



Greyfriars Catholic School

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

2026-2027





Welcome to Greyfriars



Welcome to Greyfriars Sixth Form.

We pride ourselves in offering a welcoming yet academic environment to ensure that all our students become academically successful, confident and happy young people.

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.

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 to help them realise their potential. 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. Greyfriars' tutor, pastoral and mentoring programmes also help students navigate their way through Y12, Y13 and beyond. We expect every student to contribute to our school community. This enriches the experiences of 6th form students so that they become confident, articulate and compassionate young people.



To ensure students are well prepared for their future, Greyfriars Sixth Form offers an enriching programme of additional academic opportunities. Students in Y12 are able to 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. In addition, students are introduced to academic enrichment throughout Y12 through the tutor time programme and super curricular opportunities. These have included participating in national programmes such as Women in Stem, taking part in national competitions such as the Mock Trial or attending lectures in different academic fields.

Sixth form students are also encouraged to work with the lower school through our leadership opportunities. This could include being a Buddy Reader, helping out in PE lessons or being a mentor for younger students. Volunteering is a key part of Sixth Form life and students pledge 6 hours of volunteering per term.

All students in Y12 and Y13 have silent supervised 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. Supervised 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.

Our facilities for the Sixth Form include a group study room, quiet independent study areas with computer access, and dedicated Sixth Form staff on hand to guide, support and mentor students. Greyfriars Sixth Form students are supported in their studies well.

‘Teachers encourage us to push ourselves more’

Year 12 Student

‘We are encouraged to do silent study which means we meet all our deadlines’

Year 13 Student

‘I love our close school community where we support and empower each other’

Year 13 Student



A highly aspirational Sixth Form community

Students move on successfully to their next stage of education, employment or training. Year 12 have an opportunity for work experience during our Careers Week in March, where support is given to help with applying for courses or employment. Our UCAS process for Y12 starts early, in February, so that students are fully prepared to meet the entry requirements for a wide range of courses including medicine, dentistry and engineering. We provide comprehensive Oxbridge preparation including one to one mentoring and mock interviews with experts in a range of academic fields.

As a small but growing Sixth Form, we are in the unique position of being able to tailor our curriculum offering to meet the needs of our students. This includes our Level 2 courses that allow students to retake English and/or Mathematics GCSE. We are also able to support students to take GCSEs and A Levels in their first language, be it Urdu, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese or Persian taking advantage of having English as an additional language.

Our students receive many offers from Russell Group universities and are guided through every stage of their university applications. In the past three years, we have had students who have gone on to study at Oxford University, Loughborough, Bath, Warwick, King's College London, Royal Holloway London, Bournemouth University, Reading and many more. Degree subjects range from Physics, Automotive Engineering and Biomedicine to Film, Architecture and Marketing. Students have also secured places on apprenticeships at Oxford University, John Radcliffe OUH and Oxford City Council.



Ms Lyndsey Caldwell	Ms Kate McCabe	Mr Stephen Shaw	Mrs Farah Kiran
Headteacher	Head of Sixth Form	Deputy Head of Sixth Form	Pastoral Manager

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1. Choosing your subjects and courses

The decision you are about to make is an important one; our aim is that each student will be on the right programme of study according to their interests, abilities, and future plans. Regardless of whether you are intending to study at Level 2 or Level 3, you will spend a considerable amount of time in those lessons. You will be expected to spend time studying independently, and you will be much more motivated if you really enjoy the subject.

The most important criteria for choosing A levels subjects are:

1. What subjects are you likely to enjoy and be good at?
2. What subject and grade combination do you need for a particular career, job or further study you may have in mind?
3. Do you want to keep your career or Higher Education options open?

Ability and enjoyment:

Think about the subjects you are good at and like. If you enjoy what you're studying, you are likely to be more motivated. If you have ability in your chosen subjects, you can increase your chances of success.

Subject combinations:

Some universities have very specific entry requirements about subjects needed for certain degree courses. This is particularly true of STEM degrees and careers such as medicine, engineering, science, computing or psychology. You should check the Universities admission website, UCAS (www.ucas.com) for clear and detailed advice about individual course requirements.

It is important to build your course choices around your strengths and interests. Some subject combinations are complementary and fit well together such as doing physics as well as mathematics or another science. This can help you in your studies and enable you to meet entry requirements for higher level courses in future. If you have a particular career in mind, you should discuss it with your tutor or you can speak to Ms McCabe or Miss Manns, our careers lead.

