contract. A-level Law is an interesting, stimulating, entertaining and testing subject. We bring the subject alive using a wide range of teaching methods, mock trials, visits to the local courts to watch trials and a visit to London where we go to the Houses of Parliament to see where laws are made and the Supreme Court to see where they are practically applied.

Any special requirements?

No previous knowledge of Law is required. The course involves a great deal of listening, reading, note-taking and extended writing so you must feel confident with these skills. An enquiring mind, commitment and a determination to work hard are essential.

“Becoming a law ambassador has allowed me to inspire future students by demonstrating the importance of the law and its ability to develop critical thinking skills as well as building the foundations for my future career in law.”

Marcia Ridealgh
(formerly Rhyddings)



Mathematics

Introduction

If you enjoy Mathematics, get a kick out of problem-solving, enjoy the sheer power of Mathematics and the elegance of its methods, and want a qualification which is widely respected by universities and employers alike, then Mathematics is the subject for you!

If you have a natural ability and love of the subject then you may also consider Further Mathematics, especially if you wish to take a maths-based subject at university. Many universities require or encourage students to take Further Maths for entry to some of their courses including Science, Technology, Engineering and Finance.

Why Mathematics?

Mathematics is essential for a wide range of students, from those wishing to read Mathematics at university to those who need it to complement their chosen course. Courses such as Engineering, Computing, various areas of Science, Medicine, Economics, Business and Psychology are but a few courses which require the understanding of mathematics beyond GCSE. You will learn skills specific to the subject as well as transferable ones such as problem-solving, communication and organisation.

Any special requirements?

In order to be successful at A-level Mathematics, you really need a grade 7 at GCSE. You must have completed the full GCSE higher course and be prepared to complete the bridging unit during the summer holidays.

A photograph of a male student with glasses, wearing a school uniform (dark blazer, white shirt, and dark tie), looking down at a book or paper on a desk. In the background, there are educational posters on a bulletin board, including one with a diagram of a cell and another with a flowchart. The image is partially obscured by a large purple circle containing a quote.

“Studying A-level Maths will allow you to develop your mathematical knowledge from problem solving skills to logical thinking. The course is challenging yet rewarding. The staff at St Christopher’s are knowledgeable and supportive and this course will set you up for a range of university degrees and career paths.”

Daisy Holden
(formerly St Christopher’s)

Music

Introduction

This course is for or keen musicians from all musical backgrounds, ranging from the classical to popular music.

The course involves performing, composing, and history and analysis of music from the 1600s to the present day, including jazz, big band, blues and popular music. It will be demanding both practically and academically and is well respected by all universities for entry to many different courses. If you are a keen and able musician this would be an excellent course to study.

Why Music?

- Music skills are well respected and highly regarded by the academic profession and this A-level has much academic rigour.
- The qualifications demonstrate that you have good self-discipline and application to a demanding course.
- Music can be studied at university or at a Music Conservatoire. Many colleges and universities also offer music as a subsidiary study.
- Music is an exciting and enjoyable subject with a lot of practical work and the opportunity to take part in many musical activities with others.

Any special requirements?

You do not need to have a GCSE in music to study this course although that would certainly be a good basis from which to start. You should be a competent player on your chosen instrument of about grade 5 in standard and be able to read music, even if only to a very basic level. It is expected that you will have some knowledge of basic composition.

“A-level Music is so much more than just learning about classical music and jazz. Students explore a wide range of genres from programme music to bebop, often finding new music to love. Our amazing teachers offer brilliant and classes are inclusive and fun. There are so opportunities for performing and participating in excellent ensembles and choirs and collaboration in performance and composition.”

Darcy Tayler
(formerly Ribblesdale)

Performing Arts (BTEC)

Introduction

This is an exciting and innovative course, equivalent to one A-level.

It gives a broad introduction to the Performing Arts Sector in Drama, Dance, and Musical Theatre with emphasis on core knowledge and fundamental, transferable skills. This is part of a programme of study allowing you to undertake 2/3 other A-level subjects keeping a broad academic range of subjects. It offers a vocational perspective on performing arts industries and is designed to provide a progression route to higher education and further training in the performing arts sector.

