

# Sixth Form

SIXTH FORM  
PROSPECTUS 2025/26



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1 8 7 6





# Welcome to St Bede's

## A Warm Welcome

Dear Parents

We are delighted and honoured to welcome you to become parents of our next generation of Bedians.

Working together with you, our parents, we are striving to become a hub where all the support, service and advice that you may need can be found. Committed to the holistic education of our students, we want them not only to achieve academic success but to also find the best opportunities to shape their futures, according to their uniqueness. Our founder, Cardinal Vaughan, opened the doors of the College on the 7th of January 1876; he was inspired by St Bede's search for knowledge and truth and founded the College based on a profound love of learning. Christ remains at the centre and heart of our school and our faith inspires us to look upon our pupils, no matter their background or their own personal faith journey, as children of God.

Our vision is to see our pupils grow as true leaders in the 21st century; we believe that character development will help them to achieve their potential, lead responsibly and build a better world. In order to develop their understanding of character in the years ahead, pupils will take part in our Virtue and Leadership Programmes, developing their inner strength to respond to life's challenges and a true understanding of our world and its needs. The College has a rich life, filled with



opportunities accessed through the House system, co-curricular activities and pupils' own initiatives, all of which contribute to the positive growth mindset passed on by our founder.

On the verge of celebrating our 150th anniversary, leading St Bede's is an honour and a huge responsibility, which I could not take on without the great team that works with me. We look forward to meeting you soon and working together to provide the best future for your children.

**Mrs Maria Kemp**

Headteacher

[headteacher@stbedescollege.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@stbedescollege.co.uk)



# Welcome to St Bede's Sixth Form

Dear Students,

What makes our Sixth Form so special is the strength of the relationships between our teachers and students. With small class sizes, our staff are able to truly know each individual, offering the guidance, encouragement and challenge needed to thrive. This close support not only helps students achieve their very best academically, but also allows them to grow in confidence as young people ready to take on opportunities and responsibilities in the wider world.

Our community comprises students who have completed their GCSE studies at the College as well as those who have joined us from other schools, and other countries. The Sixth Form Common Room is a welcoming place where friendships for life are forged.

In addition to outstanding academic provision, we place great importance on equipping our students for life beyond Sixth Form. Our careers guidance enables them to explore their aspirations and chart a clear and purposeful pathway towards the future. Similarly, our UCAS support is carefully tailored, providing advice and guidance that empowers students to make informed choices. This bespoke approach gives our students the confidence and clarity to pursue their ambitions and make decisions that are right for them.

Bedians are expected to contribute to the wider community through our many charitable affiliations and by assuming roles of responsibility in the College. They are also



encouraged to enrich their learning through a wide range of supercurricular opportunities. These not only foster personal growth and confidence but allow them to explore their passions and develop the skills and maturity that will serve them well in higher education and beyond.

I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about life in the Sixth Form at St Bede's College and look forward to meeting you soon.

**Dr Anne McMonagle**

Head of Sixth Form

[amcmonagle@sbcm.co.uk](mailto:amcmonagle@sbcm.co.uk)



# Hear from Former Students

Isobel M - Class of 2023

Undergraduate student of Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow

I discovered my passion for theatre at St Bede's College, where the wonderful Performing Arts Department allowed me to develop creatively and academically, inside the classroom and out of it. The support from teachers over the years gave me the confidence to pursue a degree in Theatre, something I now cannot imagine being without. I will always be grateful for the support and guidance given to me at St Bede's and I truly believe it is a place where students are encouraged to thrive whether their interests lie in science, sports or the arts.



Charlotte C - Class of 2024

Undergraduate student of a Combined Honours Degree in Social Sciences at Durham University

In 2022, I came to St Bede's Sixth Form from an all girls' grammar school, and the first thing that struck me about the school was the sense of community. Year and class sizes are much smaller, so not only do all of the students know each other, but the staff know all of the students too. At my previous school, to be known meant you had to stand out especially, for good or bad reasons, but at St Bede's it was just the norm. It means that there is a far greater number of staff and peers that you know and can turn to for support. Many of my friends come back to school events, such as the theatre productions and fairs, because of this community- once a Bedian, always a Bedian. Not only are the staff supportive academically and pastorally, they really will do anything necessary for you to achieve- I realised late (after half a term!) that the degree I wanted to pursue required Further Maths; by the time half term was over, I had a new timetable and Further Maths was being taught to me, one on one, because that was what I needed to achieve my goals. There truly are no words for how grateful I am that I moved to St Bede's, and I hope to continue to make the Bedian Family proud.



