

Welcome to St. Wilfrid's 6th Form College

Thank-you for taking an interest in St. Wilfrid's Catholic High School and Sixth Form College.

Our Sixth Form offers something distinctive. Students make outstanding progress and are well supported in a caring Christian environment. Visitors frequently comment on the special atmosphere, made visible in our students, who behave with respect and tolerance to all members of the community. We welcome applications from young people of all faiths who wish to benefit from, and are able to support, our Catholic ethos.

Our students consistently achieve excellent examination results and we provide an outstanding curriculum, which has received a number of national awards. Students are able to choose from a very broad range of subjects and qualifications, including diplomas and vocational qualifications alongside traditional A' levels. In a typical year, we will offer over fifty different courses in the Sixth Form.

St. Wilfrid's has been a specialist Language College since 1999 and was awarded Vocational specialist status in spring 2006, as a result of consistently strong performance. We have links to over thirty countries and offer a wide variety of languages and exchange visits. This dimension is celebrated when we host visitors from around the world in our International Week. Our Vocational specialism means we also offer a distinctive range of courses linked to specific employment sectors.

Support from the tutor team is very strong. We are truly inclusive and help students of all abilities and backgrounds become confident, caring young men and women. We attribute this to the opportunities presented to students, together with the support of dedicated staff who take an interest in developing the whole person. St. Wilfrid's has a proud record of helping students gain places in higher education institutions, find meaningful careers or places on training programmes.

Facilities at St. Wilfrid's are continuously improving. There has been a substantial building programme in recent years and we invest heavily in the latest technology. Sixth formers have their own common room, dining room and study facilities and are able to enjoy a distinctive experience from the rest of the school.

If you are considering applying to St. Wilfrid's, I ask that you take time to read this prospectus and visit the Sixth Form. You can be assured of a warm welcome and I am confident you will be impressed. We are very proud of our students, who benefit from the experience for the rest of their lives, being developed spiritually, morally, academically and physically.

I look forward to welcoming you to St. Wilfrid's in the future.

John McNally
Headteacher

What subjects can we offer?

We have a whole range of courses, academic, vocational and occupational for all abilities of students.

A-Levels, BTEC First and National

AS/A2 Levels

If you wish to follow a purely A Level programme you should have achieved Grade C or above in at least five GCSE subjects.

Most candidates follow four AS level subjects and it is advisable to think in terms of acceptable and appropriate combinations of subjects rather than the status of individual ones.

Choosing A Levels for higher education and employment.

Decisions made now will have major implications for the future, it is important to make the right choice for you. These notes will help you.

Higher Education

In order to enter a degree or diploma course in Higher Education, candidates will have to show evidence of a general education to an accepted standard, normally including at least 2 A-levels or a BTEC National. Each course will dictate its own requirements, and may ask for a record of achievement to support their application. The number of students progressing to higher education from a vocational background is increasing every year. Applicants are gaining places on degree courses depending on their level of achievement.

Vocational / Occupational Courses

Many students progress through vocational courses, entering at a suitable level and working through to university entrance level and beyond. BTEC is a well recognised qualification in the world of employment and highly respected by Higher Education Institutions.

If you wish to follow a BTEC National course you should have achieved Grade C or above in at least five GCSE subjects.

If you wish to follow a BTEC First course you should have achieved Grade D or above in at least four GCSE subjects.

If you wish to follow an Access course you should have proved your commitment to study and interest in the subjects involved, and have successfully completed a range of GCSE courses.

Vocational courses have been part of our post-sixteen provision since 1992. As a specialist Vocational College we will be adding new courses in the coming years.

For a list of courses on offer please see the 'Course Menu' sheet in the folder at the back of this prospectus

A Catholic Sixth Form

What does being a Catholic 6th form college mean?

St. Wilfrid's is open to anyone of any faith or of none, like any other college, but our faith has a positive influence on our approach. It means that we have built a community of people who support each other, who see more in life and themselves than superficial values, who want to develop themselves as people. St. Wilfrid's is different and we believe it offers you more than anywhere else can in every way.

Our aim is the religious growth and development of all our students. We hope to provide the setting for you as a young adult to question concepts and to grow in knowledge and faith. We accept that everyone is at a different stage on the journey of faith (or perhaps has not even set out!), and our RE programme is presented in a spirit of tolerance, so that you, as an individual can grow and develop at your own pace.

We believe that this ethos must be realised through the day to day life of the school rather than only being talked about, and that its development has to be promoted and encouraged by practical means. We present opportunities for all to become involved in the charitable work of the Church and other organisations, and we have raised large sums of money for many worthwhile causes.

Prayer, worship, and liturgical celebration are central to our Catholic tradition, and we seek to promote and develop an appreciation of them, and a more active participation in them.

We hope to build a community of young adults who recognise and appreciate the value of each other's company, who feel a sense of responsibility and care for others and who are willing to give something of themselves for the happiness and improvement of the broader community.