Why Performing Arts?

- Performing Arts is a fantastic course if you are considering a career in the performing arts industry or wish to study a subject with a vocational, practical approach.
- Performing Arts is an exciting and enjoyable course which offers in-depth study of scripts and theatre practitioners and the opportunity to take part in performances.
- The course caters for all abilities and disciplines and will prepare you well for further study at a specialist performing arts college, dance or drama school, or university.
- You should be able to express yourself in writing with flair and creativity and be able to present your points with good and reasoned argument.
- Performing Arts is a qualification widely accepted by universities for a variety of degrees. Students have gone on to Oxbridge study with BTEC Performing Arts.

Any special requirements?

Previous study in drama, dance, or musical theatre is essential. You should be a competent performer in your chosen medium.

“There is not only a very creative environment to learn in, but a fun one too! At St Christopher’s, Performing Arts not only allows me to explore a world of new opportunities, but let’s me express myself in new ways. It creates a community of like-minded students!”

Emelia Geldard
(formerly St Christopher’s)

GO FURTHER WITH...

Physical Education

Introduction

A-level Physical Education draws on the disciplines of Human Biology and Psychology.

The course also requires you to develop an understanding of the cultural context and historical development of sport.

The course involves both practical and theoretical work and these are linked. However, it is important that you are participating at a high competitive standard outside of school in one sport. The academic elements of the subject are the focus during curriculum time.

Why Physical Education?

This specification builds on the student's experience from Key Stage 4 and GCSE to enhance knowledge and increase understanding of the factors that affect performance and participation in physical education. The qualification looks to equip students with skills and knowledge required for higher education or the world of work.

Any special requirements?

At least a grade 5 in GCSE Science or a minimum of two grade 5s from GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Physical Education. Although useful, a GCSE in PE is not a requirement for students wishing to follow the course.

In addition, you will be required to be at a highly competent level as a performer in at least one sport.

"B"Being a keen sportswoman and having taken GCSE PE, I was eager to enhance my understanding of the science behind sport. This course has helped to improve my knowledge of not just the science behind sport but also the history and development of sport as a whole.

Becky Egan
(formerly Bacup and Rawtenstall
Grammar School)

Physics

Introduction

Physics is about unravelling the universe to try and find out how it works.

Discoveries in Physics have been at the heart of most advances in technology. It is an exciting and challenging subject to study, requiring an enquiring mind and clear thinking. The range of ideas in Physics could not be greater – from observing the furthest reaches of the universe to experiments on the inner secrets of the nucleus. The rewards of Physics include a deeper understanding of the universe and the development of skills that are highly sought after by both universities and employers.

Why Physics?

The skills gained through studying Physics are in high demand in the world. It is a well-respected academic and scientific subject. Degree courses that may be open to students of Physics include Engineering, Medicine, Mathematics and Computing, as well as Physics, Astrophysics and Electronics.

Any special requirements?

If students have taken Separate Sciences at GCSE, they must have achieved grade 6 or above in Physics plus one other from Chemistry or Biology. If students have taken Combined Science at GCSE, it is desirable that students have achieved grade 7 or above. As the maths content of the course is substantial, we would prefer at least a grade 6 in the mathematics higher paper. It is also recommended that one of your other Year 12 subjects be mathematics, particularly if you are planning to continue on to the A-level course. You should be aware though that nearly all Engineering, Physics and related degree courses require you to have A-level Mathematics.

"I would definitely be lying to you if I told you that physics wasn't hard. However, I believe, that is what makes it such a rewarding subject to take. When something you've been struggling with finally makes sense, it is one of the best feelings. Honestly, you can't beat it."

Max Baldwin
(formerly St Christopher's)

Politics

Introduction

It is fast paced, exciting and there are no right or wrong answers only what you are able to argue convincingly! If you enjoy engaging with current affairs and political issues and are interested in who wields power and influence in our modern world then Politics is the subject for you.