Samson T - Class of 2024

Undergraduate student of Psychology with Innovation at the University of Bristol

Having been at St Bede's College since the age of 4, I can say with great confidence that the College has shaped me into the person I am today. The unwavering support over the years from dedicated teachers, mentors, and the many friends I made on my journey, has nurtured a confidence to thrive at university. Thanks to the close-knit and welcoming environment that St Bede's provides in abundance, I have found it easy to settle into student life. The school motto, Nunquam Otio Torpebat ("Never Rest in Idleness"), is now forever hardwired into my approach to learning and has set a strong foundation for my future growth. I have nothing but gratitude for everything St Bede's College has done for me. I am incredibly proud to be a Bedian.





# Life in Sixth Form

A group of young women, likely members of a school dance or performance group, are captured in a dynamic pose. They are wearing matching red dresses with ruffled collars and long sleeves. Several of the women are holding large, dark-colored fans, which are partially open. The women in the foreground have their mouths open as if they are singing or shouting with enthusiasm. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the performers, creating a dramatic effect.

Be Inspired  
Be Committed  
Be Grateful



# St Bede's Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at St Bede's offers a supportive environment in which students transition from the highly structured GCSE framework to a more independent approach to learning. During the initial weeks of the Lower Sixth (Year 12), students are guided through this shift, supported by small class sizes that ensure each individual is known and valued.

Students are encouraged to use their non-contact time effectively, develop independent research skills, and read widely. Each department provides an extensive supercurricular list to help students engage with material beyond the A level curriculum. The step up from GCSE to A level is often a significant one, but we encourage students to embrace this challenge. Learning to navigate such changes builds the resilience and adaptability essential for future success. It is also important that students remain mindful of their purpose in studying and begin to reflect on how they might contribute meaningfully to the world beyond A levels.

All students are placed in small tutor groups with one of our specialist team of Sixth Form tutors. They meet on a daily basis to build the relationship necessary to guide and support them as individuals throughout their two years.

## Facilities

With photocopying facilities and plenty of desk space, the Sixth Form Common Room offers a welcoming space for students to collaborate on group work and to conduct quiet revision. Sixth Formers also have exclusive access to the Maher Library, which features a dedicated study area and a wide selection of Senior Fiction texts to support and enrich their reading.

At break and lunchtimes, students gather in the Common Room to relax, socialise or play pool. It features a kitchen where meals and hot drinks can be made, as well as vending machines with a range of drinks and snacks. Sixth Form students are welcome to eat in the Dining Hall, and with parent permission they may leave site at lunchtime to go for a walk or visit the local shops and takeaways.

The Sixth Form Centre features a gym and showers for Sixth Form use; Lower Sixth students also take part in Games once a week and are offered extra opportunities outside of the college such as rock climbing and skiing.
















# A Levels

Students are asked to take three or four A levels and to choose another qualification in order to add UCAS tariff points to their university application (the Extended Project Qualification or a Certificate in Core Mathematics or Sustainability).

## All subjects in the option process:

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
|    | Biology                       |
|    | Business                      |
|    | Chemistry                     |
|    | Classical Civilisation        |
|    | Computer Science              |
|    | Design Technology             |
|    | Drama & Theatre Studies       |
|    | Economics                     |
|    | English Language              |
|   | English Literature            |
|  | Fine Art                      |
|  | French                        |
|  | Geography                     |
|  | German                        |
|  | History                       |
|  | Mathematics                   |
|  | Further Maths                 |
|  | Music                         |
|  | Philosophy, Ethics & Theology |
|  | Photography                   |
|  | Physical Education            |
|  | Physics                       |
|  | Politics                      |
|  | Psychology                    |
|  | Spanish                       |

## Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) gives students the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in depth, while developing independent research and academic skills. It involves producing a 5,000-word written report or an artefact plus a shorter written report. It is worth up to 28 UCAS points, is graded A\* to E and can result in reduced grade offers from universities.

## Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Maths)

Core Maths is designed for students who are not taking A level Mathematics but still want to develop their mathematical skills. It is particularly useful for those who plan to study or work in fields where mathematics is useful but not central. It is worth up to 20 UCAS points and is graded A to E.

## Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability

### Academic Scholarships

A brand new qualification, the new Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability covers the fundamental aspects of sustainability. It is particularly suited to students looking to progress into employment in the environmental conservation sector or degree programmes where sustainability modules are becoming increasingly common. It is anticipated to be graded in Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* and to be worth up to 28 tariff points.



Scan this qr code or visit the link below for a full list of our subjects linked to separate subject pages:

[www.sbcm.co.uk/academic/curriculum/a-level-subject-list/](http://www.sbcm.co.uk/academic/curriculum/a-level-subject-list/)

# Beyond A Levels

Our holistic educational experience upholds academic rigour while providing a broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom. While academic qualifications are very important, opportunities in St Bede's Sixth Form extend far beyond A levels. We strongly encourage our students to take advantage of our wide range of co-curricular and outreach activities, to be curious about the world around them, and exhibit a commitment to leadership and the welfare of others.

## The Bedian Research Programme

The Bedian Research Programme (BRP) is timetabled once a week and has a focus on independent project management, deep research and presentation skills development. Students are taught how to manage their time, take effective study notes and research independently, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of themselves as individuals through a course on Emotional Intelligence. A particularly enriching aspect of the BRP is the Oxford Character Project—a programme developed by the University of Oxford to cultivate a new generation of wise thinkers and principled leaders. Students also learn to develop and deliver TED-Ed Talk presentations, providing them with the opportunity to communicate their ideas with conviction and poise.

## Voices of Change

Voices of Change is an exciting new weekly course designed to help students grow into thoughtful, well-rounded individuals who can express beliefs with clarity, confidence and compassion. In a relaxed, discussion-based setting, students explore big ideas around philosophy, ethics, justice and the Catholic faith.

## The Prefect Team

We strongly encourage our students to take opportunities to lead and guide younger pupils, and to play active and visible roles in the running of the College. A significant number of students are appointed to positions of responsibility, including Head Boy and Girl, House Captains and Senior Prefect positions.

## The Bedian Diversity Initiative

The BDI is a student-led movement which celebrates diversity and inclusion within St Bede's College and was founded by Sixth Formers. It has several branches including the Afro-Caribbean, European and Asian divisions, allowing for plenty of leadership roles within the Initiative.

## Sixth Form Book Club

The Sixth Form Book Club is a student-led group where members meet once a fortnight to read and discuss books beyond the curriculum. The initiative and intellectual curiosity it demonstrates is also valuable for university applications.



St Bede's students Kian, Samson and Arran attended a celebration at Buckingham Palace where they received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.



## Model United Nations

At Model United Nations (MUN) meetings, students act as delegates representing different countries, debating global issues and drafting resolutions. It allows students to develop skills in public speaking, research, negotiation and leadership while giving a taste of international diplomacy.

## Music and Drama

In 2025, our students enjoyed being part of the College Musical 'Oliver!' and Shakespeare on the Lawn ('The Tempest'), as actors, stage hands, costume designers, and lighting and sound technicians. Our singers and musicians also attended the annual Carol Service at the Hidden Gem, the Sixth Form evening of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Spring Concert. They participate in clubs such as the Senior Instrumental Ensemble, String Ensemble, Senior Clarinet Ensemble, Senior Choir and Chamber Singers.



## Trips, Outreach and Fundraising

Subject departments offer trips every year, including Berlin, LA and Munich recently; Sixth Form students also volunteer at Lourdes and travel to the Gambia. They enjoy an end-of-year trip of their choice - last summer this saw them go paintballing in Botany Bay Wood. Sixth Form students have been instrumental in raising funds for various charities, have volunteered as part of Gold Duke of Edinburgh and completed Gold Faith in Action Awards.

## Competitions

We challenge our students to take part in national competitions and to take advantage of learning opportunities outside of the College. These include Science Olympiads, Senior Maths Challenges, the John Locke Essay Competition, the Catenians Public Speaking Competition and more.

