

Welcome to Year 12 Parents' Information Meeting



English Martyrs'
Catholic School



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- Mr Calen: Welcome & Prayer
- Mr Calen: Examination Results & Destinations
- Mr McCaughey: Personal Development
- Mr McCaughey: Pastoral & Expectations
- Mr McCaughey: *Unifrog*, UCAS & preparing for the future
- Key Dates

The School Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ
Make me a better person
Considerate towards others
Honest with myself
Faithful to you
Help me to find my true vocation in life
And so to find happiness myself
And bring happiness to others

Amen.



Examination Results

A Level Results

- 25% of students achieved A*–A grades — up 9% from 2024
- 55% achieved A*–B grades — also up 9% from 2024
- 84% achieved A*–C grades — an improvement of 4% from 2024

For the tenth consecutive year, 80%+ of our students have achieved A*–C grades/

83% of students have gained places at their first-choice universities, including many at coveted Russell Group universities.



Year 13 Destinations

Notable destinations include:

- Oxford University – Medicine
- Loughborough University- Chemical Engineering
- Queens University Belfast- Biomedical Science
- University of Bath- Pharmacy
- Liverpool John Moore's- Bio Chemistry
- University of St Andrews- Mathematics
- University of Leicester- Medicine
- University of Leicester- Medicine
- University of Birmingham- Pharmacy
- University of Warwick- History & Politics
- De Montfort – Psychology
- Birmingham University- Marketing
- Aston University- Law
- University of Leicester- Software Engineering.

Examination Results

GCSE Results

75% of students achieved **five or more 4+ grades** (Including English & Maths).

57% of students **achieved 5+ (Strong Pass)** in English & Maths

76% of students **achieved 4+ (Pass)** in English & Maths

We have been delighted to welcome over 115 Year 11 students into our Sixth Form (along with applicants from other schools) as they embark on the next stage of their education.

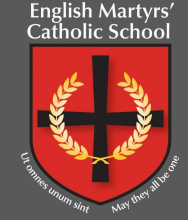


Personal Development Programme

	Year 12	Year 13
Mon	Post-18 Preparation	Post-18 Preparation
Tues	A Level Mindset (VESPA)/Wellbeing	A Level Mindset (VESPA)/Wellbeing
Wed	Academic Mentoring	Academic Mentoring
Thurs	Pastoral Assembly	Pastoral Assembly
Fri	Assembly	Assembly

Vespa's A Level Mindset

Helping Students Reach Their Potential



The V.E.S.P.A. Framework

- **Vision** 🏁 – Clear goals and future motivation
- **Effort** ⌚ – Consistent independent study each week
- **Systems** 📁 – Organised notes, folders, and routines
- **Practice** 📝 – Regular self-testing, not just re-reading
- **Attitude** 🦍 – Resilience and positive response to setbacks

The A Level Mindset

Revised Edition

40 activities for
transforming
student
commitment,
motivation and
productivity

Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin

Vespa's A Level Mindset

Helping Students Reach Their Potential



Why It Matters for Parents

- ✓ Success depends on good habits & positive mindset, not just intelligence
- ✓ Provides practical tools for motivation & organisation
- ✓ Shows how parents can support effective study at home

