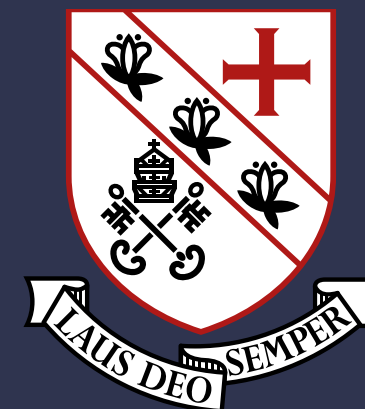




# St Joseph's Catholic College



# Prospectus

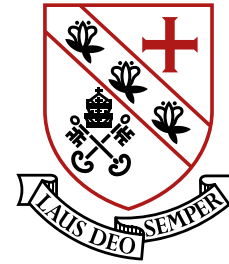


## Our Vision:

*The College offers an education with a solid foundation of Christian values. We expect the very best from each and every student and seek to be a community where all are valued. The College motto, Laus Deo Semper (praise to God always), underpins all relationships in the College. We praise God by finding the best in others and treating each person with dignity as a child of God.*



# Welcome



## Welcome to St. Joseph's Catholic College. It is a special place with a proud history and an exciting future.

A question I ask parents new to the College is: what do you want for your child? There are many answers, but they usually include the wish for them to be happy and to do well. That is what we aim to achieve for every young person who joins our community here at St. Joseph's.

We offer a safe environment with outstanding facilities. It is a place where the uniqueness of each individual is cherished and where

all students are challenged to achieve their very best.

To prepare them for their future, we also seek to build in our students a spiritual awareness, self-confidence, strength of character and an enterprising spirit. Visitors to St. Joseph's often comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere in the College and how welcoming they find the environment.

Please come and see for yourself the work that we do and the developments that are taking place. You will see that being part of St. Joseph's means looking towards the future with excitement and a philosophy of continuous improvement for the benefit of all our students.

We look forward to welcoming you to our College community.

*Paul Hughes, Executive Principal*

St. Joseph's Catholic College offers its students a first class education within the family of Catholic Church Schools. Students are prepared educationally and spiritually to make a significant contribution to society. I am privileged to be Chair of Governors at St. Joseph's.

*Canon John Cunningham*

## Our Purpose:

*We believe that every student is unique, with infinite potential to grow and develop, and we aim to work in partnership with home, the parish and the wider community to prepare every child for a future in which they are able to make a positive contribution to society.*

*For every student at the College, we aim to offer them a secure foundation of learning, promoting aspiration and achievement. We are a fully inclusive, multicultural College committed to the individual, yet still determined to meet the needs and interests of all.*





## Academic Life and Learning Environment

The primary purpose of our curriculum is to help each individual to develop fully as a complete person. We endeavour to enable true growth so that each of our young people will make a positive contribution to the common good. This means that we cater not only for the intellectual, but for the physical, spiritual, social and moral growth of the individual.

“A culture of working together exists to ensure that students receive a highly effective educational experience.”

“The range of subjects students study is broad and balanced. Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is of a high quality.”

“The work in pupils’ books shows that teachers have high expectations of what they can achieve... pupils take pride in their work and present it to a high standard.”

*Ofsted*

We aim to provide a curriculum that is broad, balanced and appropriate to the needs of the individual, whilst also preparing each student for the next phase of education or training after taking their GCSEs. We offer students the opportunity to grow and develop their talents and abilities throughout their time with us.

Our students are successful in a wide range of areas, achieving at the highest levels, with some students gaining entry to top universities such as Oxford. Some students choose to take vocational and technical routes, being offered highly prized apprenticeships and in-house training with locally-based international companies. St. Joseph’s students are always sought after and valued in Swindon’s business community.

Such diversity in student destinations reflects the inclusive ethos of the College and the fact that we aim to support all students, equipping them with a solid education which is the foundation for success in adult life.

