



ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE
1876

The Compass Programme

OWN YOUR FUTURE

St Bede's Sixth Form Reimagined



The Compass Programme



A Partnership that Guides you to *Own Your Future*

At St Bede's College, our Sixth Form is not just the next step after GCSEs; it's where your future begins.

The Compass Programme is built on a simple idea: your future should be shaped by you. Our role is not to decide your path, but to help you discover it.

Through expert teaching, personal mentoring and real-world opportunities, we encourage curiosity, build confidence and create space to explore what matters most.

At St Bede's Sixth Form, you'll be supported, challenged and inspired to find your own direction.

You lead the way. We are here to guide you.



Your Journey
*You set the direction;
we create opportunities*



Our Guidance
*We provide the tools,
support and expertise*



Your Future
*Together we help you make
it happen*

“The transition from childhood to adulthood is one of the most exciting and important journeys a young person will make.

At St Bede’s College, we believe Sixth Form should be about far more than achieving excellent grades. It should be a time for young people to discover who they are, explore their ambitions and begin shaping the future they want for themselves.

That belief is at the heart of The Compass Programme.

Created in response to what young people are telling us they need, The Compass Programme combines academic excellence with greater independence, real-world experiences and the freedom to take ownership of their time and aspirations.

Whether pursuing university, an apprenticeship, employment or entrepreneurship, every student will be supported, challenged and encouraged to find their own direction.

A compass does not tell you where to go. It helps you navigate the journey.

Our role is not to choose the path for our students, but to give them the confidence, opportunities and guidance to find their own.

The future belongs to young people who can think independently, act with purpose and embrace opportunity. The Compass Programme has been designed to help them do exactly that.”

Marìa Kemp
Headteacher
St Bede’s College



The Compass Programme







A typical week

Small Classes

Big Thinking

Real Progress



Mornings				
Registration 9:00 am				
Focused academic lessons led by a team of expert course leaders				
<i>Sign out from 11am if no academic lessons are scheduled.</i>				
Afternoons				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Timetabled Lessons or Study or Sign out	Timetabled Lessons or Study or Sign out	Co-Curricular from 2:20pm <i>Optional</i> Choose. Challenge. Grow  Horse Riding  Boxing  Rock Climbing  Cooking  Water Sports  Pottery	Discover Manchester from 2:20pm <i>Optional</i> <i>Experience the city. Expand your thinking.</i> Culture & Creativity Community and Social Impact Industry and Future Careers New Ideas and Perspectives	IS YOURS from 2:20pm <i>Choose to stay and study</i> <i>Pursue your passions</i> <i>Make your choices</i> Your Time Your Future

*Permission for students to sign out and leave site early will be agreed with parents.

Academic Excellence



Personal Growth



Real World Ready

The Compass Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is The Compass Programme?

A: The Compass Programme is St Bede's unique Sixth Form experience, designed to combine academic excellence with personal development, real-world experiences and greater independence.

Built around the belief that every student should be empowered to shape their own future, The Compass provides opportunities to explore interests, develop confidence and gain experiences beyond the classroom while continuing to achieve academic success.

Q: What makes The Compass Programme different?

A: The Compass Programme combines outstanding academic teaching with greater independence, personal development opportunities and real-world preparation. Unlike a traditional Sixth Form experience, The Compass gives students the option of three independent afternoons each week, allowing them to take greater ownership of their time, explore opportunities beyond the classroom and begin preparing for life beyond school.

Q: How much independent time do students have?

A: Students benefit from three independent afternoons each week, giving them the flexibility to study, gain work experience, volunteer, undertake driving lessons, pursue personal interests or simply manage their time in a way that supports their future ambitions. This balance of academic rigour and independence is a defining feature of The Compass Programme.

Q: Why is it called The Compass Programme?

A: A compass does not tell you where to go. It helps you find your direction. The Compass Programme is built on the belief that every student's future should be shaped by them, with St Bede's providing the guidance, opportunities and support to help them get there.

Q: Can students study from home during free periods?

A: Yes, students may study from home during designated free periods after 11am. This flexibility allows students to manage their time effectively while developing the independence expected in higher education and the workplace.