## University Application and Careers Support

Students are given comprehensive, individualised support throughout the university application process to help them achieve their goals. Each student receives one-to-one guidance on writing and refining their personal statement, ensuring it reflects their strengths, ambitions and chosen subject.

For those applying to competitive courses or universities such as Oxford or Cambridge, additional preparation is provided, including support for admissions tests and weekly 'Early Entry' seminars. We have an annual University and Careers Fair and a dedicated Careers Coordinator who meets individually with Sixth Form students to provide tailored guidance and support. Our annual Scholars' Dinner is a highlight of the academic calendar, where industry professionals offer first-hand knowledge of their careers and practical advice for the future.









# 7 Reasons to Choose St Bede's Sixth Form

1. Small teaching groups and individual tuition - classes rarely exceed 10 pupils (other colleges have an average of 28 pupils per class).

2. Teachers who know you, your strengths and individual needs.

3. Dedicated spiritual enrichment and weekly religious assemblies.

4. A proven track record of successful entry to prestigious Russell Group Universities.

5. Many prefect and leadership Opportunities and outreach programmes.

6. Wide range of co-curricular clubs, sports teams, drama productions and music shows.

7. Specialist UCAS provision, an experienced Careers Coordinator and a personalised approach to students' futures.



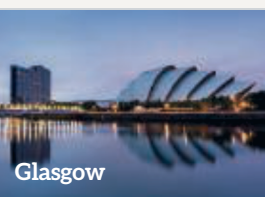
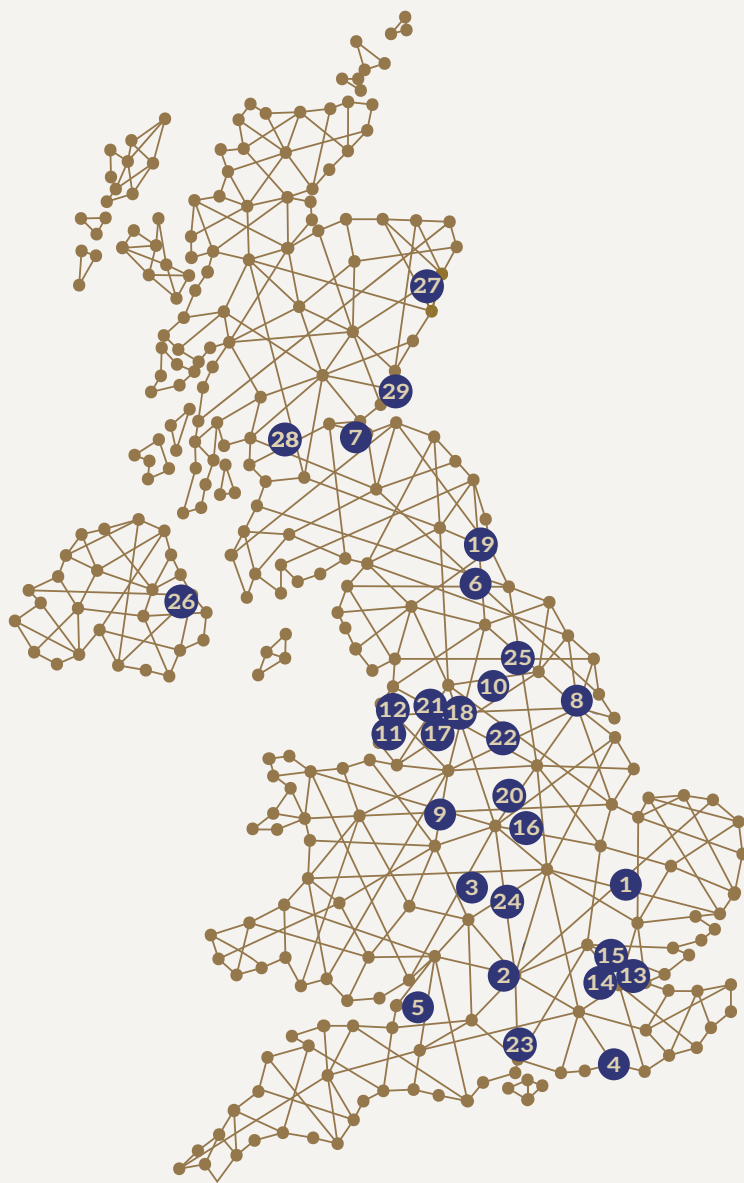