The A Level Mindset

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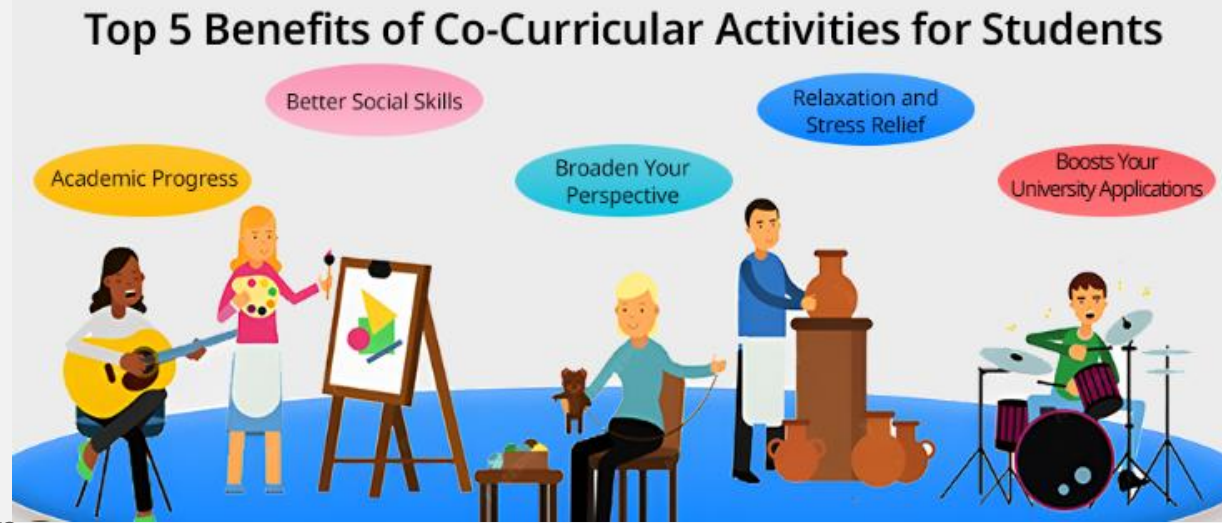
Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin

Co-curricular Activities

The curriculum is enhanced by a vibrant, wide-ranging co-curricular programme which provides a broad curriculum offer and supports student wellbeing.

There are co-curricular opportunities spanning across all curriculum areas so there really is something for all.

Sixth form students are encouraged to take a lead on developing the co-curricular opportunities that are right for them or creating their own, e.g The HighFliers Programme, Sports Clubs(Netball) or MEDSOC Society.



Expectations

Dress code

Mobile phones

Attendance &
punctuality

Application to study

Involvement in the wider
school community

Modelling excellence to
the younger students.



Effort

Proactive students

- Set work for themselves

Reactive Students

- Complete work set by teacher
- Have a list of tasks to complete, they complete them and stop



What does that look like in practice?

The scientist who reviews each lesson's notes alongside the relevant chapter of their textbook

The Politics student who keeps a folder of current affairs news items

The French student who watches target-language movies for fun



Homework & Independent Study

A Level students who gain 3 A/A*s tend to **complete 30 hours of independent study a week**



Top 5 Tips for A Level Success

1. Know the Spec Inside Out

- ✓ Use it as a checklist to guide study & revision.

2. Use Active Recall

- ✓ Flashcards, past paper Qs, blurting > rereading notes.

3. Do Past Papers Religiously

- ✓ Practice under timed conditions & mark with official schemes, read examiners reports.

4. Target Weak Areas

- ✓ Keep a "mistake log" & revisit topics you struggle with.

5. Be Consistent, Not Last-Minute

- ✓ Follow a timetable & revise in short, focused sessions.

Feels unachievable?

1. If you have a part-time job, are you working too many hours?
2. Make a timetable for independent study and gradually increase the hours. If you are nowhere near 30 hours, start with 10 and work your way up to thirty over the course of a month (November mocks are the first milestone).



Testing and Retrieval

Students will have exams in November and March.



Organisation

01

Use the planner

02

Make a timetable
of study every
week

03

Use Satchel One
to check
homework and
important
deadlines.

04

Use study lessons
effectively and
plan tasks for the
day

Revision Strategies

- What the research says...
- In the most thorough study of study skills available, these strategies were tested and ranked according to their effectiveness.

Technique	Description	Utility
Practice testing	Self-testing or taking practice tests revision material	1 - High
Long term Revising (Distributed practice)	Implementing a schedule of practice that spreads out study activities over time	1 - High
Asking 'why?' (Elaboration)	Generating an explanation for why a fact or concept is true	2 - Moderate
Self-explanation	Explaining how new information is related to known information, or explaining steps taken during problem solving	2 - Moderate
Varying study topics (Interleaved Practice)	Mixing different kinds of problems, or different kinds of material, within a single study session	2 - Moderate
Summarization	Writing summaries (of various lengths) of revision texts	3 - Low
Mental Images	Attempting to form mental images of revision materials while reading or listening	3 - Low
The keyword mnemonic	Using keywords and mental imagery to associate key words and concepts	3 - Low
Rereading	Restudying text material again after an initial reading	4- Ineffective
Highlighting/underlining	Marking potentially important portions of revision materials while reading	4 - Ineffective

