



St John's Catholic

Comprehensive School



PROSPECTUS 2016/17



Service

Welcome to St John's

Our mission is simple – to become the best school we can be, producing outstanding academic results “**Excellence for all**” and nurturing young people who will work to serve and lead others in society “**Service to Others**”

Our ethos and approach reflects the Catholic nature of our school and focuses on developing the whole person so that they fulfil their God-given potential.

can to ensure that each interaction upholds and models these values of love, mutual respect, tolerance, kindness and forgiveness (“Inspired by Christ”).

We aim to instil in all of our stakeholders, the importance of the gospel values and doing all we

“Pupils feel valued and safe in the school. Behaviour and relationships are exceptional.”



Our Vision

In our catholic school, the teachings of Christ permeate all aspects of School life.

We seek to offer a high standard of education to each individual and to foster excellent relations between staff, students and parents.

Each person is recognised as a child of God, an individual who is encouraged to develop his or her full potential.

In partnership with the wider community, we aim to prepare each student to make full use of the opportunities available so that all are able to positively contribute to society.

We have a strong family ethos, where every pupil receives the very best care and guidance, as well as having access to modern facilities. This is to ensure our students have the right tools in order to achieve and prepare themselves for a career in both modern Britain and a global economy.





The excellent relationship among and between pupils and staff is testimony to the strong Catholic ethos that pervades the daily life of St John's



Bridging the Gap

We realise that the transition from Primary to Secondary Education can be a difficult and stressful time.



Our staff, wherever possible, are committed to visiting all primary schools to hold talks with pupils who are due to come to St John's. We do this in surroundings that pupils are familiar with and allow them to make a connection to the school before their first day. The visiting member of staff will also speak to pupil's current teachers to gain a greater understanding of each child's individual needs before they begin here at St John's in September.

In addition to the above, all pupils have the opportunity to come to St John's for two transition days in July. They are given the timetable they will be following in September and have an opportunity to attend their lessons and meet their new teachers.

We are confident that by bridging the gap between Primary and Secondary our students feel confident and inspired to succeed from the very start of their journey with St John's.



Providing Excellence for All

St John's has a broad and balanced curriculum, taught by dedicated and talented teachers who engage our students; a curriculum that is not afraid to offer challenge but also to provide choice for students.

Our students will be able to choose an accelerated GCSE option at the end of Year 8 and, as they progress through the school, continue to choose the other optional subjects that they desire.

St John's students are part of a school that values every child no matter their ability and your son or daughter will be supported throughout their schooling in order that they can make the very most of their God-given abilities.





Going the Extra Mile

At St John's we focus on a strong core set of subjects with extra emphasis on Maths, English, Science and R.E. ensuring students have the very best start in life.

To ensure your child achieves to the best of their abilities a number of our dedicated staff provide additional revision and teaching sessions throughout the year and in the school holidays to ensure students that wish to progress have every opportunity to do so.

In an ever changing world we recognise the importance of ensuring our students have opportunities to work with real businesses in order to play a

more significant role in our social and economic development, throughout their time with us at St John's we strive through personal development lessons to teach students both financial values and meet external speakers who provide in depth knowledge of the world beyond the classroom.



Inspired by Christ

Something that sets St John's apart from other local secondary schools is its Catholic ethos and clear emphasis on each person's spiritual, mental, emotional and physical development. Students come here to grow, as well as to learn, and that principle shapes everything we do.

As a Catholic school we strive to:

- Develop the spirituality, values and virtue of our young people, respecting whatever they have.
- Develop a sense of love, service and responsibility and the importance of family and society.
- Give them the opportunity to know and believe in God.
- Equip those who enjoy a faith for Christian life in the world.



We believe spiritual development requires a gentle and loving approach. We believe in meeting young people where they are and letting them move at their own pace. We try to create a climate where they can be open and questioning.

Our Chaplain works in school for most of the week. In turn, he is able to draw on a broad team of priests from the local parishes, to help support the sacramental life of the school.

The spiritual life of the school includes prayer, liturgical and sacramental experience and participation in the major events of the Church's year. There are retreats (spiritually focused days out) that are provided each year. We create

opportunities for spiritual expression and inspiration through Art, Music, Dance and Drama as well as external speakers to inspire our students.

An important objective is to broaden each young person's own ability to learn from the world around them and from life's experiences. Our students have the opportunity to enter into fund-raising events for charitable causes that are most often chosen by the students themselves.

Alongside the academic achievement of our students, we seek to help them grow as human beings so that they are ready to enter into an adult life as generous-hearted and well-rounded people that are able to rise to life's challenges.





Learning Beyond The Classroom

We believe that education continues beyond the traditional school day. Our Extended Learning Programme opens the doors to further experiences and opportunities to consolidate learning that has taken place during courses of study.

A wide range of clubs offer new experiences which build on skills gained through our school's curriculum.

Having achieved 'Healthy Schools' status, we continue to actively encourage participation in a whole range of sporting activities and competitions.

Trips are offered, both during the day and in the evening, to support learning in a range of subjects.

