



**St Augustine's Catholic High School
and Sixth Form**

**Parental Q&A for Y9 Entry
September 2021**



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Q&A

How does my child choose their option subjects?

During the summer term, the Senior Leadership Team call every student's parents to have a discussion with them about their child – what are their plans for the future, what destination pathway are they considering, what are their ambitions. This generates a curriculum pathway for them and hence the subjects that they should study for GCSE.

Why are option subjects made at the end of Y8?

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum runs for three years; students complete the National Curriculum during the first part of Y9, following which the Key Stage 4 commences and runs through to February half-term during Y11. From there until the summer programme of exams, the students revise and write past papers. During the Easter holidays and February and May half-terms (as well as after school during the term), in-school interventions run to support students who need assistance with their studies.

What support does the school give to students by way of post-16 options?

We pride ourselves on our post-16 offering. When considering a school for your Y9 child, it is key to simultaneously consider where you want your child to study for Y12 & Y13. Our Careers Advisor, Mrs Beach interviews every student within Y9 to determine what their long-term plans and shorter term post-16 considerations are. She then works with them for the time that they are at St Augustine's to ensure they are on track and if not, then she will liaise with the Head of Curriculum and Heads of Department to put in guided support measures so that they are supported to follow their post-16 destination.

Can students study separate sciences?

We offer both combined science and three separate sciences of Biology, Physics and Chemistry. Science teachers will guide students along the correct pathway taking into account their future plans at post-16.

What extra-curricular activities are offered?

Education outside the classroom is just as important as studies within. When students first join in Y9, we offer a day of teambuilding activities so that they can get to know each other across all the middle schools that they have transitioned from. This has traditionally been held at Blackwell Court covering zip wires, archery, tree climbing to name but a few. It is a fabulous day out for them and long-term friendships are soon forged.

There are many teams and clubs within sport ranging from the traditional netball, boys and girls football, hockey and rugby to basketball, cheerleading and trampolining. Sports and clubs vary across the terms. The school takes part in district, county and some national competitions plus there are trips

to Shropshire for PGL, Severn Stars netball, Worcester Warriors for Rugby, together with the annual ski trip to Austria during February half-term each year.

We encourage all students to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Y9 students carry out bronze within their first year at school and into Y10 and then Silver is undertaken in the sixth form. We are also planning on establishing the Gold award as well.

Performing Arts and Music are a huge part of the school fabric. As well as building confidence and self-esteem within students, it forms the cornerstone of engagement and fun within the school – it is rare not to hear the choir singing throughout the corridors as they practice for carol concerts, Pop Icons, the annual musical theatre event or in readiness for the annual trip to Europe after the summer exams. For those less confident on the stage, then an array of students get involved with behind the scenes activities of lighting, directing and presenting – everyone is catered for. The anticipation for the overseas trip is enormous as the students sing in churches, cathedrals as well as impromptu gatherings in the town squares. More recently, the department have engaged all students, whether musical or not in making welcome music videos for new students.

Do the students carry out charity work?

We are a faith school and giving back is part of our core purpose. Put simply, there are numerous opportunities to take part in charity work. In early October, the students carry out a sponsored walk within Redditch; at Christmas, we host our elderly neighbours to a festive dinner with the choir singing carols and hampers being made by the Health and Social Care students and delivered to those in need within the town. Our Lenten charity week is one of student explosion – they come together full of entrepreneurial ideas of making money! Our Chaplaincy Team are out and about several times each term, supporting charities from bag packing in the supermarkets, to making Romero crosses to sell and much more.

We are faith led, but not Roman Catholic – can my daughter still apply?

We welcome students of all or no faith within our school. We have a clear Admissions Policy and children who are baptised Roman Catholic do have priority. However, we accept all children at the school. Please review the Admissions Policy [HERE](#).

What pastoral support is available within school?

We have a robust Pastoral team within school headed up by our Designated Safeguarding Lead. The team comprises a lead for Attitude and Behaviour, a Head of Year for each year group together with a Welfare Officer and Deputy Safeguarding Lead. In addition, we have an Attendance officer, Pastoral Support Officers and First Aiders. A student's Head of Year is the first point of contact for any support that is needed.

What SEND support is available within school?

We have a strong SEND department within school comprising a SENCo, deputy SENCo plus Progress Leads who work closely with students who need additional support.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Anne Eggins at egginsa@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk who will be able to support.