Safeguarding



Mrs Singh

Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)



Mr Boonham



Mrs Collins



Mr Hawkes



Mrs Lewis





Mrs Webster

Tuesday - Friday



Safeguarding

- **School website** – Our School  Safeguarding  Safeguarding/child protection policy.
- You can also download online safety tips for your child.
- We will always communicate with parents.
- Email DSL@englishmartyrs.org



University Applications: Step One

Exploring
pathways

Searching for
opportunities

Recording what
you've done

Drafting
application
materials

Making applications

The Unifrog logo, consisting of the word "unifrog" in white lowercase letters on a green square background.

unifrog

University Applications: Step Two

Create account

Submit application

Teacher reference

Careful
review of
application

School submits
application to
UCAS



University Applications: Step Three

Universities make
offers

Students make firm
and insurance
decisions after the
31st January

Student finance
applications
through Gov.uk

Results

Offers
confirmed/Clearing



The Unifrog tools

Exploring pathways	Searching for opportunities	Recording what you've done	Drafting application materials	Making applications
Careers library	UK universities	Activities	Personal Statement	Post 16/18 Intentions
Subjects library	US universities	Competencies	CV / Resumé	Locker
Know-how library	European universities	Interactions	Teacher References	Applications list
MOOC	Oxbridge		Common App Essay	
	Apprenticeships			
	College/ Sixth Form			
	Canadian universities			
	Asian universities			
	Special Opportunities			

Careers Library


- Over 1000 career profiles
- Presents information from a range of sources
- Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and labour market information
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like


Architect


Architects design new buildings and the spaces around them, and work on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings.




UK Universities


English Literature - 3FT/6PT BA (Hons)


Oxford Brookes University


Safe - YEP Silver



English Literature offers the opportunity to study an exciting range of modules, blending the study of classic texts and literary traditions with current theoretical models for understanding literature as a dynamic, global phenomenon. Our course is renowned for its inspirational teaching and research excellence. In the 2013 National Student Survey (Source: Unistats), 93 per cent of students agreed that staff had made the subject interesting.

Full-time undergrads at the uni: 13005 Domestic / Int'l undergrads at the uni: 84% / 16%

[Website](#)
[Open Day](#)
[Course page](#)
[Finance page](#)
[What's hot](#)

Getting in

Overall Application success rate
21%

UK Application success rate
22%

Entry requirements A Level

Full-time 3 Years: Grade B in A-level English Literature or English Language required.

Entry requirements UCAS points
112 points

IMPORTANT: check the [course page](#) to see if your qualifications are accepted.


Additional requirements
GCSE: GCSE English - Grade 5-2 x further GCSE - Grade 4, normally to include Maths.

Last year's successful applicants
89.8% of successful applicants did the same qualification types as you, and of these a typical result was:
A Level: C

Unofficial overview

"Oxford Brookes is spread across three suburban campuses in Oxford and the small university city has a friendly feel. Oxford Brookes pioneered the modular system of study and the academic year is split into two semesters rather than three terms. The university has a strong reputation for sport, and there are also strong links with industry. Despite the fact that the city is tiny, nightlife is lively and students enjoy studying here."

Campus or City: CAMPUS



- Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Get direct links to university information pages, with impartial information on courses and institutions
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later

Apprenticeships


AAT Apprentice - Intermediate Level


Employer: Henson Motor Group


Learning Provider: Delivered by Newcastle College.

Key dates

Deadline	25 May
Interview	Check their site
Start	26 May

Qualification required

English and maths at GCSE level - 5 grade (or equivalent) or above.

Skills and personal qualities required

The successful candidate will be proficient in using Microsoft Excel and managing spreadsheets. They will be confident with numbers and have a high level of attention to detail.

