



Greyfriars Catholic School

The Sixth Form Experience & Expectations





Welcome to Greyfriars Catholic School Sixth Form

Starting Sixth 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.



The Sixth Form plays 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 student life, the leadership they show in their volunteering and the leadership in their houses.

Entering Sixth 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 academically and pastorally, to help them realise their potential. Supervised, independent study alongside lessons allows every student to flourish academically and develop key qualities for higher education and employment such as resilience, resourcefulness, and routine. Our form tutor, pastoral and mentoring programmes also help students to 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.

Ms K McCabe
Head of Sixth Form



Ms L Caldwell
Headteacher



Ms K McCabe
Head of
Sixth Form



Dr W Kay
Deputy Head
of Sixth Form



Mrs F Kiran
Pastoral Lead
for Sixth Form





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 enrichment activities also develops the leadership skills of our 6th form students as they volunteer to support courses such as 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 **supervised study periods** on their timetable. During these periods, students complete homework, coursework, work on their EPQ, or engage with additional material to extend their knowledge of their subject. 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. Supervised study takes place in either the Supervised Study room or in the Library.



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, **students should complete 5 hours of independent work a week on A Level courses and 3 hours on L2 courses.** 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 Satchel. 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.

In addition, we provide **access to resources** that help students either prepare for topics in advance, or rigorously test their knowledge and understanding afterwards. We have invested in UpLearn, Massolit, Seneca Learn and MyTutor online tuition.

Any student who qualifies for a **16-19 Bursary** will have funding to access additional packages to support their learning.



Outside of the classroom, we are very pleased to work closely with Magdalen College School Medic Society, Trinity College Oxford outreach and their enrichment programme for schools, as well as Zero Gravity and Oxford Brookes. We have a **UCAS trip to London each year** and many students attend **Summer Schools** in Oxford, Reading and throughout the UK. We have an expectation that students will complete **super-curricular activities** in their supervised study sessions that will support university and apprenticeship applications. We use **Unifrog** to support our destinations and careers advice as well as helping students with their work experience placements.

What will the day look like?

We recognise that starting Year 12 marks a new phase in students' lives. We also understand that there is a fine balance between developing independence and maintaining routines 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 self-discipline and fulfil their responsibilities so that they can truly flourish and achieve.

Students in Y12 and Y13 are expected to be in school on **Monday to Friday from 8:45am to 3:10pm**. We grant **privileges** to students who can demonstrate that they have excellent attendance, punctuality and are making good progress. These privileges include a lunch pass to leave site for lunch or the opportunity to leave site once students have completed their last lesson or supervised study for the day. Students whose attendance or progress is a concern will be required to be in school for additional supervised study sessions.

If a student is unwell, we ask parents or carers to contact our main reception to inform the school and Sixth Form of the absence.

The Sixth Form team will continue to monitor and review the successful transition of Y11 into Y12 and Y12 into Y13 every two weeks. We work closely with both students and parents to see how students are managing their time and responsibilities. Any adjustments that need to be made will be agreed with parents and will be put in place until the end of that term.



Personal Success: Excellence everyday

What are the expectations of Sixth Form students?

As well as the expectations around attendance and punctuality, Sixth Form students follow a clear code of conduct, a Greyfriars Way, that promotes Excellence Everyday. We recognise that students in Year 12 and Year 13 have a role as leaders within the school and that this leadership needs to be visible to younger years.

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM
EXCELLENCE EVERYDAY



<p>ATTENDANCE</p> 	<p>PUNCTUALITY</p> 	<p>WEAR YOUR BADGE</p> 
<p>PHONES AWAY</p> 	<p>BE A LEADER</p> 	<p>GREYFRIARS POLITE</p> 
<p>HOMEWORK</p> 	<p>FIRST TIME EVERY TIME</p> 	<p>SUPERVISED STUDY</p> 

Knowledge. Care. Ambition.



