



Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy
Sixth Form Information and Subject Guide
For 2019 Admission

The Sixth Form

Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy's Sixth Form is housed in its own dedicated area of the main school building. Students benefit from a designated study room equipped with modern PCs, wireless access, and space for quiet individual work outside of lesson times and a Common Room where they can complete group work and relax at breaktime and lunchtime.

Our unique selling point is that we are a small and friendly Sixth Form whereby each student can be nurtured and cared for as an individual. Our students get involved in a wide variety of extracurricular activities and are well supported when applying for university and/or careers beyond Sixth Form.

Learning Pathways

This guide outlines all of the courses we plan to offer for students entering the Sixth Form in September 2019. We offer the following types of course:

- A Level Qualifications – widely regarded as the gold standard of Post 16 qualification across the world
- Level 3 BTEC Vocational Qualifications – similar in value to A Levels but have a greater focus on coursework. Assessment is ongoing and often simulates activities undertaken in the workplace
- AS Level Qualifications – in addition to their core learning, students also study an AS Level in Core Mathematics or the Extended Project Qualification. This is an excellent way for students to show-off their talents, skills and commitment to additional learning when applying for higher education or employment
- GCSE Resit Qualifications – compulsory for those who meet the entry requirements but have not yet achieved a Grade 4 in English or Mathematics.

Entry Requirements

To gain entry into the Sixth Form, students need to have a 'standard pass' (grade 4 or above) in at least five subjects at GCSE or in equivalent vocational qualifications. The more 'good passes' (grade 5 or above) the better as higher grades help students to make a smoother transition from Year 11 to Year 12.

For A Level courses students need a grade 6 or above in that subject, or in a similar subject if they have not studied it previously. The following exceptions apply:

- A Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics is required to study Mathematics
- A Grade 8 or above in GCSE Mathematics is required to study Further Mathematics
- A Grade 6 or above in the individual science (GCSE Physics, Chemistry or Biology) to study that science at A Level or at least Grades 7-6 in Science Trilogy. Additionally, students opting for science subjects must also have a Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics.

For Vocational BTEC courses, a 'good pass' in that subject or in a similar subject is required. Students with 'standard passes' will be considered where their other results indicate they possess good cross curricular skills.

We offer ongoing support throughout Year 11 so as students are clear on how well they are progressing towards the entry requirement.

On GCSE results day, senior staff are available to check individual students' attainment against the entry requirements and offer congratulations, help and assistance as may be necessary.

Extracurricular Activities

We are immensely proud of the charitable work which the Sixth Formers undertake at Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy. They coordinate a variety of events throughout the year ranging from hosting the MacMillan Coffee Morning to leading the Mental Health Awareness Day activities.

Many Sixth Formers continue their Duke of Edinburgh journey whilst studying with us, and they are well supported to achieve up to the Gold Award.

At the end of the academic year, a number of students partake in the Diocese of Nottingham's Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. Our students act as helpers and befrienders to elderly and sick parishioners gaining invaluable experiences and lifetime memories in the process.

Academic Outcomes

The class of 2018 achieved the following:

- 100% pass rate for all A Level and BTEC vocational entries
- 100% A*, A or B in A Level English Literature, PE and Polish
- 66% or more A*, A or B in A Level Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology
- Average grade at A Level: C+
- Average grade in BTEC vocational courses: Distinction
- 100% of students wishing to go to university got offers, with over 90% now studying at their first choice.

Number of Subjects

Most students will choose three subjects and then opt for either Core Mathematics or the EPQ. For a small number of the most able students, four subjects may be selected. This is sometimes recommended for those who take Further Mathematics.

How to Apply

An application form may be detached from the back of this booklet. You will also find MS Word and Pdf versions on the school website which can be emailed to us. Please apply by Friday 21st December 2018. Interviews will be held in the New Year.

We ask all applicants to identify the courses they will most likely choose, although changing at a later stage is usually possible.

Late applications are most welcome but some courses may be full and priority will be given to those applying by the initial deadline.

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Art and Design

This course allows you to record and communicate in a variety of art and design areas. You will develop an awareness of the purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design in a variety of contexts and can often present work in the media of your choosing.