These include visits to theatres, galleries and various places of interest.

Extended residential visits are also offered to further widen the experience of those who wish to broaden their education. These include visits to foreign countries and cultural exchanges, such as our New York trip and historical trips to Belgium to remember the fallen of World War 1.

Celebrating Success

At St John's, as part of developing our students beyond academic success, we believe in developing the whole person. Our students show a wide variety of talents and skills and we endeavour to make sure that we provide every opportunity to embrace and nurture these talents. That is why we are proud to be nine times National Gymnastics Champions as well as excelling in many other sports and events.

In addition our links with external organisations, such as Young Enterprise, give students the opportunity to understand the structure of business by setting up and running their own company. St John's has also enjoyed competitive success at national level with this scheme.

If your son or daughter joins our family at St John's they will get

to be part of exciting enrichment courses that include the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Music, Dance Showcases, Drama Showcases and Cooking Competitions alongside Art and Photography exhibitions.



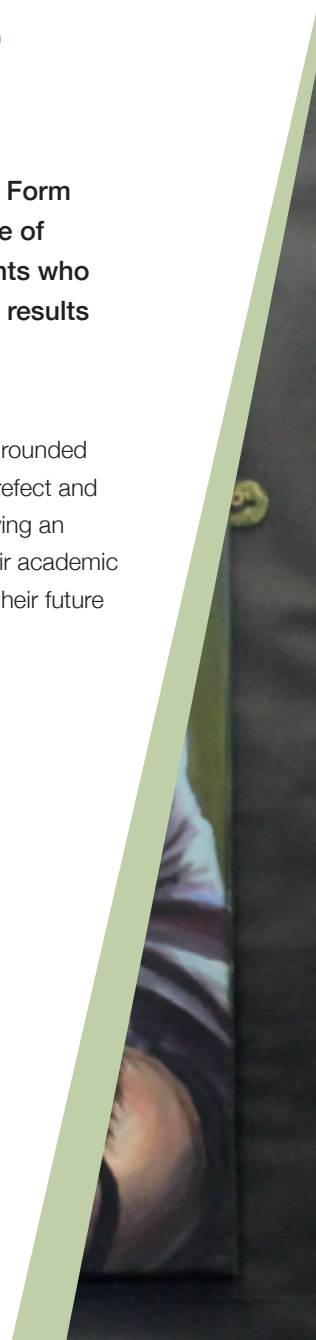
Growing in responsibility & **Serving Others**


St John's has a proud history of success with our Sixth Form department and A level courses. We offer a broad range of courses including further maths for the ablest of students who wish to perform and we have enjoyed some of the best results for maths students nationally.

Year 12 benefit from smaller classes than their peers and great flexibility combined with inspirational teaching to achieve success. Our dedicated careers officer provides advice on university entrance, 'gap' years, careers and employment beyond St John's.

We also feel that our students in Year 12 should have the opportunity to take on the role of Prefect. Our prefects organise and assist our staff with fund raising events as well as supporting at break times and open evenings.

As part of building a well-rounded person we feel being a prefect and leads to our students having an advantage along with their academic success in preparing for their future chosen career path.



A young man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue school suit, white shirt, and red tie, is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. He is standing in front of a large mural featuring a detailed owl with yellow eyes and green foliage.

The Final Year

As part of their final Year with us at St John's we recognise the journey our students have made, making lifelong friends along the way.

Our students have grown in their time with us and due to our excellent learning environment, community and spiritual life have developed into individuals who can move on always remaining part of our wider St John's family but succeeding in their next steps and aspirations.

Based on our core values of "Excellence for all", "Service to others" and "Inspired by Christ" our Year 13 students are ready for the exciting challenges ahead and to celebrate their time with us at St John's take part in our 'leavers mass' event where they are able to reflect on their journey through St John's.



Contact Details



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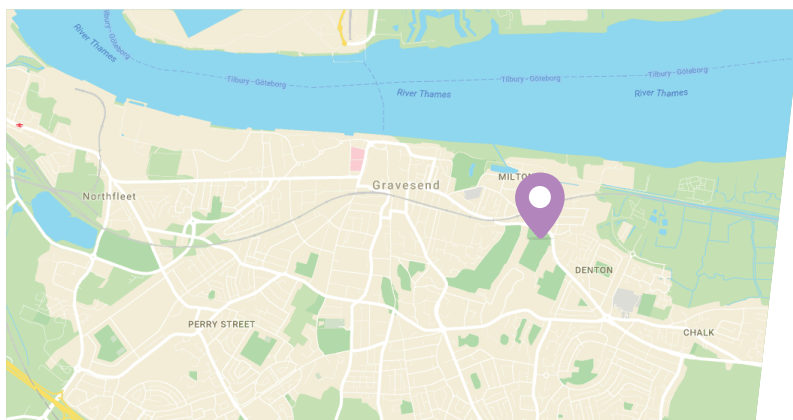
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If you are driving and using a sat nav - please use the postcode:
DA12 2SY to arrive at the main school entrance in Rochester Road