All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust

JOHN F KENNEDY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • SERVE

A Guide to our Sixth Form

September 2027 entry

Dear Student

Making the choice about where to continue your studies after GCSEs is an important decision. We are delighted that you are considering joining the John F Kennedy Catholic School Sixth Form.

Our Catholic ethos inspires all that we do and centres on our understanding of the uniqueness of the individual and the development of the whole person. Supported by the strong pastoral system that is central to life at JFK, the Sixth Form provides the opportunity for our students to continue their education whilst also giving them support in their personal development and ongoing faith journeys as they make the transition into adulthood.

We welcome students seeking to promote and sustain our aim of JFK being a centre of excellence. With our wonderful Sixth Form facilities and record of results we are confident that we can offer you a successful route to Higher Education or employment.

Young people who join our Sixth Form benefit from all the opportunities that come from being part of a large, successful school but also the additional opportunities available for leadership and service to the community.

We are committed to supporting the success of every student whether they originate from JFK or from another school in the local area or beyond. Close monitoring of progress and individual support give our young people every chance of achieving their ambitions. It is this recipe of striving for academic excellence, belonging to a strong community and provision of enriching activities that makes our Sixth Form such an exciting place in which to work and learn.

Mr Paul Neves

Headteacher

The Sixth Form Team

Mr P Neves - Headteacher

Mr Neves has overall responsibility for our Sixth Form. His job is to ensure there is a balanced curriculum in the Sixth Form and to monitor the progress and attainment of all Sixth Form students. He works closely with Mr Joyce to ensure that all students achieve their target grades.

Mr Joyce - Director of Sixth Form

Mr Joyce oversees the organisation of Year 12 and Year 13. His job is to oversee the progress of all students in the Sixth Form and support students throughout the two year courses. Prior to becoming Director of Sixth Form, Mr Joyce was an Achievement Leader in Key Stage 3 and 4.
jjoyce@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Mr Wainman - Assistant Director of Sixth Form

Mr Wainman supports Mr Joyce in the organisation of Year 12 and 13. More specifically, oversees the Extended Project Qualification, Enrichment Programme and Oxbridge applications. Mr Wainman is also our Lead Teacher for Psychology.
jwainman@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Preston - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Preston oversees the option choices and raising achievement.

Mrs Whittaker – Sixth Form Achievement Assistant

Mrs Whittaker is here to assist in the general running of the Sixth Form. Her experience in the role ensures that students are well supported and looked after. She has specific responsibility for attendance and safeguarding.
kwhittaker@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Personal Tutors

These will be allocated to students at the start of Year 12 and are central to the pastoral care of our students. Personal tutors will lead PSHE lessons once a week and will also have one on one meetings throughout the school year in order to support academic progress and plans beyond Sixth Form.

Why Choose JFK?

✓ Excellent Examination Results

✓ Faith Development

✓ Wide Choice of Courses

✓ Fantastic Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Offer

✓ Outstanding Support and Guidance

✓ Excellent Facilities for Learning

✓ Preparation for your Future

✓ Students feel supported and enjoy being at JFK

With approximately 200 students in our Sixth Form at JFK we are proud to be a good school and aim to be a center of excellence. The 2026 Ofsted inspection confirmed that the sixth form successfully met all expected standard criteria under the new framework. Leaders demonstrate strong ambition by working closely with teaching staff to heighten lesson challenges and align assessment standards, directly enabling students to produce high-calibre work and achieve consistent academic progress. Alongside promoting independent study skills, leaders maintain exceptional pastoral guidance, resulting in strong staff-student relationships built on mutual trust and respect. Furthermore, the sixth-form student leadership team works collaboratively with senior leaders to influence school policy while organising impactful charity drives and local community initiatives that empower students to see their positive influence on wider society.

Our school Mission Statement is summarised by three words - **Inspire Achieve Serve.**

We **inspire** our students through engaging teaching combined with a comprehensive programme of enrichment. We believe that creating interest leads to an appetite for learning for life.