Keeping your options open:

Some subjects are well regarded by universities because they are the most often required or preferred subjects for universities for a very wide range of degrees. If you have not yet made up your mind about what you want to study later on, choosing one or two of these subjects is likely to enhance your application. These subjects often include Mathematics, Further Mathematics, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages. The Russell Group of Universities has a website dedicated to helping you make A Level Subject choices based upon your degree or career choice. This information can be found on: www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees



2. Entry requirements and course levels

Entry Requirements for Level 3—A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses

All students applying for A Levels will be entered for a two-year course A Level course. At the end of Year 12, students take internal UCAS predictor exams to monitor and track the progress they have made.

Students applying to take Level 3 / A Level courses should have a realistic expectation of achieving at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above, with a grade 6 in the subject to be studied. Please note that a BTEC Level 2 at Merit or above counts as only one GCSE equivalent. It is possible to take some subjects without a level 6 at GCSE and some subjects have additional entry requirements. English and Mathematics at grade 4 or above are compulsory requirements to study a Level 3 course.

Many employers require English GCSE grade 4 or above and it is difficult to find a University course that does not require this level of English. Mathematics GCSE grade 6 or above is a requirement for all sciences, architecture, finance and most business courses at University. Science GCSE grade 4 or above is an important requirement for most teaching courses and nursing. Many medical courses at university require a 6 or above in GCSE sciences.

Entry Requirements for Level 2 courses

Greyfriars Sixth Form offers a one-year course for students who have not achieved their grade 4 in either English and/or mathematics GCSE. The Level 2 courses have been extended this year to include a Level 2 BTEC in Business Studies, Sport, as well as Applied Science. Each qualification is worth one GCSE and students take two of these courses. These courses are assessed through coursework and exams.

If successful at Merit Level or above and with 95% attendance, students can choose to move onto Level 3 courses at Greyfriars or enrol at college. The Sixth Form team will support students who choose to begin a new course elsewhere after their Level 2 course. College offers a wide variety of Level 3 Vocational subjects that are not available through our Sixth Form. However, this support of Level 2 students and high success rate of moving students onto Level 3 courses is a distinctive part of our Sixth Form at Greyfriars.



3. Academic vs Vocational Routes

A Levels and BTECs count towards entrance requirements for further and higher education of all types. Many courses at University accept a mix of qualifications, and BTECs are well regarded by many universities. However, it is important to note that some Russell Group Universities do not accept BTEC qualifications. You can look up the entry requirements of particular university courses on the UCAS website, www.ucas.com

The overall framework of qualifications is summarised in the following table:

Level	Academic Qualifications	Academic/ Work related qualifications	Work based qualifications
4+	Foundation and Bachelor Degrees, BTEC Professional Diplomas, HNCs, HNDs gained at University, Colleges of FE		
	Equivalent to	Taught here and at college	Taught only at college
3	A Levels e.g. Biology, English	A Levels BTEC Level 3	Most BTEC Nationals, Applied A Levels NVQ 3/Apprenticeships
2	GCSE 4-9 e.g. History, French	GCSE English & Maths BTEC Level 2 e.g. Business Studies, Sport, Applied Science	NVQ 2
1*	GCSE 1-3		BTEC Introductory, NVQ 1 Functional Skills

* If you are likely to achieve less than 5 GCSE grades 1-3, you will need to apply for a Level 1 course at college.



4. Brief outline of courses

Level 3 Courses

There are four timetabled hours per subject per week at A Level. Students also have form time with a tutor every morning, RE, PE, as well as opportunities for taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), volunteering, enrichment and extra-curricular activities.

Level 2 BTEC & Re-take course

This course includes Maths and English retake lessons (compulsory for those who have not achieved a grade 4 at GCSE) as well as 2-3 further courses in either Business, Applied, Science and Sport. Students also have form time with their tutor, RE, PE and opportunities for volunteering, enrichment and extra-curricular activities.

Personal Development & Beyond Greyfriars

Our Sixth Form students will also have access to a full personal development programme delivered through form time, assemblies and workshops. This includes a week of careers events and work experience as well as a year long destinations programme. We promote reading through our Read to Succeed form programme. Personal development is taught in Sixth Form in our Beyond Greyfriars sessions. This includes financial literacy, life skills and healthy relationships. All students are encouraged to volunteer in school community projects, whether this is mentoring younger students, coaching younger students in sport, buddy reading, Jacari reading, representing the school at events or helping to maintain our Sixth Form garden.

Study

All students have independent study sessions on their timetable when they are not in their subject lessons. Success at A Level, or on the Level 2 course, requires students to complete around 15 hours of independent study per week. Our study rooms are fully equipped with Chrome Books, textbooks and study resources and provide a focused environment for students to work in. Additionally, students may use the school library for their study periods.