Year 1	Year 2
Visual Recording and Communication Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design	The Creative Process Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes
Assessment	
Work produced during this course is mostly assessed as part of a series of coursework portfolios. There is one externally assessed examined component.	
Progression	
Students who study this course have a variety of employment and further education opportunities open to them. Aside from the obvious art, design and craft-based jobs and courses, students are increasingly using BTEC Art as a progression route into primary school teaching and courses such as art therapy/art psychology.	

AQA A Level Biology

Students studying this course advance their biological understanding in numerous key areas. The course explores the biology of plant and animal life, as well as diseases in organisms on a variety of scales. In this course, scientific experiments are key to developing understanding and applying knowledge.

Year 1	Year 2
Biological Molecules, Organisms and Cells Genetic Information	Energy Transfers Organisms and Environmental Factors Genetics, Populations and Ecosystems
Assessment	
Students are assessed through a series of end-of course examinations. A practical assessment forms part of this course whereby students' investigative skills are tested.	
Progression	
This is a key A Level which students must study in order to progress on to a wide variety of medical-related courses including medicine, dentistry, radiography, physiotherapy and some nursing degrees. It complements many other A Levels to help students gain preferential access to degrees including zoology, PE/sports science, and psychology.	

AQA A Level Business Studies

Students of this course study businesses in a variety of contexts, sizes and locations. Students learn about the importance of decision making and the nature of business environments including competition, marketing, operations, finance, and human resources.

Year 1	Year 2
What is Business? Marketing, Operational and Financial Performance, HR Managers, Leaders and Decision Making	Strategic Positioning and Direction of Businesses Managing Strategic Change Global Business
Assessment	
All examinations take place at the end of the two year course. There are three examinations (of two hours duration), each worth a third of the overall qualification. Knowledge and understanding is assessed through short and longer style exam questions.	
Progression	
Such is the popularity of this subject, a large proportion of our students progress onto business, finance and marketing degrees at university. This course is also useful for those who wish to further their studies in law, economics and human resources. The skills learnt are invaluable to anyone considering starting their own business.	

AQA A Level Chemistry

A Level Chemists will learn about the nature of materials, how they are made, what properties they have and why they behave the way they do. We study atoms, molecules, energy changes, reaction times and equilibria in detail and see how they can be applied to commercial, scientific and medical fields.

Year 1	Year 2
Atomic Structure, Substance, Bonding and Kinetics Chemical Equilibria and Reactions Acids, Bases and Inorganic Chemistry	Properties of Elements Organic Chemistry Spectroscopy and Chromatography
Assessment Students are assessed through a series of end-of course examinations. A practical assessment forms part of this course whereby students' investigative skills are tested.	
Progression This A Level is vital for a whole range of scientific and engineering qualifications and careers. Many courses such as pharmacy and pharmacology require you to have studied chemistry at this level. A Level Chemistry is highly valued by admissions tutors for courses such as medicine, dentistry and medical science.	

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Creative Media Production

In this subject, students will study and complete coursework linked to a wide variety of the UK's creative industries. The course is taught through the practical application of techniques, and large proportions of time is spent in ICT rooms completing activities linked to vocational briefs.

Year 1	Year 2
Media Representation Pre-Production Portfolio	Responding to a Commission Film Production – Fiction
Assessment The majority of work for this course is assessed as part of a series of coursework portfolios. In addition, an externally assessed practical assessment activity accounts for a small proportion of the overall marks.	
Progression This course prepares students for a wide variety of careers and courses linked to creative media, journalism, graphics, culture, social media and performing arts. For careers in journalism, this course should also be combined with an A Level in English.	

AQA A Level Design Technology: Product Design

This practical and thought-provoking qualification gives students the skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a variety of creative industries. Students will investigate the historical, social, cultural and environmental influences on design and technology and put knowledge into practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

Year 1	Year 2
Technical Principles in Product Design Practical Application: Designing and Making	Designing and Making Principles Practical Application: Designing and Making
Assessment This is one of the few A Level courses which contains a substantial coursework component, 50% of the overall grade coming from a designing and making project which includes a design portfolio of written, graphic and photographic evidence. The remaining 50% of the marks come from two examinations	
Progression Students use this course (in combination with other relevant subjects) to proceed into fields such as graphics, design, technology, architecture and engineering.	

AQA A Level English Literature

By studying this course, students gain a valuable grounding in the analysis and appreciation of novels, plays, poetry and written text. As well as understanding the styles, nuances and conventions of each piece of literature, you will also discover how social and historical factors shape texts.