At St. Joseph’s, we firmly believe in meeting the individual needs of all our students, whether they have English as an additional language, are gifted and talented, have special educational needs or are young carers. The College has dedicated specialists in all these areas, who work with parents, carers and students to ensure that they have the support they require.

We also educate our students about the wealth of opportunities that are available to them after

their GCSEs. Our comprehensive Careers Information and Guidance programme provides chances for students to meet a wide range of employers and occupations.

The learning environment at St. Joseph’s is modern and well-maintained. All our classrooms have interactive whiteboards and our specialist rooms (such as the art studios, science laboratories, drama studio, music rooms and ICT suites) have the most up-to-date facilities, including specifically adapted equipment for the physically disabled. We have nine Science laboratories, configured with islands for experiments and fully equipped to meet all the full range of course requirements for external examinations and beyond.



“St. Joseph’s is a great learning environment; it has approachable teachers that have helped me to excel beyond my own expectations.

I feel as though I’ve really realised my potential here.”

*Student*



“Students appreciate the high level of individual academic and pastoral support that they receive.”

“The College ensures that every student... is provided with the support to enable them to be successful.”

*Ofsted*

## Ethos, Values and Pastoral Care

We believe that every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value, created in the image of God. This value is not dependent on an individual's age, abilities, social acceptability or any other characteristic, meaning that every person in our College community is valued.

Collective worship is informed by scripture, church, teaching respect for the rule of law and democracy in Britain. We make no apologies for explicitly expounding what some may call traditional values which call upon us as a community to respect ourselves, respect others and respect our environment.

The Religious Education, Citizenship and Life Skills programmes of study help to provide students with an understanding of the political, legal and economic function of an adult society and to develop a social and moral awareness. It is about enabling people to reflect critically on issues in society and have the knowledge to make a difference for themselves and their communities, locally and globally.

Life Skills incorporates the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme of

study, ensuring that young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and into the future. This will include work on anti-bullying, keeping safe on the internet, sex and relationships education, drugs, physical and mental health, social and economic wellbeing, careers and community cohesion.

Our Pastoral Team includes a dedicated student manager for each year group, who is focused on providing the right care for every student. Along with the form tutor and the Head of Pastoral, they will guide our young people through the problems and opportunities they face.

All of our staff want students to leave our College with good academic qualifications, personal resilience and a sense of spirituality and moral responsibility for the consequences of their decisions on the lives of others.





# The St. Joseph's Experience

Whilst there are expected similarities between St. Joseph's and any other secondary school, we do have certain characteristics that mean we are able to offer an experience for your child that is different to any other in North Wiltshire.

“The Catholic faith... forms a key part of the school's identity. This is a school where pupils respect others and... work harmoniously with each other in a purposeful way.”

*Ofsted*

As a Catholic College, our faith is important and its values inform our actions as a community. Students are taught the benefits of reflection through daily acts of prayer and worship, which help to develop the habits of reviewing, processing and improving upon all our actions.

This spiritual life has an outward expression in the work of our Chaplaincy Team, which comprises of College staff and the student body. This team leads the charity work, an important feature of our lives in which all students participate. It encourages us to consider the conditions in which others live and to do something constructive to help them. Annually the College selects different charities to support, influenced by the College's work in the community in the previous year.

Whilst at St. Joseph's, the Chaplaincy Team offers all students the opportunity to attend a residential retreat at Kintbury, as well as the chance to attend conferences with students from other schools in the Diocese. A particular highlight in our calendar is the annual Mass at Clifton Cathedral. Similarly, in the College, we have an annual whole

College Mass, which is important to us all in our community.

Additionally, the College's vibrant Performing Arts productions provide some of the highlights of our year. With an established tradition of producing annual musical theatre productions such as *The Lion King*, *Bugsy Malone* and *A Night at the Musicals*, students of all ages and abilities participate in large scale productions, often with over 200 hundred students taking part. We pride ourselves on giving everyone a chance to be a star! From orchestras to Rock School, from classical dance to street dance, from individual singing performances to large choirs: there is something for everyone, so that all can develop the skills and confidence from the sheer joy of performance. You could even join our list of students who have won inter-school competitions in the town.