Q: What co-curricular opportunities are available?

A: Students will have access to a wide range of enrichment opportunities which may include:

- Rock Climbing
- Boxing
- Horse Riding
- Water Sports
- Cooking
- Pottery

The programme will continue to evolve, with new opportunities added based on student interests and partnerships.

Please note that some activities and trips may incur an additional charge.



Q: What happens during the independent afternoons?

A: The Compass gives students greater ownership of their time. During designated independent periods, students may choose to:

- Study on site
- Study from home
- Complete coursework or revision
- Undertake EPQ research
- Complete volunteering opportunities
- Attend driving lessons or driving tests
- Pursue hobbies and interests
- Undertake work experience where appropriate
- Attend appointments
- Develop personal projects and ambitions

The aim is to develop the independence, responsibility and self-management skills needed for university, apprenticeships and employment.

Q: What support is available for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, and other competitive course applicants?

A: These students benefit from dedicated support and guidance, and may access specialist pathways, receiving:

- Individual meetings with our experienced Careers Coordinator
- Expert advice and mentoring in our Medical Pathway Forum
- Admissions test advice
- Interview preparation
- Personal statement support
- University application guidance
- Support with relevant work experience opportunities where possible

Our aim is to ensure students are fully prepared to make competitive applications to leading universities and professional courses.

Q: Can students join St Bede's Sixth Form from another school?

A: Absolutely! We welcome applications from students currently attending other schools, both locally and internationally.

Each year, students join St Bede's from a variety of educational backgrounds and quickly become valued members of our Sixth Form community.

Q: Can students leave College during the day?

A: Yes, with parental agreement, after morning registration or assembly (9:00 am–9.25am), students may sign out after 11am when they have no academic lessons scheduled.

This flexibility allows students to manage their time effectively while developing the independence expected in higher education and the workplace.

Q: Can students drive to College?

A: Yes, Sixth Form students are welcome to drive to College, subject to our parking arrangements and expectations around safe and responsible driving.

We are also exploring partnerships with local driving schools to offer Compass students access to discounted driving lessons and support them in developing an important life skill.

Q: Will Year 13 timetables be the same as in Year 12?

No, timetables change in year 13 so you can benefit from more lessons in your chosen subjects; however, year 12 subjects like BRP, Voices of Change and EPQ are not timetabled in Year 13. The freedom to sign out after 11am remains.



Q: Is there a Sixth Form dress code?

A: 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.

Q: Is there a Sixth Form common room?

Yes, the Sixth Form Centre includes a dedicated common room designed specifically for Sixth Form students.

Facilities include:

- Comfortable seating
- Quiet study areas
- Kitchen facilities
- Kettle, fridge, microwave
- Vending machines
- Pool table
- Photocopier
- Collaborative spaces

Students may bring their own lunch or dine in the College dining hall from 12.15pm.

Q: What are the entry requirements?

A: We ask that students attain at least Grade 6 in the subjects they wish to study at A level, with the exception of Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, where a minimum Grade 7 is required.

Our Admissions Team will be happy to discuss individual circumstances and subject specific requirements.

Email: admissions@sbcm.co.uk

Q: Is The Compass Programme only for students planning to go to university?

A: No, the Compass Programme is designed to support students pursuing a wide range of pathways, including:

- University
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships
- Employment
- Entrepreneurship

Our aim is to help each student to discover their strengths, explore opportunities and find their own direction.

Q: Are scholarships available?

A: Yes, Sixth Form students benefit from a smart dress code 3 days per week, and smart casual on 2 days, reflecting the greater independence and responsibility expected of young adults preparing for university and the workplace.

Q: Can students undertake an EPQ?

A: Yes, students have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), allowing them to develop advanced research, presentation and independent learning skills.

The EPQ is highly regarded by universities, can sometimes result in reduced grade offers and helps students stand out in competitive applications.

As alternatives, students may also choose to study Core Mathematics or Sustainability qualifications alongside their A levels.





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FIND YOUR DIRECTION

Take the first step

Contact: admissions@sbcm.co.uk

Visit: www.sbcm.co.uk/compass