Year 1	Year 2
Wuthering Heights The Taming of the Shrew Unseen Poetry Analysis	The Handmaid's Tale Feminine Gospels A Streetcar Named Desire
Assessment	
Students are assessed through two end-of course examinations and a Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) piece for which appropriate advice and guidance will be provided by the teaching staff.	
Progression	
Students use this course as a springboard into further study and employment. It leads to courses in all areas of English, as well as law, history, media and publishing. A Level English Literature is highly valued by employers and universities alike.	

WJEC Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Students gain an insight into the importance of food science and nutrition to many industries and job roles. This course contains elements of food technology, dietetics, science, health, wellbeing and nutrition. The skills acquired by studying this course are highly transferrable.

Year 1	Year 2
Meeting the Nutritional Needs of Specific Groups Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition	Ensuring Food is Safe to Eat Current Issues in Food Science and Nutrition
Assessment	
Students undertake coursework portfolios and written examinations. Both of these are underpinned by the ongoing development of practical skills to produce quality food items to meet the needs of individuals.	
Progression	
Students who complete this course may progress to careers and courses which focus on the hospitality, catering, leisure and healthcare industries. It may also be useful for those who may consider social work or work with children and/or vulnerable adults. Associated degree courses include food and nutrition, food science and food technology.	

AQA A Level French

Students who opt for this subject learn about a variety of aspects of French and Francophone life through the study of language, literature, culture and current affairs in France and other countries around the world where French is spoken.

Year 1	Year 2
Current Trends and Culture in the French Speaking World Artistic Culture in the French Speaking World Grammar	French Films and Texts Individual Research Project Speaking
Assessment	
All examinations take place at the end of the two year course, students are assessed in a combination of written, listening and speaking tests.	
Progression	
Students with A Levels in a Modern Foreign Language are very much in demand. The skills required to study a language speak positively about an individual. Students with A Level French often progress onto Modern Foreign Languages courses at university and are highly regarded in fields such as economics, law, politics and education.	

AQA A Level Geography

In this subject, students learn about a wide variety of contemporary and traditional geographical themes. These range from global warming and globalization through to coastal processes and rivers. Students learn about a variety of issues which are relevant to the modern world which will help mankind develop sustainably in the future.

Year 1	Year 2
Water and Carbon Cycles Coastal Systems and Landscapes Global Systems and Governance	Hazards: Volcanic, Seismic and Meteorological Changing Places Contemporary Urban Environments
Assessment	
Students are assessed through two end-of course examinations (one each in human and physical geography) and a Non-Examined Assessment based on data collected during fieldwork visits	
Progression	
Degree courses in this subject tend to focus on either human or physical geography – this A Level prepares you well for either. Students studying this are prepared for a wide variety of courses and job opportunities owing to geography's unique blend of literacy, numeracy, scientific and research skills.	

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care

Almost 4 million people in the UK work in this sector and almost 1.7 million job openings are expected between now and 2021. This course looks at a variety of health and care related topics and the knowledge learnt can be applied to working with people of all ages.

Year 1	Year 2
Human Lifespan Development Working in the Health and Social Care Sectors	Physiological Disorders Meeting the Needs of Individuals
Assessment	
This subject is mostly assessed through coursework portfolios, however one of the four units is assessed using a written examination.	
Progression	
Students move on to a wide variety of careers and courses relating to sectors such as nursery education, social work, youth work and healthcare. This course should be combined with other subjects for certain careers, e.g. with biology for midwifery and certain nursing degrees, and with national curriculum subjects for primary school teaching.	

AQA A Level History

The study of history aims to equip students with an understanding of historical events, the role of individuals in history, and the nature of change over time. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the past through political, social, economic and cultural perspectives.

Year 1	Year 2
The Making of a Superpower: The USA 1865 – 1975 The French Revolution	The Making of Modern Britain 1951 - 2007
Assessment	
Students are assessed through two end-of-course examinations and a Historical Investigation which takes the form of a question in the context of approximately 100 years.	
Progression	
Students progress on to a wide variety of degrees at university – not just history. Most university courses in Law view History as one of the most important A Levels. This course is useful for careers in research, journalism, politics, local government and archaeology.	