Reel Issues

The content of the RE programme is diverse and relevant to the age and developing maturity of sixth form students, and takes into account the principle that not everyone has the same beliefs and interests. The main aim is that the total experience provokes thought and allows the opportunity to develop in a theological, spiritual, and moral sense.

Our enhancement programme involves a mixture of half day conferences with outside speakers, which address a wide range of issues. One session per week for all students on Beliefs and Values including Morality in the Media, Homelessness, Crime and Punishment, for all students offers the opportunity to produce an assignment forming part of the General Studies A-Level course, a qualification which everyone can gain.

Throughout the year, 6th formers will be expected to attend liturgical services. We would hope that all will be keen to take part in these celebrations.

Facilities

Our strong commitment to our 6th form students is easily seen at St. Wilfrid's. To give you the best chance of success, we have invested heavily in the last two years on 6th form facilities, so we can offer up-to-date computer equipment and systems and separate teaching rooms, a study base and a common room.

Teaching / Learning

In addition to a full range of well equipped specialist teaching areas, some 6th form teaching takes place in dedicated areas, offering the right atmosphere for reflection and study.

We have an impressively equipped learning resource base in which 6th form students have their own separate area with access to all the latest software and hardware as well as free access to the internet on new flat screen computers. If you want the best, look here. We also have over 700 other computers in various locations within curriculum departments.

Common Room

This offers a comfortable, friendly place to relax and get together. A range of hot and cold food is available from a snack bar open all day and only for the 6th form. Satellite TV and music are provided, as are, photocopying facilities. It's the centre of the social life of the 6th form. There's always someone there that you know, there's always something going on—there's a 'buzz' about the place, as the students will tell you.

Tutorial and monitoring arrangements

We believe in giving you as much support as is needed, while allowing you the freedom to develop academically and personally. To do this, we develop a close partnership with you and your parents, to avoid potential problems.

Everyone is assigned a personal tutor who will be responsible for students welfare and progress through their time in sixth form. Tutorials are a regular and integral part of each individual's programme of study. Monitoring of progress, preparation for exams, review and action planning, higher education and careers education form the basis of discussion.

Tutor groups are small, and through individual meetings, tutors aim to encourage and support the development of the range of

personal and social skills that our competitive and demanding world demands. Each half term, subject staff provide tutors with brief reports and current grades, so that your progress can be monitored. The aim is to offer support and encouragement, and keep up communication between all those involved in your learning, without being too restrictive.

Careers and Higher Education

We are a stepping stone in your life and career, and our aim is to give you all the help and information you need to prepare you for the next stage in your career. Our careers library houses a varied and comprehensive range of careers and educational literature. Up to date information is readily available in books, videos, and on computer, and speakers are invited from colleges, employers, and support agencies. The careers team is also available to help you decide on the career path you want to follow and help you achieve your goal.

6th Form Social Life

Committee

Your Future in Europe—Paris—every January

Field Trips

Modern Foreign Language Trips

Battle of the Bands

Choir

What else can we offer?

We try to offer as wide a range of activities and experiences as possible for sixth form students.

European Links

These have always been an important part of our life here, and we are aiming to increase opportunities for you to have some direct European experience in the future. Britain is part of the European Community, and it is important that we have as much chance to learn about the experience of different cultures and life in other European countries. Employment and education are increasingly multinational and the more experience and knowledge young people have of the world outside Britain, the better they are prepared for their future, and the more opportunities will be open to them.

We have established links with many European countries and have a 'European Week' each year during which visitors from various countries allow us the chance to experience other cultures and learn how others live—and how they see us! You will also have the chance to go on exchange trips abroad and have a more direct experience.

Other trips abroad that might interest you are less educational but just as important—skiing in France or Austria, Eurodisney, Italy, Greece, etc. We also offer the chance to take part in the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We are often visited by exchange students. Students from the USA and Brazil have spent the year with us, giving them and us a chance to make new friends (and holiday destinations if you make the right friends!).

Sport

Our sports hall, gymnasium and swimming pool, with the new tennis courts are available to the 6th form. Support is on hand for action, but many prefer a more relaxed approach.

Theatre and Cinema

Theatre and cinema trips are popular and take place throughout the year. We have impressive Drama and Music facilities which are freely available to students. Many take the opportunity to pursue their interest during or after the working day.

Other

- We have a long standing and successful Go-Kart team for budding motorsport enthusiasts.
- We have outside speakers delivering relevant information to students on half day PSHE mornings.
- Enhancement: ICT; PE; Modern Foreign Languages; ECDL.

Student Quotes:

A sixth form student says: "Long before September, I felt I was already very much a part of the 6th Form school community after taking part in the various introduction events ..."

Another sixth form student says: "Here we have an extremely warm and welcoming environment and everybody is committed to ensuring we get the best education possible ... excellent student and teacher relationships ensure we achieve our best in all areas while still recognising and catering for our individual needs and abilities ... St. Wilfrid's is not just about exams ... We are also encouraged to contribute to the running of the school."

Need to know more?

If you would like to be given a personal tour by a sixth form student, please contact, Head of 6th Form College:
Tel: 01977 691000.

Alternatively, just fill in the application form.