



Date: Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Our ref: ELO/sjt

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Transition to post 16 education

I am writing to explain some of the key dates and how we will support your child in their transition to post 16 education. You will have received an invitation to our Sixth Form Open evening in November and I know you will have already started to explore the options your child has in their next steps. We have delivered an assembly to Year 11 in which Ms Phillips, our careers lead has shared the different pathways that are available to students. You will also be aware that students have been conducting their post 16 careers interviews with Ms Phillips. These are all in place to support your child as they make their next steps. This can be a daunting time, but it is also exciting. I introduced St Bernard's Sixth Form and spoke of the many advantages of staying in an environment in which teachers know and understand the young person and how they learn best. I think it is critical to remember that the jump from GCSE to A level is the biggest academic jump a child will do, and the decision as to where to study must be right for the child within the boundaries of the entry requirements an institution sets.

Our open evening will be a great opportunity to see the subjects we offer at A level and speak to teachers about the options that your child has. We encourage an open mind as you consider subjects and remember that very few university courses ask students to have specific A levels. It is important to think about the balance between the subjects chosen and the demands these will place upon your child. Open evenings are a great place to talk about subject combinations with the teachers. We will have clear entry requirements, and these are laid out on the next page. Our updated prospectus and course guide is available on the school website, and we encourage you to explore this, paying close attention to the subject requirements and the overall application process laid out in the prospectus on the school website.

Applications to sixth form will open on Friday 29th November 2024 and can be made via the application page on the school website. You will use a website called Applica to make your Sixth Form Applications. Applications will close on Friday 21st February 2025. We will not be able to accept late applications and students must have completed a full application to be able to attend St Bernard's Sixth Form as well as achieve the grade requirements stated. Offers will be made in April 2025. All students will have a meeting with a member of SLT between January 2025 and February 2025, to talk through their realistic options using their first assessment mocks predictions. It is critical that students are putting every effort into making sure these grades reflect their abilities as these are the grades they will use to apply for all post 16 options. Of course, final decisions will be made on GCSE results days, however the predictions students receive in the next assessments will guide all post 16 providers in their decision to offer your child a place at their institution. Students who are looking to apply elsewhere or wish to apply to a college should ensure that they are exploring their options via local institution open evenings and websites to help ensure that they make an informed and realistic choice.

We look forward to supporting your child into their next phase of education and meeting you at the Sixth Form open evening on Thursday 28th November 2024.

Kind Regards,

Mrs E Owen
Assistant Head Teacher
Head of Sixth Form