



St. Joseph's Catholic Academy Prospectus 2025/26



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. Joseph's, we extend a warm welcome to you and your child. Becoming a member of our community provides memories and opportunities that last a lifetime.

Our aim is to develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of each of our students, so that we can best support each one to learn and achieve. Developing an effective partnership between home and school is key to the success of our students. We look forward to working together in the future to ensure your child reaches their potential.

Our school prayer, written by the students of St. Joseph's, summarises our goals:

"Lord help us to become the people you want us to be. In our school may there be prayer, learning and humour, hard work, faith and friendship. May we respect everyone we meet, use our gifts and encourage each other. Send your angels to guide us and let your peace be with us and our families always. We ask these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Mr James Crowe, Headteacher

Our Faith

We are proud to be part of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Our school is a catholic school and follows catholic teachings, but we welcome pupils of all faiths and beliefs.

Faith is at the heart of our mission at St. Joseph's. Indeed, our school motto Caritas Christi Urgent Nos translates as 'the love of Christ spurs us on.'

Every aspect of our school from spiritual, academic, pastoral and extra-curricular is centred on sharing Christ's love with others.

Our school saint, St. Joseph, and the qualities he inspires, are central to our Catholic life and mission and ones which we hope to instill and inspire in our students.

St. Joseph is a role model for young people in terms of his faith in answering God's call and his obedience in living the life God planned for him.

His compassion, work ethic and knowledge of the law are to be admired and emulated.

St Paul VI writes of Joseph dedicating his life as one of "sacrificial service" to others and we hope our students grow into a life of service to God and others in their community.



Admissions

We understand that choosing a secondary school can be daunting and overwhelming, so we hope to make the process supportive and transparent throughout.

St. Joseph's Catholic Academy was founded by the Catholic Church, if there are more applications than places, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. We provide a Catholic education for all our pupils, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families. We hope that all parents give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school.

This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for a place at school and we welcome families of all faiths and beliefs to be part of our school community. Our full Admissions Policy can be found under the Key Information heading [on our website](#).



Attendance and the school day

We expect all students to strive for 100% attendance with a minimum of 97% attendance in each year.

Please keep medical appointments outside of the school day if possible. If this is not possible, please bring a letter into school prior to this to receive a pass from your child's Head of House.

School starts at 8.30 am and students begin the day lining up ready for registration or assembly.

8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 am	Period 1
10:00 – 11:00 am	Period 2
11:00 – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Period 3
12:15 – 1:00 pm 12:15 – 1:15 pm	Period 4a Years 7, 8, 11 - Lunch Years 9 and 10 - Lessons
1:00 – 2:00 pm 1:15 – 2:00 pm	Period 4b Years 7, 8, 11 – Lessons Years 9 and 10 - Lunch
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Period 5

Mission and Values

Our school mission statement - Inspired by God's love, we empower each member of our community to let their light shine.

Caritas Christi Urget Nos - The love of Christ Spurs us on
- let your light shine

Inspired by God's love and aspiration that each member of our school community lives life to the full, we commit ourselves to the following aims:

- Faith
- Learning
- Attitude
- Mutual Respect
- Enrichment

Following the Flame values, we create an environment in which the intellectual, physical, social, moral and spiritual development of every student can flourish.



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Uniform

Students are expected to wear their school uniform with pride. It is important that all students abide by the high uniform expectations that are in place as they are ambassadors for St. Josephs. and need to be seen as positive representatives of our school by the wider community.

Our uniform is accessible and affordable with most items being available to be purchased from a variety of high street retailers and only a limited number of branded options that can be purchased from specific vendors, in line with Department for Education guidance.

