



18th September 2026

Our ref: ELO/hsa

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to explain some of the key dates and how we will support your child in their transition to post 16 education. I know you will have already started to explore the options your child will take into their next steps. We want to support your child however we can and help them find the destination that is right for them. I would like to ensure you have our sixth form open evening in your diary, this will happen on Thursday 3rd December from 6.30-8.30pm. More details will follow.

I delivered an assembly this morning to Year 11 in which I shared the different pathways that are available to students. We will shortly be conducting students post 16 careers interviews with Mrs Weller, some students started this process last year with Ms Phillips. These are all in place to support your child as they make their next steps. This can be a daunting time, but it is also exciting.

Open Evening and Sixth Form at St Bernards

I introduced St Bernard's Sixth Form and spoke of the many advantages of staying in an environment in which teachers know and understand the young person and how they learn best. I think it is critical to remember that the jump from GCSE to A level is the biggest academic jump a child will do, and the decision as to where to study must be right for the child within the boundaries of the entry requirements an institution sets.

Our open evening will be a great opportunity to see the subjects we offer at A level and speak to teachers about the options that your child has. We encourage an open mind as you consider subjects and remember that very few university courses ask students to have specific A levels. It is important to think about the balance between the subjects chosen and the demands these will place upon your child. Open evenings are a great place to talk about subject combinations with the teachers.

Entry Requirements

We will have clear entry requirements for students. We require a minimum of a 5 in English Language and a 4 in Maths in most subjects, there will be some subjects in which students will need to get higher grades. Our updated prospectus and course guide will be available on the school website at the beginning of October, and we encourage you to explore this, paying close attention to the subject requirements and the overall application process laid out on the school website.

Making Applications to St Bernards

Applications to sixth form will open **on Friday 4th December** and can be made via the application page on the school website. [Admissions | St Bernard's Sixth Form](#) The link to Applica will be live after Open Evening. You will use a website called Applica to make your Sixth Form Applications. **Applications will close on Friday 19th February.** We will not be able to accept late applications and students must have completed a full application to be able to attend St Bernard's Sixth Form as well as achieve the grade requirements stated. **Offers will be made in April.**

Making Applications elsewhere

Students who are looking to apply elsewhere or wish to apply to a college should ensure that they are exploring their options via local institution open evenings and websites to help ensure that they make an informed and realistic choice.

SLT Conversations

All students will have a meeting with a member of SLT in January to talk through their realistic options using their first assessment mocks predictions. It is critical that students are putting every effort into making sure these grades reflect their abilities as these are the grades they will use to apply for all post 16 options. Of course, final decisions will be made on GCSE results days however the predictions students receive in the next assessments will guide all post 16 providers in their decision to offer your child a place at their institution.

We look forward to supporting your child into their next phase of education and meeting you at the Sixth Form open evening on Thursday 3rd December.

Kind Regards,



Emily Owen

Assistant Head Teacher – Head of Sixth Form

Please do let us know if you are attending the Sixth Form Open evening below:

