



Greyfriars Catholic School

The Sixth Form Experience





Student Experience at Greyfriars Catholic School Sixth Form

Welcome to our Sixth Form

Starting 6th form is an exciting time for every student. Students will be joining a diverse, vibrant and highly aspirational community. We have high expectations of our students and our vision is that our school culture and community enables every student to flourish, academically and pastorally, individually and collectively.



This guide aims to give a sense of what life will be like in Y12 and Y13. It should be read alongside the Student Experience document for Greyfriars Catholic School.

The 6th form will play a central role in leading and shaping school culture – they are the influencers of the school. This is evidenced in every interaction they have, how they conduct themselves around the school site, their participation in The Student Hub, the leadership they show in the Electives and the leadership in their houses.

Entering 6th form gives students an opportunity for growth and development. We know that students in 6th form are looking ahead to their next steps. They need high quality guidance and support, both academic and pastoral, to help them realise their potential. Independent study alongside lessons will allow every student to flourish academically and develop key qualities for higher education and employment such as resilience, resourcefulness, and routine. Greyfriars' tutor, pastoral and mentoring programmes will also help students navigate their way through Y12, Y13 and beyond. We expect every student to contribute to our school community. This will enrich the experiences of 6th form students so that they become confident, articulate and compassionate young people.



Academic Success In Sixth Form

What will KS5 lessons be like?

At Greyfriars, we know that teaching makes the biggest difference to the personal, academic and emotional success of our young people. We know our teachers love their subjects and are committed to teaching with conviction and individual flair. We know that what happens in the classroom is central to our mission to champion every student so that they flourish individually and collectively.

Throughout the school, teachers use evidence-informed approaches to support effective learning and teaching. These are our *Top Ten Teaching Techniques*. We believe that these strong routines for learning allow students in KS5 to focus their attention on what matters – understanding, applying and retrieving challenging content. KS5 lessons will include the explanation and presentation of complex new ideas, review of model responses which look at how these ideas can be applied, discussion and collaboration with peers and teachers, time to work independently both in and out of lessons, and opportunities to act on feedback.

What are the additional academic opportunities?

To ensure students are well prepared for their future, Greyfriars Sixth Form offers an enriching programme of additional academic opportunities. Many students in Y12 take the Extended Project Qualification, an independent research project on any topic chosen by the student to enhance their interests or career pathway. This is worth up to 28 UCAS points and is well regarded by universities. Working with the lower school on Electives will also develop the leadership skills of our 6th form students as they can volunteer to support academic courses such as Latin, debating, first aid, journalism, coding etc. Further academic enrichment courses, specifically designed for Y12 and Y13, as well as outside speakers and visitors, will be offered throughout the year.

In addition, all students in Y12 and Y13 have independent study periods on their timetable. During these periods, students are encouraged to complete homework, coursework, work on their EPQ, or engage with additional material to extend their knowledge of their subject. Independent study periods have a significant impact on academic outcomes and are an opportunity for students to build excellent habits, managing and organising their own time.



What are the homework expectations?

We know that homework is a factor of academic success. Students who develop strong independent study habits achieve higher grades and adapt to higher education more successfully. We are committed to helping students develop these good routines so that they can flourish academically. As a rule of thumb, for every 1 hour spent in a lesson, students should plan to complete 1 additional hour of independent work. Some of this work may come from homework set by a teacher, or it may be independent study around the subject, coursework or EPQ project work. Homework is set and monitored on Google Classroom. Some students may need intervention and support to develop the routines they need to work well independently.

What academic support is available to KS5 students?

We also celebrate the individuality of all students, and when extra support is needed for different children, we work together as professionals, parents and with the students themselves to find out what they need and how best to support them.

Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) often need extra help to make sure they can access the curriculum, and we are committed to making sure that



these students achieve outcomes at least as good as their peers. We have a strong and dedicated team of teachers and support staff working towards this aim. We will always be available to discuss any concerns 6th form students have about their studies, and we encourage parents and students to take every opportunity to attend parents' evenings and events at school.

We are also very pleased to work with Oxford University and their tutor programme for schools. Students may request to have tutoring from University undergraduates on a range of A level subjects. We use additional resources to help students to prepare for topics in advance or rigorously test their knowledge and understanding after a topic such as Massolit, Seneca Learn and Carousel.





What will the day look like?

Students in Y12 are expected to be in school from 8:40am to 3:10pm every day in Term 1 & 2 (Sept-Dec), unless a twilight lesson is on their timetable. On these days, lessons will finish at 4:10pm. We use Term 1 to help students make the transition from KS4 to KS5 and build strong independent study routines needed to be successful in 6th form. Students who demonstrate an excellent attitude to learning and personal organisation will be given the opportunity from January to leave when they have completed the last lesson of their day (except on Wednesday, when all KS5 students will be involved in Electives). This is monitored and these privileges are removed if concerns are raised about attendance, punctuality, homework or attitude to learning. We aim to work closely with both students and parents to help our 6th form students be successful in managing their time and responsibilities.