We deliver high quality academic teaching in outstanding facilities and **achieve** excellent results and create a desire for continued learning. We are very proud of our Sixth Form and the outstanding achievements of our students.

To **serve** through volunteering and leadership are integral to the Sixth Form students daily life. They are the role models for the rest of the school and ambassadors for the school in the wider community.

Examination Results

The vast majority of our 2026 cohort successfully attained places at Higher Education institutions. This represented a range of courses at colleges and universities across the country, including places at prestigious Russell Group universities. Six students were supported through the Oxbridge programme looking to study mathematics, dentistry and medicine. Two students successfully applied to study medicine. Students also gained positions on competitive apprenticeship courses, whilst others directly entered employment.

In 2026:

14% of all grades were A* - A (including Dist* and Dist)

37% of all grades were A*- B (including Dist* and Dist)

73% of all grades were A*- C (including Dist* to Merit)

86% students achieving 3+ A levels/Equivalent

91% Students achieving first/insurance choice at University

Faith Development

The Sixth Form provides a rigorous academic focus but also an environment which will encourage and support the spiritual and moral development of students, helping them to grow towards full Christian maturity.

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry team: REaction includes Sixth Form students and is led by Callum Moore, our Leader of Youth Ministry. They are actively involved in the life of the JFK Sixth Form in various ways. The Chaplaincy team is available to all students for help and advice, and this is not limited to spiritual matters only.

CAFOD Leadership Programme

Our sixth form students are invited to participate in the CAFOD Leadership Programme, this is organised by Callum Moore and involves training by CAFOD in London.

Sanctuary

We are fortunate to have the Parish Church of St Mark on the school site. Students can use this as a peaceful place to reflect. In addition to the regular student-led weekly masses and House Masses the church is used for lunchtime worship activities.

Choosing Sixth Form Subjects

The choices for Sixth Form study at JFK will depend on a number of carefully considered factors. GCSE results will play a significant role in the choices, but there should also be consideration of what subjects might be required for possible career paths.

Whatever the future plans may be: University, College, Apprenticeship or work options, we encourage students and parents/carers to seek out careers advice to ensure that the choices made are the ones that will help best progression to the next stage in education, training or employment. Importantly, choices should also be ones that students will be committed to and ones that they will enjoy.

Qualifications and Entry Requirements

All students are required to have a minimum average point score of 4.5. Where applicable, students may be advised to study vocational subjects alongside advanced level qualifications. Students will also need to meet requirements of each subject they wish to take. Please refer to the Subject Guide booklet which contains information about which subjects we offer and their entry requirements. All students are expected to take 3 subjects. If students wish to take Further Maths they may take four subjects over the two years.

Alongside the three subjects students will also have the opportunity to study:

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Students submit an application/proposal in December of Year 12 if they would like to take the EPQ. There will be up to 30 places available. The EPQ is equivalent to half an A level and requires students to produce a single piece of work of their own choosing, showing evidence of planning, preparation, research and working independently. Students are guided and supported by the Sixth Form Team. *It is highly valued by universities and employers.

Subjects and Courses

The Sixth Form intends to offer the following subjects starting in September 2027. These are subject to change depending on uptake.

- Art & Design - Fine Art
- Biology
- Business
- Business BTEC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology: Product Design
- Drama & Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport BTEC
- Travel and Tourism BTEC

Enrichment and Extra-Curricular

Enrichment

To ensure that students are provided the best support in extending their learning and experiences, we offer our ‘Enrichment Programme’ Every fortnight in the main school hall, students from both Year 12 and Year 13 are provided with talks from both internal and external speakers that focus on a wide range of topics. These cover everything from politics to careers inspiration, and have included guest speakers from the world of sports, business, and academia.

Perspectives through Core RE

Outside of the A Level academic structure, students will follow a programme of Core RE study that encourages discussion and opinion on moral and life issues based on their faith. Topics will include Moral Decision Making, Poverty and a Christian Response, Sex and Relationships. Successful completion leads to an additional Level 3 qualification with NOCN.

Real Life Experiences

Students are offered a chance to participate in a number of activities including Dragons Apprentice and Sports Leaders Award. Additionally they are encouraged to seek work experience in their possible future career.

