



ST MICHAEL'S

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVING IN FAITH WITH LOVE AS A COMMUNITY

Sixth Form Prospectus September 2026 Entry

"I have come so that you will have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)



Welcome to St Michael's Catholic School Sixth Form

It is our pleasure to welcome you to St Michael's Catholic School Sixth Form. We are excited to welcome our third cohort of students to the Aylesbury campus and to support them on the next stage of their educational journey.

At St Michael's, we are passionate about academic excellence alongside the spiritual, personal, and emotional development of every young person in our care. Guided by our Catholic ethos and Mission to *"Achieve in Faith with Love as a Community,"* we strive to create a Sixth Form environment where students are challenged to achieve their very best while feeling supported, valued and inspired.

Our Sixth Form offers far more than excellent academic development. Alongside a broad range of A Level and vocational qualifications, students benefit from a wide programme of enrichment opportunities including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), leadership roles, mentoring younger students, university visits, careers fairs, work experience placements, subject trips, charitable initiatives, Sixth Form games, and time for spiritual reflection and growth. We are proud to support students on a wide range of future pathways including university, higher and degree apprenticeships, employment, and gap year opportunities.

Whether students aspire to highly competitive universities, ambitious career pathways, or opportunities to serve and contribute within the community, we walk alongside them every step of the way, helping them to grow in confidence and character. Our aim is not only for students to achieve excellent outcomes, but to leave St Michael's as well-rounded young adults ready to flourish in the next stage of their lives.

Mr Tilley
Head of Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form Intent

"To develop knowledgeable, socially conscious, critically literate young adults whose wealth of spirit gives them the moral confidence to be proactive citizens."

As a member of Sixth Form, you will be expected to cherish and uphold the core values of our School Mission, Achieving in Faith with Love as a Community. Our mission challenges to work hard, to value learning, to understand that God is with you every step of the way and to show love towards all members of the community of St Michael.

We aim for our students to;

- Be independent young adults with the necessary skills to organise their time in an efficacious and mature manner.
 - Be motivated to achieve their absolute best through hard work and perseverance, especially in times of difficulty.
 - Embrace and respect the specific Catholic charism and ethos of St Michaels and to grow spiritually throughout their time here.
 - Be active with the life of the school be that through charitable events, mentoring or leadership.
 - Leave St Michael's with results that allow them to confidently move to their preferred next step.
 - Be a beacon of kindness within the context of our School Mission, to Achieve in Faith with Love as a Community
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- Be the absolute example to all lower school pupils, providing for them a roadmap to becoming successful young adults.
 - Be ambassadors for St Michael's not only within the walls of the school but in the community.
 - Build positive relationships with all members of the St Michael's community be they Student or Staff

Opportunities for Growth

Sixth Form students must commit fully to our community and engage with the many further opportunities which we offer.

Alongside taught lessons, students have timetabled, directed and independent study time. We offer a broad range of enrichment opportunities ranging from academic to spiritual. All students will complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is a research project which provides UCAS points and is highly respected by higher education institutions.

All Sixth Form students take part in Sixth Form P.E which is a timetabled session, running every week to give Students the opportunity to take exercise participate in team games.

At St Michael's, each form have a half-termly registration in the school Chapel for quiet and purposeful reflection. There are many further opportunities for Sixth Form enrichment through mentoring younger students. There are also a broad range of subject trips, university visits, careers fairs, talks and UCAS events that Students attend as part of our enrichment offer.



Sixth Form Leadership

We want our Sixth Form students to be the absolute example to every pupil in the school. We encourage them to have high aspirations for themselves and to inspire these aspiration in others.

Every step of the way, we instil the importance of leadership in our students. This teaches our students to be confident in their decisions and builds in them a strength of community spirit and cooperation which can be taken anywhere.

Our Student Leadership Team are the embodiment of our School Mission and values that we expect to see lived out in our Sixth Form community. Our students have roles that lead initiatives in the community, raise achievement within our school, work for charitable causes and that reflect the diverse faiths within the school community.

"Students' personal development is a significant priority. Students engage in a wide range of activities that enhance their personal qualities. " (Ofsted, 2026)



Sixth Form Curriculum

St Michael's offers a range of courses and enrichment opportunities, providing students with a breadth of choice to explore their passions.

A-Level

GCE A-Levels are a two year, Level 3 academic qualification. Students will sit exams at the end of their second year of study. Most A-Levels are purely linear exams at the end of the course but some have a coursework element. Our students will no longer sit AS levels at the end of Year 12. It is assumed that a great deal of the A-Level content is through extended study and independent learning, much like study in a higher education setting.

BTEC National Extended Certificate

The BTEC courses that we offer are an applied Level 3 qualification, equivalent to one A-Level. It is a vocational qualification encompassing a more practical approach to your studies. Two years of study must be completed to obtain accreditation. BTEC is as challenging as A-Level and equivalent in terms of UCAS points. The BTEC qualifications are assessed through a mixture of exams and coursework.