5. Key Staff

Ms Caldwell	Headteacher
Ms McCabe	Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form
Mr Stephen Shaw	Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Mrs Kiran	Pastoral Leader for KS5

Curriculum Leaders

Mrs S Byrne	Curriculum Lead for Design Technology & Art
Mr J Derrick	Curriculum Lead for English, Drama & MFL
Ms M Jelfs	Curriculum Lead for Religious Education
Miss G Kenneford	Curriculum Lead for Sport & PE
Mr J Mulvany	Curriculum Lead for Business & Computing
Miss B Nash	Curriculum Lead for History
Mr J Secker	Curriculum Lead for Mathematics
Mr D Turner	Curriculum Lead for Science
Mrs S Watkin	Curriculum Lead for Geography

Important Dates

Thursday 4th December 2025	Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm-8pm
Friday 5th December 2025	Application Form for 2026-27 becomes live
Friday 30th January 2026	Deadline for internal application for 2026-27 entry
Monday 2nd- 13th Feb 2026	Sixth Form Interviews
Thursday 20th August 2026	GCSE Results Day, confirmation of acceptance/amendment to offer



6. Course list

Level 2 Courses:

Business—BTEC First Extended Certificate

Sport – BTEC First Extended Certificate

Applied Science - BTEC First Extended Certificate

GCSE English resit & GCSE Maths resit (Nov & June Entry)

Level 3 Courses

Applied Science - Level 3

Art and Design—A Level

Biology—A Level

Business—A Level

Chemistry—A Level

Economics – A Level

English Literature—A Level

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Film Studies - A Level

Geography—A Level

History—A Level

Mathematics—A Level

Core Maths - Level 3

Further Maths - A Level

Physics—A Level

Psychology—A Level

Religious Education—A Level

Sociology—A Level

Sport - A Level



7. Option blocks and subject combinations*

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D	BLOCK E
Business	Biology	Geography	Maths	Psychology
Religious Studies	History	Physics	Sport	Further Maths
Chemistry	Sociology	English Literature	Film Studies	Level 3 Core Maths
Art	Study	Economics	Study	Study
Study		Level 3 Applied Science		
Out of Block: Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)				
<i>*We will only be able to offer subjects if we have sufficient student numbers enrolled onto the course. Final courses will be confirmed in August shortly after GCSE results' day.</i>				

For further information about Sixth Form at Greyfriars Catholic School or to arrange an appointment with Ms McCabe (Head of Sixth Form) please contact:

Ms K McCabe

Head of Sixth Form

Tel: 01865 749933

E-mail: k.mccabe@gfcs.uk

8. Course Overview

LEVEL 2 / GCSE retake	GCSE / LEVEL 2 BTEC
	EDEXCEL

What will I learn?

A BTEC is a practical, work related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. It introduces you to the employment area you have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification.

In Business Studies, you will cover nine units each looking at a different aspect of business, from setting up your own business to how businesses operate online to the principles of marketing.

In Applied Science, you will study units on the application of chemical substances, health applications of life science as well as developing scientific skills.

In Sport, you will learn about fitness for sport & exercise, practical sports performance as well as lifestyle and wellbeing.

Highlights

You could take this course to prepare for A Level study after 1 year. You could go straight into an apprenticeship related to Business, science or sport as the BTEC is a recognised qualification that will help you develop basic knowledge and understanding of these sectors. Successful completion of the course leads to an equivalent of 4 GCSEs at level 4 or above.

Previous students have gone on to study A Levels at Greyfriars Sixth Form, or moved to Level 3 courses at college. Students have also successfully moved into apprenticeships and other training courses.

ASSESSMENT	A combination of coursework and exams
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grades 1-3

APPLIED SCIENCE	Level 3 BTEC
	Edexcel

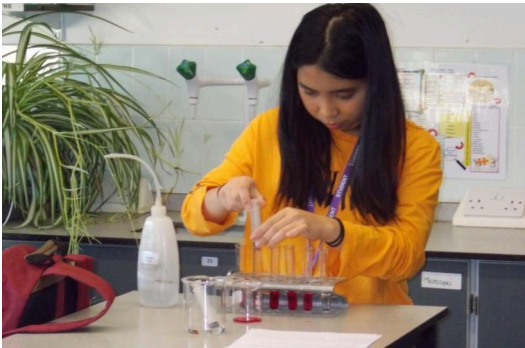
What will I learn?

This course is for students who are interested in a career in the Science sector.