Personal Success: Dress Code and Badges

What are the expectations of Sixth Form students?

As leaders of the school, our Sixth Form students are frequently required to show visitors around the school site, greet parents, speak to Governors and work with our younger students. Whilst Sixth Form students have the privilege of choosing what to wear to school and we do not have a uniform in Sixth Form, we do have a **dress code** that we expect students to follow. The dress code reflects their position as role models to younger students, and reminds students that the school site is a professional working environment.

Clothes should not be excessively ripped, revealing or contain offensive slogans. Vest tops and crop tops are not permitted. Hooded tops are permitted but hoods must be worn down.

If staff do not feel that a students' clothing is appropriate, they will be asked to go home and change into something more suitable.

The most important item in our dress code is the **Sixth Form badge and purple lanyard**. Badges must be worn at all times whilst on the school site so that students can be identified. Students will be given a consequence for not wearing their badge.

Outdoor clothing should not be worn in lessons. This includes hats, gloves, coats and jackets. Additionally, students should not wear **headphones** during lessons. These are only permitted during Supervised Study sessions.

Personal Success: Mobile Phones

What are the expectations of Sixth Form students?

At Greyfriars, we care deeply about the wellbeing of our students. We know that mobile phones can be harmful to a student's mental health and can damage a student's ability to focus on their study and perform at their best. For this reason, the use of mobile phones must be limited whilst students are in school and restricted to the Sixth Form area.

As the Library is a space used by the whole school, Sixth Form students using it for Supervised Study cannot use their phone. This is only possible if students are studying in the Supervised Study room as this is a Sixth Form only designated space.

If a Sixth Form student is seen with their mobile phone outside of Sixth Form, similar consequences used for students in years 7-11 will apply. For Sixth Form students, phones will be confiscated and returned after a consequence at the end of the day.



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 Sixth Form has a **form tutor**. Tutors are responsible for supporting students in their transition from KS4 to KS5 and beyond. Tutor activities include a Beyond Greyfriars programme, engaging in super curricular activities in Y12 and developing life skills in Y13. Tutors also deliver sessions on study skills, careers and PSHE. We guide students through every step of the UCAS or the apprenticeship process, monitor individual progress, and actively promote positive mental health and wellbeing for all of our young people.

In addition to our tutors, the **Head of Sixth Form and the Pastoral Leader** are able to support students further and work with a range of agencies if outside support is needed.

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 House System is a key part of Sixth Form leadership. Each tutor group belongs to a house and we appoint **Sixth Form House Leaders** for each tutor group. These roles are akin to Head Boy/Girl. The House Leaders are responsible for supporting their Head of House coordinate and run house activities, lead and present in house assemblies, and work with younger students to promote the house charitable cause.

We ask all Sixth Formers to commit to **2 Leadership Pathways per year**. Students sign up to support at least **one area of our school community** and **one area of enrichment**. Projects students can be involved in for the Community Leadership pathway include Mentoring, Anti-Bullying, Jacari Reading, Reading Buddies, House leadership, Catholic Life leadership, fundraising and Sixth Form Committee. Students could also volunteer to help lead a number of events throughout the year that celebrate the rich diversity of Greyfriars, such as our annual



Culture Day. Projects students can be involved in for our Enrichment pathway include Debating, Sports Teams, Science Fair, Music and Choir, MedSoc, and Mock Trial.

All students are welcome to join our **Sixth Form Committee**. This is organised and chaired by Y13 students and is a key way of gathering student voice on important decisions and issues that affect our Sixth Form.

Finally, we have a number of **our own annual celebrations and events** throughout the year which build the distinct culture and community in Greyfriars. These include our Christmas Santa Fun Run, our highly competitive Easter Egg hunt and our Y12 Picnic and Rounders match to name a few.





The Greyfriars Sixth Form experience provides opportunities for students to excel, academically and pastorally. We want Greyfriars Sixth 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.