Extended Project

Recommended by leading employers and universities we are privileged to deliver The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as an enrichment to all our sixth form students. It is an 18 month (Level 3) study programme that provides an opportunity for you to pursue your own academic interests in a spiritual or ethical topic. You will undertake independent research and hone your dissertation writing skills, referencing and the opportunity to gain (up to) 24 UCAS points for your university applications and developing a range of independent research and presentation skills important for university study and the World of Work.

Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

Core Maths is a one-year Level 3 qualification, equivalent to an AS-Level. It explores the application of Mathematical skills to a variety of industry-based contexts. It weaves together topics at GCSE level with other areas within A-Level study such as Psychology, Sciences, Business and Economics and is a valuable optional addition to the curriculum for students who study these subjects.

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Sixth Form Games

At St Michael's, we believe that it is our responsibility to take care of our students academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Sixth Form Games gives space for students to take exercise and build good habits of teamwork and cooperation with the added benefit of having a very positive impact on mental health.

The Scholar's Programme

We nurture those with God given gifts and talents to excel in their education in while at St Michaels. The Scholar's Programme is a bespoke range of experiences designed to stretch those who are our most ambitious students. St Michael's sixth Form works closely with institutions such as The University of Oxford, The University of Cambridge, Royal Holloway and Eton College, to name a few. The opportunities focus the skills of our Scholars and allow them to seize the most coveted life opportunities there are.

Core RE

At St Michael's, we believe that it is our sacred responsibility to take care of our students academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. As a Catholic school 5% of a student's timetable in sixth form has a religious or ethical element. We follow Catholic teaching principles and deliver a diverse curriculum.

Sixth Form Work Experience

University and the World of Work are competitive and occasionally difficult to gain a foot hold in. St Michael's recognises this and as such, all our Sixth Form students are put on work experience placements. These real-life opportunities provide greater depth for university applications and job applications alike. Work experience is completed at the end of year 12 once Pre-public Exams have finished.



Choosing the Right Courses for You

Through the application and interview process, the Sixth Form team are here to help you make informed choices which suit you.

Already set on your A-levels for two years or struggling to decide? Choosing your subjects can be a tough decision and one worth taking time to research. At St Michael's, we suggest that you consider:

- **What you enjoy** as passion for the subject will drive you to work hard. It is what university admissions officers and employers alike are looking for in future candidates.
- **What you are good at** as you will be able to build on the momentum carried through from a solid foundation of study at GCSE.
- **What your goal is and how best to reach it** as there will be certain subjects and combinations of subjects that are requirements for further study, employment or apprenticeships.
- **How open you would like to keep your options.** If you are not sure on your end goal, then it is often best to choose subjects that leave options open (i.e. facilitating subjects).

Furthermore, Which? University suggests six steps that will help you make a smart decision about which subjects to take at sixth form level:

1. Taking certain A-level subjects will open up more university course options

Your teachers or careers adviser may talk to you about facilitating subjects; but what are they exactly? Facilitating subjects are a handful of A-level subjects commonly asked for in universities' entry requirements, regardless of the course you're applying to this makes them a good choice to keep your degree options open. The facilitating subjects are: Biology, Chemistry & Physics, English, Geography, History Mathematics and Modern and classical languages



Choosing the Right Courses for You

If you don't know what you want to study at university, it can pay off later to take one or two of these. Be aware, some universities openly discourage students from taking certain combinations of A-level subjects, particularly when subjects are very similar like business studies and economics – something to bear in mind when you're making A-level choices. And as you'll see below, some degree subjects or specific universities will ask for certain A-level subjects in their entry requirements.

2. A-levels are a lot tougher than GCSEs

- The reason you take a particular subject at A-level will come down to one (or more) of these three scenarios (usually):
- you need it to pursue a particular career
- it's a subject you enjoy and are good at
- it's a subject you've not studied before but you think will suit you

Either way, be prepared for a big jump in the level of difficulty when you transition from GCSE to A-level (or any other Advanced level qualification for that matter). You'll also see differences in the way you're taught and in what is expected of you.

3. Certain university courses will look for specific A-levels

This is really important if you have a particular degree in mind. You won't be able to apply to some degree courses without having taken some specific A-levels (and scored the right grades in them too, of course). Below are a few examples to give you an idea of what to expect (some are no-brainers):

- Pharmacy must have: chemistry, plus at least one from biology, maths and physics
- English must have: usually English literature, maybe English literature and language or English language
- Geology / earth sciences must have: at least two from maths, physics, chemistry and biology
- Economics sometimes need: maths, very rarely do you need economics

4. Some courses and universities have lists of subjects they don't accept

Particular courses – take, for instance, an architecture course at the University of Bath – will view certain A-levels as less effective preparation for university studies than others. Similarly, some universities – such as the University of Sheffield – actually list which A-level subjects they prefer.