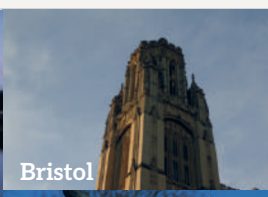
# University Destinations

In the last two years, our students have been offered places at the following universities:

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. University of Birmingham
4. University of Brighton
5. University of Bristol
6. Durham University
7. University of Edinburgh
8. University of Hull
9. Keele University
10. University of Leeds
11. University of Liverpool
12. Liverpool John Moores University
13. University College London
14. Imperial College London
15. CSSD, University of London
16. Loughborough University
17. University of Manchester
18. Manchester Metropolitan University
19. Newcastle University
20. Nottingham University
21. University of Salford
22. University of Sheffield
23. University of Southampton
24. University of Warwick
25. University of York
26. Queens Belfast
27. University of Aberdeen
28. University of Glasgow
29. University of St Andrews



Glasgow



Bristol



Manchester



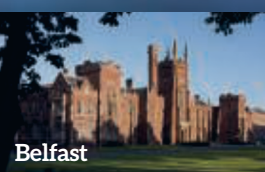
Sheffield



Newcastle



Warwick



Belfast



Nottingham



Cardiff



Salford



Durham



Liverpool



Edinburgh



Oxford



London



Cambridge



York



Birmingham

## Examples of some of the courses our students left to study:

Accounting and Finance

Acting and Theatre Arts

Advertising and Brand Communications

AI and Data Science

Architectural Engineering

Biochemistry

Business Management

Chemistry

Criminology

Ecology and Conservation

Education Psychology

English and Film Studies

Environmental Geoscience

French and Spanish

International Business

Law

Linguistics

Materials Science and Engineering

Mathematics and Physics

Mechanical Engineering

Medicine

Midwifery

Musical Theatre Performance

Nursing

Pharmacy

Philosophy and Politics

Photography

Physiotherapy

Politics and International Relations

Psychology with Innovation

Screenwriting and Film

Therapeutic Radiography and Oncology

## The Next Step

Once you have read through this booklet you will have a good idea of what is available at St Bede's College. However, nothing can ever replace a visit and we would recommend you come and see this very special place. We strongly encourage you to join us on one of our taster days.

You will be able to meet with the Headteacher and the Sixth Form Team and experience a day in the life of a College Sixth Form student. The next step in our entrance procedure is to contact our Admissions Manager who is always happy to talk to you about the admissions process and clarify any points that you may need to discuss.

[admissions@sbcm.co.uk](mailto:admissions@sbcm.co.uk)

## Entry Requirements

We ask that students attain at least Grade 6 in the subjects to be studied at A level, with the exception of Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics where a minimum of Grade 7 is required. Applicants who wish to study Business or Economics, but have not had the opportunity to take a GCSE in either of these subjects, should ideally attain at least a Grade 6 in Mathematics. Establishing a strong foundation at GCSE level is paramount to providing students with the optimal chance for success in their chosen A level pursuits and beyond.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

### Academic Scholarships

The College is pleased to extend Academic Scholarships to students securing Grade 9 in a minimum of three GCSE subjects, accompanied by at least five additional GCSEs at Grade 6 and above. A 30% fee reduction is granted for three Grade 9s, with an extra 10% for each additional Grade 9. Scholarships will be automatically granted upon receipt of GCSE grades. The College expects students to conform to our high expectations and standards of behaviour, embrace the Catholic ethos of our College, and maintain an excellent attitude to academic work.

### Bursaries

We offer means-tested bursary funding to successful applicants; if you wish to apply, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office ([admissions@sbcm.co.uk](mailto:admissions@sbcm.co.uk)) on 0161 226 3323 and they will be happy to help. Further support is available from organisations such as the Emmott Foundation and the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Trust: <https://educational-grants.org/>





## The process for joining our Sixth Form

- |    |                   |    |                                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Application form  | 4. | Interview with Head of Sixth Form |
| 2. | School references | 5. | Successful GCSE grades            |
| 3. | Open Morning      | 6. | Sixth Form                        |





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