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 ICT

Students completing this course will learn about both computer hardware and software and will expand their knowledge of Microsoft applications. Practical activities include web design, game design and building computer hardware systems.

Year 1	Year 2
Information and Technology Systems Creating Systems to Manage Information	Using Social Media in Business Website Development
Assessment	
Most units are assessed through coursework activities. One element is assessed using a two hour externally marked examination.	
Progression	
Students who complete this course are well prepared for a variety of ICT, computing and computer games/app making courses and careers. ICT is also a useful subject for those wishing to study or work in fields such as business, administration, media and data management.	

AQA A Level Law

Students of this course gain a broad understanding of the law in today's society whilst raising their awareness of individual people's rights and responsibilities. Throughout the course, students will develop their analytical, critical thinking and problem solving skills – all of which are highly sought after in higher education and employment.

Year 1	Year 2
Criminal Law Tort Law	Human Rights Contract Law
Assessment	
There are three examinations at the end of the course, one each for criminal and tort law, and one covering the human rights/contract law units. Each examination lasts for two hours.	
Progression	
Law opens doors to a range of subjects and occupations – it is not just for those wishing to enter the legal profession to become solicitors, legal executives and barristers. It is significantly helpful for those wishing to study further and aim for employment in fields such as the police force, public services, human resources, and business.	

Edexcel A Level Mathematics

A Level Mathematics is divided into two key sections, commonly known as Pure Mathematics (calculus, algebra, geometry and trigonometry) and Applied Mathematics (mechanics and statistics).

Year 1	Year 2
Algebra, Inequalities and Transformations Binomial Expansion Trigonometry, Vectors, Differentiation and Integration	Functions and Graphs Advanced techniques in Binomial Expansion, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration and Vectors
Assessment	
Three examinations are sat at the end of the course, two in Pure Mathematics and one in Statistics and Mechanics. Each examination lasts for two hours.	
Progression	
Mathematics is useful for all science and engineering degrees. Admissions tutors for science subjects (including medicine) value mathematics highly, and it is a pre-requisite for many physics and engineering courses. Naturally, those hoping to study mathematics at university should opt for this subject at A Level.	

Edexcel A Level Further Mathematics

This is a very demanding course and is aimed at the most gifted and talented mathematicians. As such, students considering Further Mathematics should gain at least a Grade 8 or a Grade 9 at GCSE. Students study the more complex areas of pure and applied mathematics.

Year 1	Year 2
Proof, Complex Numbers and Matrices Further Algebra, Calculus and Vectors Polar Coordinates and Hyperbolic Functions	Further Mechanics, Statistics and Pure Mathematics Further Decision Mathematics
Assessment	
Four examinations are sat at the end of the course, two in Core Pure Mathematics and two in the Further Mathematics options. Each examination lasts for 90 minutes.	
Progression	
If you are planning to study subjects relating to sciences, engineering, computing or even mathematics itself, you will benefit enormously from taking this course. Further mathematics introduces new topics which are vital in many STEM degrees.	

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts

Students choosing this course will get the opportunity to devise, rehearse and perform pieces as both individuals and in groups. Each of the units covered includes a mixture of written and practical activities.

Year 1	Year 2
Investigating Practitioners Developing Skills and Techniques for Live Performance	Group Performance Workshop Variety Performance
Assessment	
This course is mostly assessed through internally and externally marked coursework activities. Additionally, there is a written examination which is based upon pre-released material.	
Progression	
Students with a love for performance can progress to courses in acting, theatre studies, drama and the performing arts. Combined with other well selected subjects, this course is useful for those who wish to progress into teaching, classroom support, drama therapy and other arts fields.	

OCR A Level Physical Education

Students who opt for this course will be assessed both on their knowledge of sport, anatomy, and physical education, as well as their participation in specific sporting activities. Students must be committed to furthering their skills in one of the approved activities by being involved in sporting clubs and matches outside of school time.

Year 1	Year 2
Physiological Factors Affecting Performance Socio-Cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport	Psychological Factors Affecting Performance Performance in Physical Education
Assessment	
70% of the overall grade is achieved through the successful completion of three written examination papers. The remaining 30% is awarded for performance in (or coaching) a specified sporting activity.	
Progression	
This course is ideal preparation for a number of sport, exercise, physical education and leisure courses at university. In combination with other subjects, it may be useful preparation for courses such as psychology and physiotherapy. There are an increasing number of employment opportunities in the sport and leisure industries.	