Others, like the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), have 'non-preferred' subject lists. If your subject choices don't match up, you shouldn't necessarily discount the course, or be put off from taking a creative or vocational A-level subject you're really interested in. Just make sure you're satisfying any entry requirements with the other A-level subjects you're taking. Taking a subject such as history of art, classical civilisation, economics, geology, government and politics, law, media studies, philosophy, psychology, religious studies and sociology in conjunction with at least one (ideally two) of the facilitating subjects listed above shouldn't be an issue, if you get the grades.

Choosing the Right Courses for You

Through the application and interview process, the Sixth Form team are here to help you make informed choices which suit you.

5. Know myth from reality

Don't take everything you hear at face value or based on what a friend/older sibling etc. says – the reality might be quite different. It's always worth investigating things yourself so you get the full picture. While entry requirements are often a minimum set of criteria you have to meet, a university may view you differently from another candidate based on your personal statement or your portfolio if your predicted grades just miss the mark. Don't rely on preconceived assumptions or what you hear through someone else from their experience. Double-check your facts with the university or department themselves.

6. Many universities and courses will consider you whatever you choose

Question: Accountancy, anthropology, archaeology, banking, business studies, classical civilisations, hospitality, information science, law, management, marketing, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology, public relations, religious studies/theology, retail management, social work, sociology, surveying, television, travel and tourism...

What do these subjects have in common? Answer: They will all consider a very wide range of A-level choices and do not normally have essential subject requirements! So don't get too bogged down in essential A-levels you have to take.

[\[Accessed 27.08.23 - https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices\]](https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices)

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Our aim is to ensure that you are on a study programme that best supports your future career goals and learning aims to ensure the greatest success in your Sixth Form study.

Our Sixth Form minimum entry requirement is five grade 4s including English and Maths. All students must have at least five grade 4+ at GCSE to be able to access level 3 courses.

Once you have reached the minimum requirement, each subject has its own entry requirement. All courses run on the basis of popularity and space within that individual subject.

Each student will study PSHE, Core RE, EPQ and School games alongside their 3 chosen A Levels.

Subject:	Entry Requirements:
Biology	7 in Biology GCSE (if completed separate sciences) 6 overall with 7 in Biology papers (if completed combined sciences) 6 in Maths

See our subject information pack for our most up to date course offer and entry requirements.

Provisional Sixth Form Blocks

Our aim is to ensure that you are on a study programme that best supports your future career goals and learning aims to ensure the greatest success in your Sixth Form study.

Each student will study PSHE, Core RE, EPQ and School games alongside their 3 chosen A Levels. There is also the opportunity to take Mathematical Studies as an additional AS level.

Students should select 3 subjects – one from each block A-D

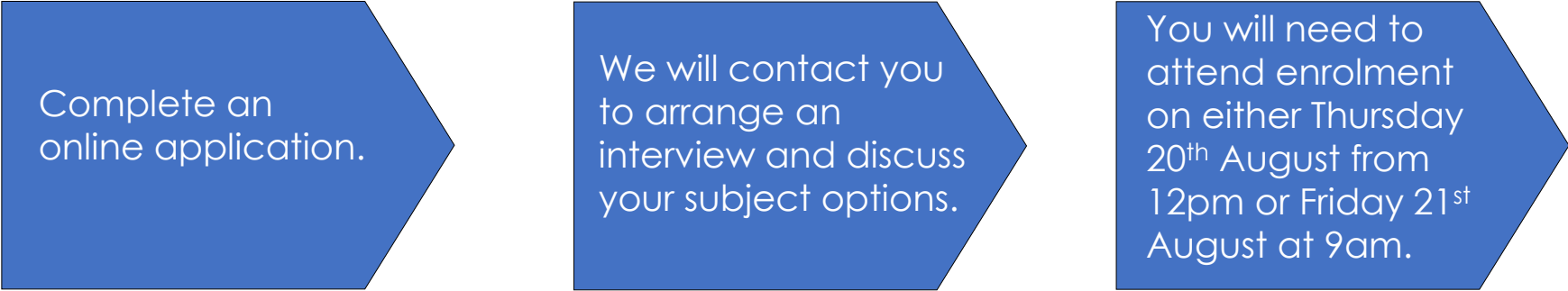
Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art /Design and tech	Biology	BTEC Business	A level Maths
Business A level	Computer Science	Physics	Philosophy and Ethics
Chemistry	English Lit	Criminology	Psychology
History	BTEC IT	Geography	French
BTEC Sports Studies	Sociology	Law	Spanish
A Level PE	Drama/performing arts		Health and Social Care
Media Studies	Economics		
Psychology			

Applying to St Michael's Sixth Form

Thank you for your interest in St Michael's Catholic School. We are delighted that you are considering a place with us.

Sixth Form admissions are open for September 2026 to current members of our community and to applicants from other schools.

Next Steps



Complete an online application.

We will contact you to arrange an interview and discuss your subject options.

You will need to attend enrolment on either Thursday 20th August from 12pm or Friday 21st August at 9am.

We will use the email addresses provided on the application form to communicate with external applicants.

If you have any questions let us know on sixthform@stmichaelscs.org

Mr Tilley, Head of Sixth Form



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