Daywear	PE Kit
Grey blazer branded with St Joseph's Logo	Blue polo shirt with St Joseph's logo or Plain non-branded royal blue polo shirt
House colour ribbons should be worn on left chest pocket of the blazer. These will be provided by the school as part of the transition process	Black shorts with St Joseph's logo or Plain non-branded black sports shorts
School Tie (blue and gold diagonal strip)	Black sport socks
A plain white shirt which buttons to the neck	Running style trainers suitable for all PE activities
Plain black formal school trousers or A plain black drop-waisted skirt with box style pleats.	Optional Tracksuit bottoms with St Joseph's logo or Plain non-branded black jogging bottoms
Black opaque tights or black /dark grey socks	Optional Black leggings with St Joseph's logo or plain non-branded black leggings
Plain black formal school shoes	Optional Quarter-Zip long sleeve top with St Joseph's logo or Plain non-branded royal blue quarter-zip long sleeve top







Curriculum

The curriculum is designed, structured and taught to achieve the aim stated in our Mission Statement: Inspired by God's love, we empower each member of our community to let their light shine. Through our formal and informal curriculum, we aim to:

- Develop in students, lively, enquiring minds
- Enable students to use language and numbers effectively
- Develop the vocational education of students
- Foster attitudes and a learning context which will enhance self-esteem and instil self-awareness and self-confidence in all students
- Help students develop personal, social, spiritual and moral values and a tolerance of the way of life of others



In Years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a common curriculum:

Religious Education: As a Catholic school all RE courses are in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic church. Core subjects are English, Mathematics and Science.

Foundation Subjects are French; Design and Technology; Information Technology; Geography; History; Art; Music; Physical Education.

In Years 10 and 11, all students study a common core of compulsory subjects:

Religious Education; English Language; English Literature; Mathematics; Science and Physical Education. Students can also study a language and will choose a Humanities subject.

Supplemented by other optional GCSE and BTEC qualifications including Art; Business; Computing; Design and Technology; Engineering Health and Social Care; Hair and Beauty; Information Technology; Music; Spanish; Sport Studies.



Pastoral Care

A great academy is not just about results. At St. Joseph's we aim to ensure every student feels safe and secure, that they have the confidence and motivation to really get the best from their education, not just academically but socially and culturally.

Inclusion means everyone

Everyone is valued at St. Joseph's. Every student brings something special to our community, whether it be academic success, music and drama, sporting skills, or simple hard work and honesty.

We are proud of our provision for children with special needs of all kinds. Staff work hard to make sure each student is engaged and gets the support they need to access the curriculum to the full and flourish throughout their time here.

Specialist resources

We have a dedicated team of highly qualified SEND teachers and teaching assistants who support students with a range of learning, physical and behavioural special needs, which allows students to access mainstream curriculum lessons.

Pastoral support

Our inclusive philosophy is supported by our investment in a strong pastoral team to support your child every step of the way. This includes both a Head of House assistant Head of House who will remain with the same group of students throughout years 7-11.

Form Tutors see the students in their care every morning and expert support for those who need it comes from access to counselling as well as attendance and behaviour specialists and regular drop-ins provided by the school nurse service.



Chadwick's Kitchen

Our award winning in-house catering team Chadwick's Kitchen, provide catering services across the Trust. We use fresh ingredients to prepare healthy and nutritionally balanced meals each day. The majority of our menus are homemade by our chefs in our kitchens. Staff are trained to accommodate medical diets and work in partnership with parents to ensure these needs are met. As part of the Trust's commitment to sustainability, we regularly review food miles and continue to work to reduce food waste.

Parents/Carers can pay for school meals using ParentPay, and can view meal choices and account balance online. This operates via a biometric (finger scanning) process, improving efficiency and removing the need for cash. Students entitled to free meals are allowed to purchase food to the value of a free school meal allowance daily. Students also have the option to bring a packed lunch (nuts or nut-based products aren't permitted). Find out more: www.bccet.org.uk/chadwicks-kitchen/



Enrichment

Outstanding opportunities

We encourage all of our students to become involved in the co-curricular life of the school, as we are confident that it will not only enrich their time at school, but also positively influence their character.

We offer a host of enrichment activities across the curriculum including science, art, music, sport, personal adventure and challenge, literature, performing arts, computing and mathematics.