Students who enjoy their sport will also be challenged as they enjoy their activities. We have highly successful teams for netball, football, rounders, cricket, rugby and athletics. These teams not only play locally, but go on tour to





play at county and regional level. A proportionally high number of our students go on to apprenticeships with professional football clubs, or compete in their chosen sports at national and international level. All of this finds its basis in the skills of team work, dedication and resilience that are promoted in all activities at St. Joseph's.

An intrinsic part of the St. Joseph's offer is our participation in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. A number of our students will have gained both the Bronze and Silver awards before leaving St. Joseph's in Year 11, which is a significant achievement unmatched by many other institutions. A large number of our students go on to achieve the highly prized Gold award.

Subject areas also offer extra-curricular opportunities. Each week, students are able to attend enrichment activities that range from performance and sport to creative writing, art, scientific exploration, crafts, war games . . . the list is endless and is determined by what the students request! There are local and regional competitions, such as the Maths Challenge and the Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition. Different subject areas offer the chance to go on trips, such as Geography field trips,

History trips to European battlefields, trips to London art galleries and museums: all of which are designed to offer an extra dimension to your child's education.

However, the academic purpose of the College is of great importance to both students and staff. This is recognised termly in our Celebration Assemblies for each year group. Awards are given in each subject for the students who have invested the most effort or completed a particularly excellent piece of work in that term. Students who have received the most commendations or have 100% attendance are also recognised. These assemblies can be quite lengthy, indicating just how successful our students are!

To find out more about what it is to be a student at St. Joseph's, come to an open evening or visit the College and ask our students for yourself.



## College Policies:

St. Joseph's is a College with a clear vision. To ensure we support all in our College we have developed a range of policies, which are available on our website,

[www.stjosephscollege.net](http://www.stjosephscollege.net)

**Curriculum Policy**

**Equality and Diversity Policy**

**Special Educational Needs Policy**

**Behaviour Management Policy**

**Attendance Policy**

**Uniform Policy**

**Gifted and Talented Policy**



# Our College Community

Our community is founded on the Christian values expressed in the Gospels: peace, justice and love. These values underpin everything that we do within the school, binding us together as a community. We consider each persona as special and unique and we recognise and respond to their potential for growth.



The continuing success of our school is based on the positive partnership between parents and the college. The active involvement of parents in the life of the school brings a warmth and vitality to our community and we recognise the crucial role which parents have to play in the education of their children. We believe that parents choose St. Joseph's because they share in our insistence on the highest standards of behaviour and self-discipline.

Parents choosing our College share our expectation that all students will work hard, show respect for themselves, pride in their appearance, courtesy for others and respect for the environment.

Research shows that you interest and involvement in your child's education is more important than anything else in helping your child progress along the path of their infinite potential.

The College will work with you to ensure your child is achieving at every stage of their education and you will be given access to an online resource which includes key information about your child's progress. We will also keep you informed of wider events through our website and Twitter account.

We want you as involved as possible in your child's progress through their secondary school experience, through specific events and evenings as well as on a more day-to-day basis.



“St. Joseph’s is more than just a college or a school: it is a family. Students are not a statistic or a grade; they are individuals.

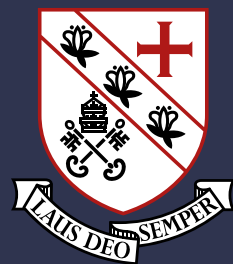
As a teacher I treat them uniquely and try my very best to encourage them in all areas; encouraging them in areas of strength and helping improve where they need to.

It is a wonderful feeling to be part of such a diverse and happy community.”

*Mrs Mobey, Drama and RE Teacher*

 @StJosephsCC

 St. Joseph's Catholic College



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