Why Politics?

Politics will be a new subject to the majority of you and is, therefore, an opportunity to study something fresh and exciting. Studying Government and Politics will give you an insight into the way the world around you works at local national and international levels. You will be encouraged to debate and discuss, critically analyse and present arguments both orally and through essay writing, these skills are essential whether you decide to go into Higher Education or a career after A-levels. As part of the Government and Politics course, we visit Parliament for a tour and to meet with our local MP and visit the UK Supreme Court. The Government and Politics Department has also led the enrichment visit to Washington and New York where students visited UN Headquarters, The White House, Congress, the Library of Congress and the US Supreme Court.

Any special requirements?

The course involves a great deal of reading, note-taking and essay writing so you must feel confident in these skills. An enquiring mind and a determination to work hard are essential, as is an interest in current affairs in order to appreciate the broad impact of politics.

"I find Politics to be an exciting subject to study. I particularly enjoy studying and comparing the Governments of the US and UK as they find themselves regularly on the news and in everyday culture. This gives useful insight into the systems and principles that govern us."

Sebastian Bernabe
(formerly Blessed Trinity RC College)

Product Design

Introduction

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, technical ability, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative design and engineering industries. You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying hands on opportunities to put your learning into practice by designing and producing prototypes of your choice, which could range from jewellery work to architectural projects to domestic or industrial designs. You will be combining aesthetic tastes, functionality and financial considerations in a way that few other courses teach you to do. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers, such as presentation skills and communication skills.

Why Product Design?

Students will work to deadlines and industry standards, experiment with new technologies, communicate their ideas using a full range of IT and presentation packages, think laterally and use analytical skill. Study is undertaken in a collaborative studio and workshop fully equipped with rapid prototyping, laser cutting, CAD modelling and traditional prototyping machinery. Product design students will generate creative, practical and marketable solutions to real-life problems.

Any special requirements?

You must have an enthusiasm and flair for creative design work and be well motivated to work independently to meet deadlines. Whilst a good GCSE in Design Technology would be an invaluable start, we recognise that not all students suitable for this course will have had this opportunity.

“Product design cultivates creativity, practical skills, and critical thinking, while also improving knowledge of materials, manufacturing processes and design movements, making it a valuable subject for students pursuing careers in product design, engineering and architecture.”

Jack Cavannagh
(formerly St Christopher's)

Psychology

Introduction

The scientific study of human behaviour and the mind.

Why do we sometimes forget things the moment we walk out of a room? Can we make stress our friend rather than it being such a negative experience? And how do we explain why people develop things like phobias or OCD?

Why Psychology?

Psychology offers students an engaging and stimulating course to discover insights into the reasons behind human behaviour, helping them to gain not only a better understanding of their own behaviour but of those around them too. Psychology has a big impact on all areas of life, particularly in informing education and teaching, directing medical and health support services with issues like depression and phobias, shaping businesses and advertising, and engaging with efforts to reduce and reform criminal behaviour.

Psychologists help by applying scientific methods to obtain a better understanding of behaviour. This includes observing, measuring, testing and carrying out statistical analysis with individuals and groups to gain relevant information to support different situations. This enables psychologists to find solutions to problems in various settings.

If you're curious about the mind and want to understand human behaviour in a scientific and meaningful way, A-level Psychology is the perfect choice.

Any special requirements?

GCSE Grade 5 in English and Maths. Students should be aware of the heavy essay demands of the subject as well as being clear about the statistical component of the course that involves data analysis in Research Methods. There is no requirement to have studied Psychology at GCSE.

"For me psychology has been intriguing when discovering more about behaviour and the brain. The lessons are entertaining, focused and engaging when exploring new and difficult to understand topics. The support within and outside of lessons has helped me to manage my work and feel confident in my understanding of the subject."

Lily Dixon
(formerly The Hollins)

GO FURTHER WITH...

