



Saint Benedict  
A Catholic Voluntary Academy

# Saint Benedict Sixth Form Prospectus

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Part of the Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust and a  
specialist Performing Arts College.

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2016/17

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2015 was a record-breaking year for our A Level students.  
We'd like you to be part of our success.

The ethos of the academy is based on shared values and leads to very good relationships between teachers and students. This means that behaviour in lessons is good and students' attitudes to their learning are positive.

Ofsted



At Saint Benedict Sixth Form every young person is seen as an individual; nurturing the gifts and talents of each of our children is central to our missions. We achieve this by offering the highest quality of education possible, which includes a broad range of experiences aimed at developing the whole person, and enabling all to grow in a safe and happy environment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. G.' or similar.



## Welcome to Saint Benedict

Saint Benedict is a Catholic academy of around 1,400 students aged 11 to 18, with around 240 in the Sixth Form. We are located in the very beautiful Darley Abbey area in the North of Derby and as the only Catholic secondary school in the city, our students travel to us from far and wide. We welcome all young people to study with us in our Sixth Form, whatever their background, and whatever their faith.

The school has enjoyed a sustained period of improvement over recent years gaining our most successful results ever in 2014, placing us among the highest achieving schools in Derby. Our most recent Ofsted inspection graded the school as Good in every category with the care and support we offer students seen as Outstanding and since this time our results have improved further.

All staff are highly ambitious for every student and work tirelessly to ensure that each young person is equipped with the skills and qualities they need to go on and live happy and successful lives. We have excellent facilities which include Elmwood, our dedicated sixth form centre. We are proud to have our own Enhanced Resource Base which supports visually impaired and physically impaired young people.

My own children attend this school and I am truly privileged to have been given the opportunity to lead this vibrant, aspiration and very caring community.

I sincerely hope that you choose to become part of it.



# Why study at Saint Benedict Sixth Form

At Saint Benedict, we will support and challenge you to achieve the best that you can.

Our staff will have high expectations. We will expect you to work independently, making the best use of our Post 16 study facilities. Our teachers will challenge you in lessons and push you to reach the grades that you are capable of. Your personal tutor will encourage you to play a full role in your tutor group, your house and Saint Benedict.

We will provide the support that you will need to achieve excellence. Our sixth form team will ease the transition from Year 11 to Year 12, and offer advice and guidance throughout your time here. Our non-teaching sixth form coordinator has an open door policy, and is available for students on a daily basis. Subject teachers will monitor your progress carefully, providing focussed support quickly when it is needed.

Our careers advisor will assist you with preparing for the next stage of your life, whether you aspire to university, training or employment.



Mr Lewis Fenn Griffin,  
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Kathryn Thraves,  
Sixth Form Coordinator

All students in the school's House system are known personally by House Leaders who provide the good care, guidance and support needed.

Ofsted

# Routes to success

Our curriculum has been carefully chosen to match the needs and aspirations of our students.

## Level 3

The majority of our students study a traditional A Level programme. We offer a large number of A Level courses, including facilitating subjects, which are the subjects most often valued by established universities. Alongside this we offer a small number of vocational and technical courses.

## Level 2

We also offer a Level 2 programme, designed for students who wish to gain entry to a Level 3 course, but do not yet have the qualifications to do so. Alongside GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths, you will study a further three Level 2 qualifications.

Individual subject leaflets outlining the content of all our courses are available on our website, as well as individual criteria for each subject.

## Monitoring your progress

We will set you challenging target grades, based on your entry profile, and give you all the support you need to help you to achieve them.

## Dedicated facilities

Our sixth formers have exclusive access to Elmwood, our sixth form centre. Three large study rooms, each with ICT facilities, provide plenty of places to work during study periods and after school. One study room is dedicated to silent study, whilst another allows for group work. A third study area has dedicated media facilities.

Elmwood also has a sixth form common room for those times when you need to relax!

As sixth formers, you will have access to the library, where laptops are available, as well as books, newspapers and periodicals, during and after school.



# Supporting your future

**Whatever path you take, you will have access to guidance and advice to help you succeed.**

The majority of our students make a decision to apply to university; we also have students go onto success through higher apprenticeships and employment. Whatever path you take, you will have access to guidance and advice to help you succeed.

We arrange regular visits from local employers, universities and business people, giving you the opportunity to ask questions and get a feel for different careers.



Our popular 'Meet the Undergraduate' event provides you with the chance to talk to Saint Benedict alumni about their experiences of university. Prospective Oxbridge, medicine, and veterinary students all receive tailored guidance and opportunities for university open days, summer schools, work experience and apprenticeships are widely shared.

Our university application support begins in Year 12, with an organised programme of events and activities beginning after the AS exams in June. You will be given one-to-one support writing personal statements and CVs, choosing courses, universities and apprenticeships. Our dedicated careers advisor will provide interviews for all students in sixth form on request.

There are very good relationships between teachers and students and high expectations of what students will achieve.  
Ofsted

The commitment of staff to students' successes and well-being is exceptional as is the high quality of students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.  
Ofsted

## A fulfilling experience

**Whilst undoubtedly the main focus during your time with us will be academic success, as a Saint Benedict sixth form student, you will belong to a rich and diverse community, and with a wide range of opportunities for personal growth.**

Saint Benedict sixth form has over 250 students, drawn from a wide range of schools in Derby and Derbyshire, including Saint Benedict. Each year, we welcome a significant number of students into Year 12 who have been previously attending other schools. If you are a new student, you will be assigned into one of six Houses, with a personal tutor that you will see every day. Your personal tutor and the rest of the House Team will encourage you to take responsibilities in your form and House.

Each year a number of sixth formers are chosen, following a rigorous application process, to represent and lead their peers on the Student Leadership Team. From their number, a Head Boy and Head Girl are chosen, and they can expect

to be regulars in the Derby Telegraph! The highlight for the Student Leadership Team is 'Takeover Day' – an opportunity to run the school for a day.

We have a long tradition of students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, including Bronze, Silver and Gold. We run a successful Young Enterprise Programme. All Year 12 students have the opportunity to participate in the 'Tenner Challenge' – running their own micro-business for a couple of weeks. Year 13 students have the opportunity to participate in the more in depth 'Company Programme'. As well as in-school opportunities, staff organise field trips, visits and university taster sessions; you will also be supported if you want to organise your own visits to University or to summer schools.



# A track record of success



**Richard Hammond  
(Blackman)  
Actor**

Richard trained at Birmingham School of Acting for three years and played the lead role in a new musical at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre before touring in an original improvisational comedy.

He also performed in Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice in Derby and was due to be taking to the stage in Macbeth and The Merry Wives of Windsor at the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival.



**Natalie Jinks  
Doctor**

Natalie has graduated from Birmingham Medical School and is now a doctor.

As part of her studies she travelled to Kenya to practise rural medicine, to Australia to practise emergency medicine and she was an expedition medic in Borneo.

She is working in acute medicine at Northampton General Hospital and has also become a member of the Royal College of Physicians.



**Molly Allen  
Teacher**

Molly took A-levels in Media, English Literature, Drama and Performing Arts at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

She went on to study Primary Education at Birmingham City University and has now fulfilled her ambition to become a teacher.

She works in the primary department at Derby High School, where she is also an English co-ordinator.



**Peter Wickerson  
Cambridge student**

Peter is studying Mathematics at The University of Cambridge.

He achieved an A\* in Maths, an A\* in Further Maths, an A in Physics and a B in Chemistry in his A-levels at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy.

Peter also had to take an entrance exam for Cambridge, called the Sixth Term Examination Paper Mathematics, in which he achieved top marks.



**pocket area**



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