- A passion for accountancy
- Professional attitude
- Well organised

Quick facts

£	🕒	👤	📅	🚗
Weekly Wage	Hours a week	Employer Vacancies	Duration	Distance from home
Competitive	Working 9-5:30 Minutes Breaks	1	12 months	1 miles

Job description

The apprentice will gain experience in a range of duties for which they will be responsible:

- Purchase Ledger
- Credit Control
- Invoice Processing
- Raising Invoices
- Allocation of Payments
- Statement reconciliation
- Processing Transactions

Employer description

Henson Motor Group is one of the UK's largest car supermarkets. Established in 1996 Henson Motor Group were the first to pioneer the new and used car supermarket concept, not only in Newcastle but in the North East.

- Students can find live apprenticeship vacancies
- Vacancies are updated daily
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like distance from home, weekly wage and application deadlines
- Direct link to the 'apply' page
- Each apprenticeship vacancy includes practical information about the opportunity, employer and training
- Save unlimited shortlists to refer back to later




















Special Opportunities

- Includes £5 million-worth of grants, bursaries, scholarships, contextual offers and extracurricular activities
- These can be filtered by circumstances or characteristics, depending on the access requirements of the opportunity
- Includes direct links for applying
- Unlimited shortlists can be created and referred back to

Select special opportunities below

Pick the best opportunities for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.

✓ Rank ▼ Filter ▼

Scholarships (690) Money you don't have to pay back	Activities (13) Summer schools, mentoring, extracurricular	Contextual offers (54) Lower entry requirements
<p> 100 Year Anniversary Of The Great War Award</p> <p> University of Bolton Country: UK</p>	<p> Action Tutoring</p> <p> Action Tutoring Country: UK</p>	<p> Aberystwyth University Contextual Offers</p> <p> Aberystwyth University Country: UK</p>
<p> A Level Entrance Scholarship Competition</p> <p> Queen's University Belfast Country: UK</p>	<p> BGU Open Days</p> <p> Bishop Grosseteste University Country: UK</p>	<p> Aston University Contextual Offer</p> <p> Aston University, Birmingham Country: UK</p>
<p> AB InBev Scholarship</p> <p> University of Bath Country: UK</p>	<p> BGU Summer School</p> <p> Bishop Grosseteste University Country: UK</p>	<p> Bangor University Beneficial Offers</p> <p> Bangor University Country: UK</p>
	<p> Bishop Grosseteste University Next</p>	

Extended Project Qualification

- One hour+ per week
- Preparation for undergraduate study
- Adjusted university offers



EPQ - Deadlines and Key Milestones 2025-26

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Friday 3 rd October	Discussion with tutor about project proposal
Friday 31 st October <u>Milestone 1</u>	Submit final version of project proposal form including modifications to timing plan and other recommended changes.
Friday 12 th December	Submit Draft Introduction
Friday 19 th December <u>Milestone 2</u>	15 sources of evidence including full references to be submitted Research review report submitted
Friday 3 rd April <u>Milestone 3</u>	Draft discussion submitted
Friday 26 th June	Completed draft copy
Friday 18 th September <u>Milestone 4</u>	Submitted completed Dissertation
Y12 retreat day (tbc) <u>Milestone 5</u>	EPQ presentation day

The importance of Year 12

AS examinations results have a direct impact on A Level predicted grades

The best possible grades enable students to aspire to apply to the best universities in the country.

Get as much of your EPQ project completed in Year 12.

How to make the most of the year

- Develop a clear vision for post-18 plans
- Use Unifrog to your advantage to explore the huge range of professional careers available to our young people
- Complete at least one MOOC
- Develop excellent study skills and good habits
- Limit employment outside of school
- Use study periods effectively- Make Revision Notes/Organise your folders
- Attend university open days in the summer term and research courses now
- Become involved in the life of the school: music, volunteering, sport, mentoring, charity etc

Year 12 Key Dates

Friday 26th September

Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning / Afternoon

Thursday 2nd October

Year 6 Open Evening

Friday 3rd October

Year 12 Retreat

Thursday 16th October

Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 24 November

Exams commence

Thursday 22 January

Parents' Meeting

Week Beginning 23rd February

Mock Exams commence

Monday 11th May

Draft date for public examinations

Wednesday 10th June

Year 13 Information Evening

Wednesday 1st July

Trip Day