Religious Studies

Introduction

Theology, Philosophy & Ethics represent some of the oldest academic disciplines and have their origins in antiquity.

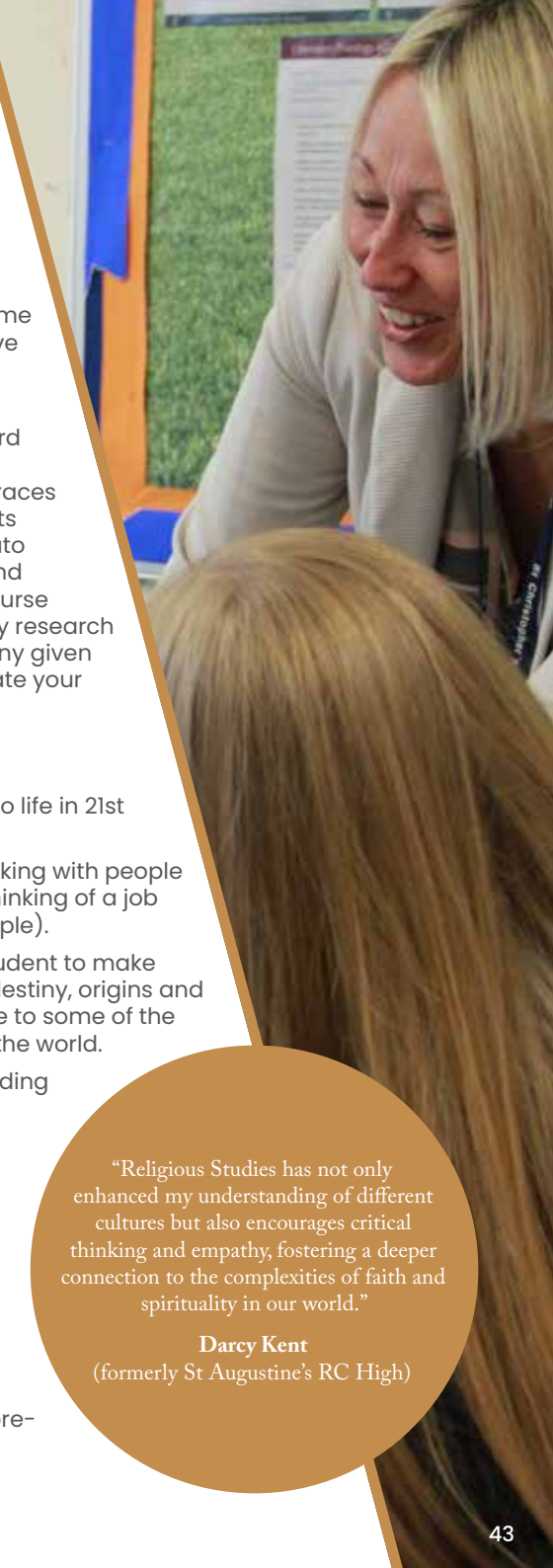
The subjects first studied at some of the country's earliest universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, included theology and philosophy. This academic A-level course races through the thinkers' history; from the giants of Greek philosophical thought, such as Plato and Aristotle, to some of today's leading and contemporary theologians. As such, the course offers an unprecedented depth to scholarly research and a fascinating richness of thought on any given topic. We would love to help you to formulate your own thoughts to contribute to the debate.

Why Religious Studies?

- The study of Religion is more relevant to life in 21st Century UK than ever before in history.
- It is useful for any job that involves working with people (apart from a Lighthouse Keeper, try thinking of a job that does not involve working with people).
- A-level Religious Studies equips the student to make informed choices about questions of destiny, origins and ultimate meaning to life, with reference to some of the most significant religious traditions in the world.
- It is really, really interesting! Understanding what is at the core of shared human experience, and what it is that makes people tick is a fascinating pursuit. Welcome to the world of A-level Religious Studies!

Any special requirements?

