



St Bernard's High School
A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE



Sixth Form



Aspiration and Challenge Academic Success

In addition to their academic studies students have access to a broad range of social, sporting, artistic and leadership enrichment activities. There is fun to be had, there are friendships to be made and there are opportunities to succeed.

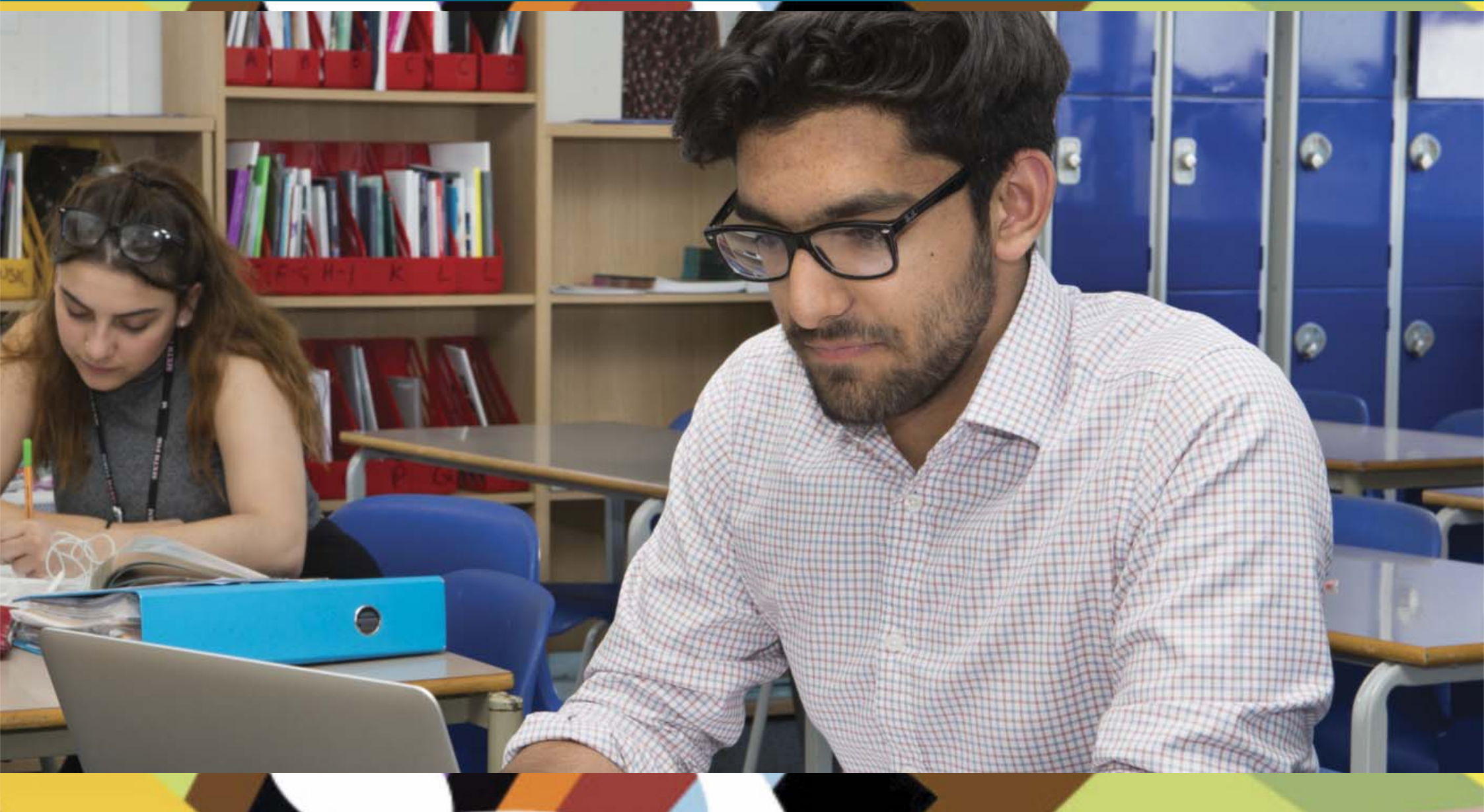
The Sixth Form students are an active and integral part of the school. Young women and young men from other local schools join the Sixth Form each year and settle quickly and successfully.

“My biggest achievement in life was probably making it to Everest basecamp, having raised £2650 to get there. St Bernard's helped me achieve this, by helping me believe that I can do anything.”

Students at St Bernard's achieve great examination success. We are proud of the high pass rates across the broad range of 'A' level subjects. Academic success flows from the strengths and values of our school community and we provide a broad and balanced curriculum expertly taught, thereby assisting students to reach their full potential.



