



23rd January 2026

Our ref: ELO/hsa

Dear Parents,

A level Taster Day and Applica Applications

It was fantastic to welcome so many of you to our Sixth Form Open Evening back in November. I am writing to share about our upcoming Sixth Form Taster Day and Applica applications.

A Level Taster Day Friday 6th Feb

On **Friday 6th Feb** all Year 11 students will have an '**A-Level Taster Day**' where they can experience A Level lessons, including those subjects not taught at GCSE. This day provides a useful insight into potential subject choices and the Sixth Form facilities at St Bernard's. Students have all been using Applica to make their applications for sixth form and **students will need to use Applica to register their choices for the A Level Taster Day between Monday 26th January and Monday 2nd Feb. I will send students separate instructions, so they know how to do this.**

We have been able to timetable all subjects that we offer at A level/ BTEC however we are restricted as to when we can timetable lessons due to this being a normal school day. Please remember students don't have to try the exact subjects they are applying for as this won't always be possible; the day is about getting a flavour of what it is like to be a sixth former. Students must choose a subject for every period of the day and should have just one supervised study session. We will have limited spaces for certain subjects. Students will complete a supervised study session just like they would have in sixth form, and we ask that students bring something to revise for their upcoming mocks to complete during this period.

Students will be expected to arrive at school at the usual time and must enter through the Milton Road gate, they should then go straight to the Sixth Form common room when they arrive, they can use this space from 8am onwards. The expectation is that students will be smartly dressed in office attire for the day (no trainers jeans, or tracksuits please). Students should arrive equipped with a notebook, folder and pencil case and some revision for their upcoming year 11 mocks for their supervised study period. Students can continue to use the servery at break and at lunch, however they are able to go off site at lunch time but must come back to school for the afternoon session. The day will finish at 2.45pm. Lessons will finish at 2.30pm and students will then be asked to come back to the Sixth Form Common room for a de brief before being allowed to leave at 2.45pm through the Milton Road gate.

A timetable of the day is below:

Overall Plan for the day:

8.45-9.10am – Assembly – Sister Mary Stephen Hall

9.10- 10am – Period 1 lessons

10-10.50 – Period 2 lessons

10.50 – 11.10- Break- in common room, can use servery

11.10-12.00 – Period 3 lessons

12.00-12.50 – Period 4 lesson

12.50-1.40 pm – Lunch - students can use the servery or go off site.

1.40-2.30 - Period 5 lesson

2.30-2.45pm: Round up in SF1

2.45pm – students go home via the Milton Road gate

Sixth Form Applications close on Friday 20th February

We will review applications and use the second round of mock results to give conditional offers to students if they meet the grade requirements as set out on our website. We are aiming for all conditional offers to be shared with students before the Easter break. If students do not meet our grade requirements, we will not be able to offer them a conditional place however will make sure they are supported. A letter will be sent to explain next steps with each offer.

If you have any further queries in relation to the post 16 provision at St Bernard's which you wish to discuss, do not hesitate to contact us. Any queries relating to applications on Applica should be sent to sixthformadmissions@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Emily Owen

Head of Sixth Form – St Bernards High School