An open mind, a willing spirit and a teachable heart. There are no specific requirements in addition to the requirements for admission set by St Christopher's. GCSE RS is not an essential pre-requisite.



"Religious Studies has not only enhanced my understanding of different cultures but also encourages critical thinking and empathy, fostering a deeper connection to the complexities of faith and spirituality in our world."

Darcy Kent
(formerly St Augustine's RC High)

Sociology

Introduction

A-Level Sociology is the study of society, social relationships, and the factors that shape human behaviour. It explores how social structures, institutions, and cultures impact individuals and groups, with a focus on topics such as education, family, crime and religion. It also encourages students to think about how different groups in society experience life, highlighting issues of class, gender, ethnicity, and power.

Studying sociology is especially valuable for young people today, as it directly relates to many contemporary issues that affect their lives. Topics such as social justice, environmental activism, gender identity, and the role of social media are central to the subject. As societies become more diverse and interconnected, the ability to understand different perspectives and complex social issues is crucial. Sociology teaches students to look beyond surface-level explanations and develop a deeper, evidence-based understanding of the world.

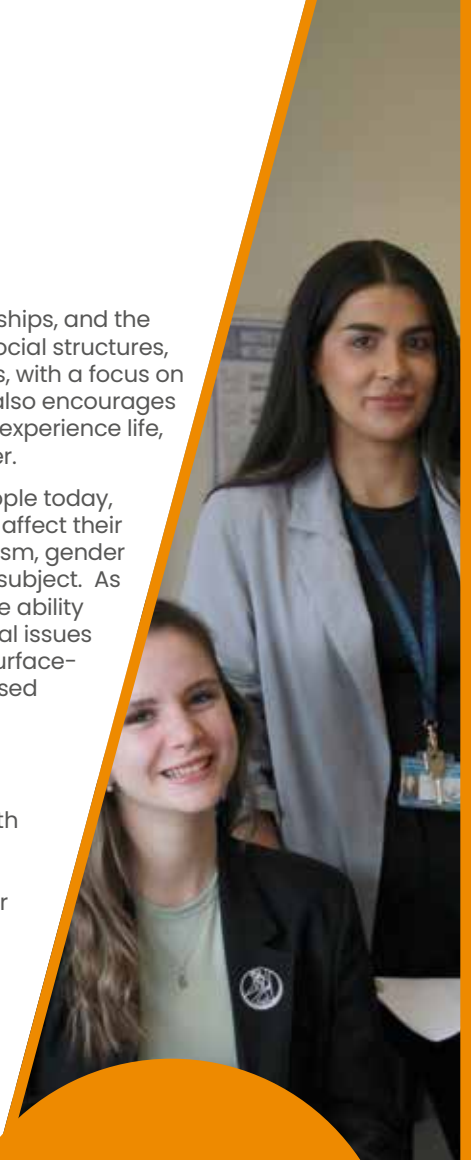
Why Sociology?

Sociology is empowering. It enables you to engage with real-world issues that affect your day-to-day life and future, encouraging you to think about how you can become a more informed member of society. Whether you want to work in a field that tackles social issues or simply want more knowledge, sociology provides the tools to understand and influence the world in meaningful ways.

Sociology is a highly respected academic discipline and is widely accepted by many universities and employers. Sociology will help you develop skills such as critical thinking, research, analysis, and communication. These skills are transferable across a wide range of fields, including law, social work, education, journalism and public relations.

Any special requirements?

It is important that students have an interest in why people act in certain ways and are aware of current affairs and social issues. It is not necessary to have studied Sociology at GCSE, but if you have you should have attained a minimum grade 4.



"I enjoy sociology because it helps to understand people, society and how the world works at a deeper level. Every lesson is different and engaging. If you enjoy asking 'why' about human behaviour and society, sociology is a great way to explore that."

Jodie Howes
(formerly St Augustine's)

Spanish

Introduction

We are an experienced team of enthusiastic, specialist linguists in Spanish, who are committed to motivating and supporting students so they achieve their potential. You would benefit from our small group teaching and our wide range of up-to-date authentic resources. With a strong emphasis on oral skills during class time, you will develop into a confident speaker of Spanish with a robust understanding of grammar.