“St. Bernard's is an outstanding academic environment”





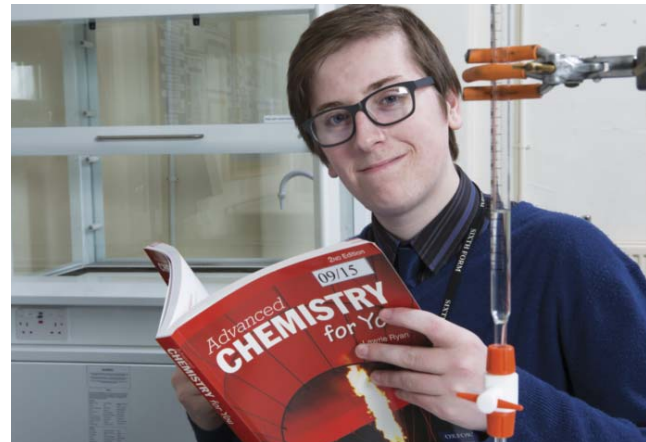
A Balanced Curriculum

Our Key Stage 5 courses ensure that our students develop life-long transferable skills, become independent and resilient learners and are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead. These enable all students to be Independent enquirers and creative thinkers who work well as leaders and team members. Learning is enhanced through a problem-solving approach to the curriculum which facilitates students in improving their own learning and performance. These skills dovetail with the development of independent learning, so crucial for a successful Sixth Form student.

“These subjects were available and taught well, enabling me to be accepted into University straight away”

A Catholic Community

As a Catholic learning community, we strive for excellence and encourage all students to develop their God-given talents to the full. We recognise the uniqueness of each individual, since we are all made in God's image and are loved by Him. We, therefore, aim to educate the whole person, not only academically, but intellectually, spiritually, socially and emotionally. In this we embrace and include all, irrespective of their faith or beliefs, and enable young people to learn how to be of service to others by offering the experience of life in a community based on Gospel values.



“St Bernard's High School is an outstanding Catholic school.” (Diocesan Inspection, 2012)





Pastoral Care

We embrace an inclusive attitude in all we do. Strong relationships define the nature of our school community. We welcome students to our Sixth Form, irrespective of their faith and religious beliefs as this is not a criteria for entry – though we expect all within our community to respect the special ethos of our school. We care for each other as individuals of equal worth, regardless of status, gender, race or religion actively promoting safeguarding, justice and fairness.

“Staff at St Bernard's really take the time to consider a student's individual and educational needs. They nurture students to achieve the best they can by offering encouragement and support at every stage.”

Relationships

The Sixth Form itself generates many social and charitable activities and is also involved with work within the wider local, national and global Community. The annual Rag Month events contribute not only to local, national and global charities but also support the engagement of young people in their wider responsibilities to others. At the heart of this is the desire to be of service to others.



“St Bernard's did take care of me so well over a course of 7 years, and beyond”





Personal Development and Responsibility

Sixth form students value the special atmosphere at St Bernard's with its commitment to pastoral support, the strong sense of community spirit, and of our dedication to ensuring students become active citizens and leaders of tomorrow. We make sure that students are given time and space to talk about the many issues facing them and the world today. More than that, we encourage understanding and respect, through the sharing of different perspectives and different cultural backgrounds.

“Never-ending support, and many opportunities, are provided to help every single individual reach their full potential”

The Right Environment

There are many extra-curricular activities which enhance the study programmes and are an important aspect of personal development. Visits to the Higher Education Fair, colleges and universities, study days and overseas visits as well as the normal range of field study courses bring added variety to Sixth Form life. Responsibilities and privileges are an important, enjoyable and rewarding part of the Sixth Form, through which students grow in confidence, develop social skills and improve self-discipline.



“St Bernard's is also an environment in which students have fun and enjoy school life”





Building Confidence

“St. Bernard’s gave me the confidence to get up in front of large groups of people and be confident with my ideas. Sometimes you have to think wildly outside of the box before coming across the right idea.”

Choices and Guidance

It is particularly important at the beginning of a Sixth Form career to ensure that the choice of courses provides a coherent base for Further/Higher Education or employment. Some subject combinations are better than others, leading to a wider or more appropriate range of higher and further educational courses. Therefore, it is essential to discuss the different combinations of subjects - as well as the demands and the content of the courses - before making the final choice.

Various computerised information systems are available to help with the choice of careers and courses at university, including KUDOS and Higher Ideas. There is a comprehensive programme of university visits and many opportunities to meet employers.



“I stayed on for St Bernard’s Sixth form because for me, I knew the teachers, and they knew me, they knew my potential, and helped me when I needed it.”





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