This course has been developed to give you the skills and knowledge you will need to deal with the challenges you will face whilst working in or studying in this field.

You will develop professional and practical skills through carrying out real experiments and research, working with local employers who can provide a workplace setting or national research projects that use volunteers to gather data, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin these skills.

This will allow you to practice lab techniques required in an industrial setting using equipment that may not be readily available in the classroom. You will be made aware of safe working practices in a lab and the strict legal requirements you must adhere to.



Highlights

This course is vocational and so always makes the science that you learn relevant to real-world tasks and problems, whether that is preparing samples for forensic analysis or learning about medical techniques. We aim to make strong links with local science-based businesses and organise trips to give students a taste of the relevance of science to business & research

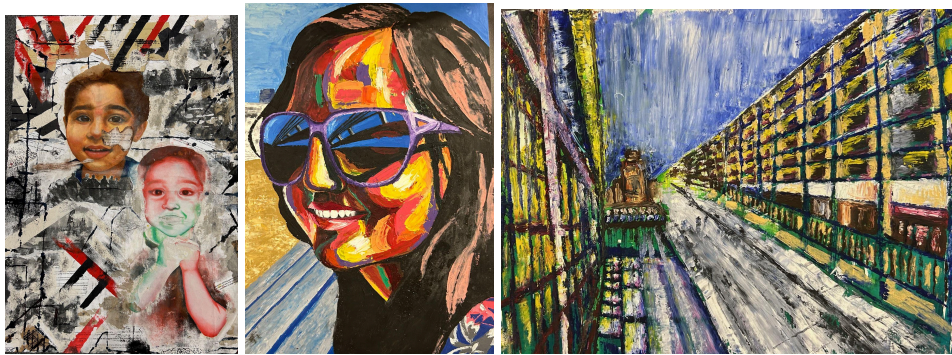
ASSESSMENT	A combination of coursework and exams
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above

ART & DESIGN	A LEVEL
	Edexcel

What will I learn?

The Art and Design A Level (Edexcel 9FA0) consists of a coursework component worth 60% of coursework and 40% exam project. The focus will be for students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills through workshops and projects. You will follow a broad course, and will work in a range of media including drawing, painting, mixed media and printmaking, photography. As well as developing your skills in visual recording through practical work, you will also build your critical thinking and research abilities with contextual study of artists and their relationship to the world around them. Your work will also involve an element of self-reflection, writing annotations to discuss your own work and its relation to briefs and artists studied, helping you to critique your own work, develop ideas and concepts in your work.

A Level Art and Design is a successful and popular course with our students who consistently produce stunning artwork and go on to study Art in higher education. As part of the course we support students in preparing portfolios for university and college interviews. In previous years the majority of our Year 13 students applied to study Art at Foundation Level and all.



ASSESSMENT Coursework and practical assessment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Art

What will I learn?

Subject content is divided into four topics for the first year of A-Level and then a further four topics for the second year A-Level students:

- 1 Biological molecules
- 2 Cells
- 3 Organisms exchange substances with their environment
- 4 Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms
- 5 Energy transfers in and between organisms
- 6 Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments
- 7 Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems
- 8 The control of gene expression



Highlights

We have high success in Biology leading to many of our students at A Level achieving A grades, leading to degree courses in Medicine, Biomedical Science, Psychology, Genetics, Nutrition, and Biochemistry. Many transferable skills are developed throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT

Examination and practical assessment

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 6 in Biology

What will I learn?

This qualification has been introduced to provide a broad understanding of business for further training or for moving into appropriate employment within any sector. You will learn features of businesses and how innovation and speed leads to success. You will learn a range of theories such as elements of marketing, human motivation and the impacts a change in price has on supply. In year 13 you will focus on how businesses adapt in international markets and how external changes and economic trends can affect sales, revenue and profit. We will use a range of real sources to learn from and constantly adapt our learning as real life events take place during your studies.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification will involve 3 external assessments. Each paper is well structured to give students the best chance at success.



What can the qualification lead to?

You could take this course to complement other A Level, which could lead you onto higher education, in areas of business such as management, economics and marketing. The course perfectly compliments Psychology and will test students on a range of skills such as calculation and essay writing. All essential skills to be used in any job. This could be through a trainee management scheme with a specific company. You could go straight into a job related to business.

Highlights

In the last two years, we have had high levels of success which placed us in the top 25% for student progress in the country, and we perform well above the national average. Students have achieved 1.5 A levels (84 UCAS points) in this course, if topped up to a National Foundation Diploma.

ASSESSMENT

Examination

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above and at least a grade 5 in Business