Why Spanish?

- For further study – universities really value language A-levels as they understand the skills you learn on the course. Having Spanish A-level will definitely make you stand out from the crowd!
- For increased career opportunities – As well as traditional occupations such as translating, interpreting or language teaching, linguists can pursue careers in business services, government, contact centres, engineering, event management, financial services, marketing, media, public services, travel and tourism or voluntary and charitable work.
- For increased earning potential – People who learn a foreign language earn an extra £3000 a year – a total of £145 000 over their lifetime.

Any special requirements?

Students must have achieved at least a grade 6 in Spanish.

“Continuing my study of Spanish at St Christopher’s Sixth Form has enhanced not only my knowledge of the language, but also my understanding of the culture and traditions of the Hispanic world. The personalised support that I receive ensures that I am immersed into Spanish in a way that both challenges me and reinforces my passion for the language.”

Mia Newton
(formerly St Christopher’s)

GO FURTHER WITH...

Textiles

Introduction

In Textiles, students will be introduced to a variety of experiences, exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes.

Both traditional and new technologies will be covered, and students will produce practical/contextual work in one or more areas, including fashion, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles and installed textiles.

Why Textiles?

This course is not only an enjoyable and creative one but also provides a strong foundation for a degree course. It will give students the knowledge and skills needed to go on to further studies or to jobs in a variety of textile-based industries.

Any special requirements?

You must have enthusiasm for creativity and be motivated to study outside of the lessons. Textiles or Art GCSE grade 6, or equivalent is also desirable for course entry.



“Studying Textiles is a creative and practical course that allows students to explore various techniques in fabric design, fashion, and textile art. We are encouraged to experiment with materials and develop our own design concepts, combining both technical skills and artistic creativity.”

Thomas Ormerod
(formerly Blessed Trinity RC)



Go further with
**FOUNDATION
PATHWAYS**

At St Christopher's
Sixth Form

Foundation Pathways

Foundation Pathways is a specialist Sixth Form provision, delivering an aspirational, personalised learning programme to Level 1 and 2 learners to ensure that all students achieve their full potential.

What we offer is aimed at young people who require a more accessible, supportive and structured approach to their post-sixteen education.

The programme is tailored to the individual's needs and abilities to achieve recognisable accreditation to ensure progression.

Students are taught by specialist staff in our purpose built Sixth Form Centre, where they have access to specially equipped rooms with a range of facilities to enhance the delivery of the Pathways programme.

Why choose Foundation Pathways?

- Small class sizes
- Individualised learning
- Core specialised staff
- Wide range of courses
- Well-appointed classrooms
- Trips and visits
- Residentials
- Excellent links with Parents
- Nurturing environment
- Trusted track record
- Varied work experience opportunities
- Proven student progression to further education and employment



The Course

The Foundation Pathways course is a full-time, structured programme including:

- Vocational Skills (BTEC and Work Related Working)
- Functional Skills (Maths and English) – Edexcel
- Personal and Social Development
- Performing Arts (Dance and Drama)
- Wide and varied Enrichment Programme

The BTEC courses currently being offered are:

- BTEC Level 1 Award Home Cooking Skills
- BTEC Vocational Studies (Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3 and Level 1)

Foundation Pathways has better prepared me for the step-up to college.

Luke Murphy

Entry Requirements

This programme is aimed at those students who prefer a smaller, more supported learning environment. We provide courses from Entry Level 1 to 3, Level 1 and Level 2. Suitability for the course will be assessed through both application form and interview.

Foundation Pathways Staff

We have a team of specialist teaching and support staff, with a wealth of experience, who provide a safe, secure, positive and successful learning environment. The smaller class sizes along with the specialised support means that students have the opportunity to build confidence and flourish academically and socially.

Pathways has been my journey of growth which has prepared me for what I really want to do in the future.