AQA A Level Physics

Students will develop a broad range of analytical and experimental skills by studying this course, as they try to answer fundamental questions about the interaction of matter and energy through both experimentation and observation. Physics students gain an invaluable insight into the science of engineering, astronomy and medicine.

Year 1	Year 2
Particles and Radiation Waves Mechanics	Electricity Further Mechanics and Thermal Physics Nuclear Physics
Assessment	
Students are assessed through a series of end-of course examinations. A practical assessment forms part of this course whereby students' investigative skills are tested.	
Progression	
Students who complete A Level physics go on to undertake a wide variety of subjects at degree level. These may range from astrophysics to engineering, medicine to mechanics.	

AQA A Level Polish

Whilst English and Welsh are the most common languages in the UK, Polish is now the third most widely spoken. Students who study Polish gain a broad understanding of the use of the Polish language, as well as developing their understanding of Polish culture and history.

Year 1	Year 2
Social Issues and Trends Political and Artistic Culture in Poland	Literary Works Grammar Research Project
Assessment	
All examinations take place at the end of the two year course, students are assessed in a combination of written, listening and speaking tests.	
Progression	
Students with A Levels in a Modern Foreign Language are very much in demand. The skills required to study a language speak positively about an individual. Students with Polish qualifications often progress to courses and employment involving social care, healthcare, and emergency, government and political services.	

OCR A Level Psychology

This is a unique and challenging subject which engages students who are interested in understanding why people behave the way they do. The course examines debates such as 'nature or nurture' and applies understanding to a wide range of topics including forensics and abnormality.

Year 1	Year 2
Psychological Themes through Core Studies Research Methods	Mental Health Criminal Psychology Child Psychology
Assessment	
Students are assessed through examinations sat at the end of the course with a range of short and longer questions. However, throughout the course, opportunities to develop practical skills are optimised wherever possible.	
Progression	
Psychology students progress into a wide variety of fields, and psychology degrees are amongst the most popular at the moment. This is an excellent course for students wishing to work in fields such as mental health, counselling, forensics, sports and education (combined with National Curriculum subjects)	

Eduqas A Level Religious Studies

This course helps students to question the nature and existence of God. This includes the study of the questions raised for the problems of evil and suffering. Students will learn to question how moral decisions are made and whether religion has a positive effect on decision making.

Year 1	Year 2
Christianity Philosophy and Religion	Religion and Ethics
Assessment	
This course is assessed through three examination papers sat at the end of Year 13. There is no coursework element for this course.	
Progression	
Many students go on to study this course at degree level. It is also useful for those who wish to study related courses such as law, English, politics, history, anthropology and theology.	

AQA A Level Sociology

Sociology is the systematic study of groups and society. Students will explore socialization, culture and identity, social differentiation, power and stratification. Students compare whether people control society or society controls them, and whether the values of a society benefit all individuals or just a select few.

Year 1	Year 2
Family and Households Education Research Methods	Media Crime and Deviance
Assessment	
The content of both years' work is examined at the end of Year 13. There are three examination papers in total and questions are predominantly essay style.	
Progression	
This is an excellent course for those who wish to proceed to study criminology, psychology, politics, history and human geography. Students develop extended writing and textual analysis skills in this course – these are useful in many areas of employment.	

Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy: Sixth Form Application Form

For Entry in September 2019

Name	
Present School	
Home Address	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Please list the subjects which you wish to study in the Sixth Form – this is normally three subjects, you can list more if you are unsure at the moment	
Explain why you would like to join the Sixth Form at Blessed Robert Sutton	



<p>How well are you doing in Year 11? (List recent assessment or mock examination grades)</p>	
<p>Briefly plan your longer term ambitions, career or degree plans if you have any at the moment</p>	
<p>Tell us why you think you would make a great Sixth Former at Blessed Robert Sutton</p>	

Signed (Student): Date:

Signed (Parent/Carer): Date:

Completed application forms should be handed-in to the Examinations Office at Blessed Robert Sutton.

There is a MS Word version on the school website which can be completed and emailed to admissions@robertsutton.staffs.sch.uk

The normal application deadline is Friday 21st December 2018.

Please see the school website for information on applying after this date.