Students in Y13 are expected to be in school to attend assembly every Monday morning from 8:40am onwards and attend form time every day from Tuesday to Thursday. This time will be used to complete UCAS or apprenticeship applications or have mentoring sessions. During some form time sessions, Y13 students may choose to volunteer for school community work such as buddy reading in the library, Y11 peer support, tutor group reading, or work in one of our ambassador committee groups.

Y13 students are expected to be in school until their last lesson of the day. When students are not in class, they will have an independent study period and can manage their time to work on homework, coursework, UCAS applications or extended work around their subjects.

Students in Y13 and Y12 may leave the site during lunchtime. However, if students are not managing their time successfully (eg. lateness to school, non-attendance to tutor time, etc.) this privilege will be temporarily removed.

At Greyfriars Sixth Form, we understand that there is a fine balance between developing independence and managing responsibility to be successful. We want our Y12 and Y13 to enjoy this exciting stage of their lives and feel enriched, rewarded, and academically challenged. We also want students to build the discipline of routines so that they can truly flourish and achieve.



Personal Success: Pastoral Support

What do we do to support students pastorally?

Our mission is to champion every student so that they can flourish as an individual and as a community. We know that personal success is intrinsically connected to collective success. Personal success allows us to be and feel fully alive - it is not just in academic success we find joy but in the work we do for our community. As a Catholic school, we are dedicated to and understand the need to contribute to our community. Our social bonds ensure we take deep pleasure from our work to help others and this is embedded into the Catholic Life of the school.

Every student in 6th Form has a tutor. Tutors are responsible for supporting students in their transition from KS4 to KS5, developing personal study skills, guiding students through the UCAS or apprenticeship process, monitoring and discussing student progress and ensuring any barriers to learning or study are dealt with, as well as looking at how to maintain good mental health and wellbeing for young people.

In addition to our tutors, the Pastoral Leader for 6th Form is able to support students further and works with a range of agencies if outside support is needed.

Greyfriars has an extended 6th form team who provide 1-2-1 focused mentoring support where needed, as well as organising student leadership opportunities, arranging our speaker programme, and providing excellent careers and higher education advice.

Personal Success: Leadership

What do we do to develop Sixth Form Leadership?

Developing leadership skills is a key part of life in Greyfriars Sixth Form. Our aspirational culture means that we want our students to develop confidence and maturity during their two years of study. In order to achieve this, we offer students a rich experience of extra curricular and super curricular activities to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Our Elective Programme is central to this ethos. Every term, a student completes a short 6/7 week elective course. This is one hour per week taking a course on something outside of students' usual curriculum. An example of the courses offered on our Elective Programme for 2022-2023 is below:



Knowledge		Care		Ambition	
Practical	Technical	Community	Self Care	Academic	Personal
Badminton	Lego Robots	Primary Reading	Well Being workshop	Year 11 Study	Public Speaking
Netball	Chess & Backgammon	School Newspaper	Allotment	Psychology	A beginners guide to adulting
Ceramics	3D Drawing	Leadership & Ambassadors	Relax Art	Apprenticeships	Debating and Oracy
Iaido	Mythology	Understanding Oxford	Dancersize	KS3 Science Club	Taskmaster
Card Games & Tricks	Lighting & Production	Charity Work	Sculpture	Extended Science Ks4	Beginners keyboard

Sixth Formers have a key student leadership role in Electives. Students in Y12 and Y13 will join an elective course and support with the running of the course. This will not only give students an opportunity to develop existing skills or learn new ones, it is also a unique part of our school experience and will positively contribute to personal statements and applications.

Additionally, our House System fosters student leadership in the school and there will be a Sixth Form Deputy Head of House (this role is akin to Head Boy/Girl). The Deputy Head of House will be responsible for coordinating and supporting the **house leadership team**.

The House Leadership Team will be coordinated by the **Student Head of House**, a post that is interviewed for at the end of Y12. The Student Head of House looks after the team, coordinates feedback from students to staff and presents at assemblies and information evenings. The House Leadership function is akin to a School Council.

The House Leadership Team will also be responsible for the leadership of **The Student Hub**. The Student Hub will be open at break and lunch and will be run by a house team on a named day. For example, Saint Josephine Bakhita on every Monday etc. In these sessions, the team is expected to facilitate a range of activities for students. These might include activities such as:

- Games
- Competitions/ Quizzes
- Charity work/events
- Music
- Mentoring
- Anti-bullying Champions

One day per week, The Student Hub will be a pop-up library.



Finally, Sixth Formers have an opportunity to run community groups throughout school. These groups act as ambassadors for commemorative days and events that occur throughout the year. Our Sixth Form community groups help our school community celebrate the rich diversity of Greyfriars. They work with the Sixth Form student leadership team to organise events for tutor time, assembly, or the Student Hub. Our community groups include the STEM group, Sustainable Schools, Sport ambassadors, and our Culture group.

The Greyfriars Sixth Form experience provides opportunities for students to excel, academically and pastorally. We want students to leave our Sixth Form with confidence, joy and ambition, knowing that they have the personal skills and the qualifications to realise their full potential.

We want Greyfriars 6th Form Students to not just find joy in life-long learning, but to understand the joy found in being an active and participating member of society. We do all we can to foster their power to transform the world around them for the greater good.