Izzy Tindall

Routes to Success:

Travel Information

Getting to our sixth form is easier than you might think, with a variety of school bus routes operated by LCC, Pilkingtons, Cranberry Coaches and ourselves as well as bus routes from the surrounding towns passing by the centre.

Sixth Form runs its own bus service, the SC3, and it is available for all students from:

- Clitheroe
- Langho
- Wilpshire
- Billington
- Whalley
- Great Harwood.

St Christopher's also runs the SC1 (previously 910) covering:

- Barrowford
- Fence
- Higham
- Padiham
- Altham
- Huncoat.

The St Christopher's transport scheme was introduced in response to requests from parents and students. The service works very well. However, the viability of the scheme is only made possible with the financial support and commitment of both school and parents working in partnership.

For more details please visit our website or contact Mrs Braithwaite (Sixth Form Attendance and Transport Officer) at:

j.braithwaite@st-christophers.org

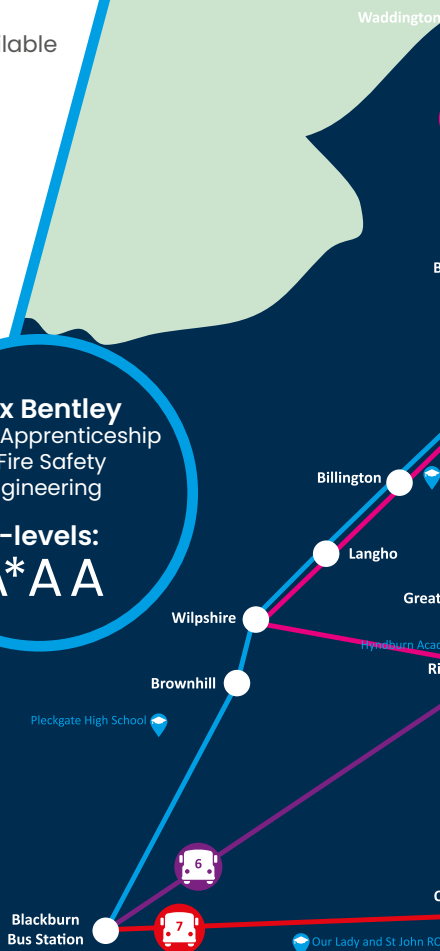
01254 380527

www.st-christophers.org/sixth

There are regular Sixth Form buses to most surrounding areas.

Alex Bentley
Degree Apprenticeship
in Fire Safety
Engineering

A-levels:
A* A A





The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of going to press. It is issued for the general guidance of students by St Christopher's C.E. High School in September 2026, and does not form part of any contract. The school hopes to provide the courses and facilities described in the prospectus, but reserves the right to withdraw or make alterations to courses if necessary.

The Sixth
Form provision is
exceptional.

SIAMs 2024

Coming from a different high school, I was drawn to the Sixth Form at St Christopher's by the opportunities which could help students aspire to become the best that they could be. The academic focus, alongside the enrichment opportunities available to all students, has allowed me to develop myself academically but also discover my true potential and aspirations, with the constant support of all the teachers.

I often found it difficult to look beyond the limitations I had set for myself at the start of Lower Sixth, however the range of activities available at our Sixth Form caused me to reconsider my limits and push me to strive to exceed them. Our weekly enrichment caters for the interests and aspirations of all students, with the options to keep fit and practice your favourite sport, dig deeper into your interests with research in an EPQ or gain extra qualifications with Core Maths. The unique nature of the enrichment programme benefits each student's academic journey and broadens their horizons, something which me and my peers are extremely grateful for.

I hope that you consider St Christopher's as a place in which you would continue to develop your studies, gain valuable friendships, and aspire beyond what you thought to be possible.

Beth Porter
Blessed Trinity RC College

Consistently
excellent
outcomes.

**Students
thrive. They
are proud of their
Sixth Form.**

Ofsted 2026

**OVER
88%**

of students progressed to
their first choice University
or Degree Level
Apprenticeship



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