We have strong links with industry, and a very supportive alumni who regularly return to St. Joseph's to speak to students and inspire them to let their light shine and accomplish great things.

We also run numerous trips and visits abroad including language trips to France, History trips to WWI battlefields, cultural visits to major events such as Wimbledon and horizon broadening experiences such as the ski trip.

Many of our students work towards achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Award each year and we are one of the largest providers in South Tyneside. Students can begin their journey in Year 9 working towards the Bronze Award. Our Year 10 students complete the Silver Award while the Sixth Formers aim for the ultimate challenge, Gold Award. Our expeditions take students to a variety of locations including Northumberland, North Yorkshire and the Lake District.

Music and Drama

St. Joseph's has an active school choir which all students can join and there is an orchestra for our students who take extra instrumental lessons. Students get the opportunity to perform and showcase their skills in a variety of settings including school Masses, performances, open evenings and end of term celebrations. The music department offers a selection of instrumental lessons in guitar, piano, singing, keyboard, violin and drums.

Enrichment

Sport

St. Joseph's has a strong reputation for sporting excellence, with our teams regularly competing and excelling in the latter stages of both regional and national competitions. We have teams competing in XX different sports so there is something for everyone. Co-curricular sports offer a great opportunity for students to build their confidence, develop their communication skills and work as art of a team.

In the Summer term the whole school attends our annual sports day at Monkton Stadium, giving those competing the opportunity to compete in front of their peers, and those in attendance to show support and encouragement to their friends and everyone competing.

We also have many students who become Level 2 sports leaders, who then support numerous activities and festivals within the community. There is a vibrant and competitive programme of inter-house sporting events throughout the year that are extremely well attended by students of all abilities.

Elite Football Academy

St. Joseph's offers a dedicated football training programme for both girls and boys who have a talent for the sport.

Students are given specialised training for young athletes, focussing on long term player development. Professional standard coaching aims to enhance their chances of a career in football, while also guaranteeing them a good education.

The intention is not only to make the most of the young players talents, but also to support their character development including self-discipline, motivation and a professional attitude focused on achievement.

Our Football Academy is run in partnership with Fast Feet Football Academy. Their experienced coaches use a holistic approach to enhance technical skills and tactical understanding, to give each player the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential. To find out more visit www.fastfeetfa.com





Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

We are proud to be part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust.

We are a catholic multi-academy Trust and currently have thirty schools, five secondary schools (four with sixth forms), and twenty five primary schools (14 have nursery provision). The Trust covers the east part of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, we have schools in East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Our family of schools work closely together so that can pupils can flourish. As part of the Trust effective transition is supported by our close relationships, and pupils benefit from a shared, progressive curriculum and common expectations. Find out more: www.bccet.org.uk

**We have 30
schools in our
Trust**

**11,495 pupils
in our family
of schools**

**1,378 staff
across our
Trust**



Careers

The careers programme at St. Joseph's has been thoughtfully planned to ensure that it promotes and supports every student's best possible future to allow their light to shine.

A combination of taught careers lessons through the PSHE curriculum, subject specific careers information skilfully weaved into departmental teaching and opportunities to meet and work with employers from different sectors supports students in making informed decisions about their future.



Our Sixth Form

Once your son or daughter has completed their school journey they can continue their educational journey with us, in familiar surroundings, by joining our Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form provides a welcoming learning environment, an excellent range of courses to suit different pathways, and a range of enrichment opportunities which support students to become the best versions of themselves. To find out more visit www.stjosephs.uk.net/sixth-form



FAITH **F** Have **Faith** in God, yourself and others

LEARNING **L** Be ready to **Learn** by engaging in the classroom everyday

ATTITUDE **A** Rise to challenges with a positive **Attitude**

MUTUAL RESPECT **M** **Respect** our community of St. Joseph's supporting and celebrating others

ENRICHMENT **E** Engage in **Enrichment** and charity work

Let your light shine
Matthew 5:16

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