Volunteering

An important aspect in developing students for the rigorous changes of adult life is experience of leadership and volunteering opportunities. All students in Year 12 are encouraged to take on one of the many opportunities and challenges available, both in school and in our wider community. All of our Year 12 students are expected to volunteer in a Key Stage 3 lesson one hour per fortnight whilst further opportunities include: Language Leaders, House Captain, REaction, Peer Mentoring, Reading Club and Maths Clubs.

Outstanding Support and Guidance

We strive hard to create a welcoming and inclusive learning environment which promotes a strong culture of learning, equality and respect where students are supported to be their best. This is demonstrated in the excellent exam results achieved by our past students.

Student Support Team

The JFK Sixth Form team is based in the Sixth Form Office on the Bridge. This is the hub and the first place that students can go to for help with general enquiries and support.

We regularly have students who show potential for Oxford or Cambridge and we are experienced at guiding these students throughout the rigorous selection process.

16-19 Bursary Fund

For students and their families who may be experiencing financial hardship, this fund can offer financial support. It is administered by the Sixth Form Office and all cases are dealt with in a confidential manner. If students have difficulty in meeting costs associated with their studies (e.g. books, equipment, trips and visits) parents/carers, on behalf of the student, may submit an application. Application forms can be found in this pack or can be downloaded from the Sixth Form area of the school website.

Futures

In addition to some of the guest speakers for Enrichment regarding employment and apprenticeships, all students attend a university information fair during Year 12. This allows them to ask informed questions directly to any university that they might be considering. Students seeking information and guidance about career paths have access to our Careers lead and a Services for Young People (SfYP) advisor. For those students who wish to apply for an apprenticeship or employment we will provide support to help through each stage of the application.

Study Support

When students join us in Year 12 they all participate in a programme of sessions during PSHE that shows them tips and techniques on how to work smarter, not harder. Despite having achieved success at GCSE we know that the depth of study required at A Level combined with the new challenge of managing independent study periods means that all students benefit from learning improved study techniques.

Excellent Facilities for Learning

The physical environment of the school is one that promotes an effective learning culture. We have a high level of IT access with Wi-Fi throughout the school.

The key designated areas for Sixth Formers are:

The Bridge

This is at the center of the school and is the hub of Sixth Form life. It is a space that provides students with a ‘quiet’ study area with Wi-Fi for personal devices. It is here that the Sixth Form office is located and morning ‘briefings’ take place, where news items are shared, student success is celebrated and timely information is disseminated.

Library

The library has over 8,000 titles including books for study and leisure. It has a bank of laptops that students can borrow for personal study. The Library has areas for ‘silent’ study and areas with sofas that can be used for group work. Sixth Form students are welcome to use the library in their independent study periods.

Jack’s Coffee Shop

This coffee shop and lunch facility is only for use by Sixth Form students and staff. Students can use this to refuel their energy and share some social time with friends.

Useful Information for Parents and Carers

Parent Partnership

Whilst we aim to foster increasing independence and self confidence in our Sixth Form students, parents/carers play a vital supporting role in helping to achieve this. We encourage parents/carers to attend all consultation evenings and participate in student performance appraisals when necessary.

Details of these evenings and meetings will be published on the induction days and on the school website. However, parents/carers are welcome to contact members of the JFK Sixth Form Team at any time if they need help or advice in supporting their child.

Supporting your Child

It is important that for Higher Education information and guidance parents and students visit the UCAS website at www.ucas.com. Look at potential courses offered by different universities and ensure that the subject choices made will lead to planned destinations. Students will be instructed on how to access the UCAS website in the spring term.

Other useful websites

Apprenticeships - Being an apprentice gives students the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and develop professional skills, while earning a salary, inside some of Britain's best companies. www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

The Uni Guide - The free & independent way to search & compare UK degree courses & universities from www.theuniguide.co.uk

Russell Group – This is a group of leading UK universities that produce an excellent guide for matching appropriate A Level choices to particular degrees. The guide is called Informed Choices. www.informedchoices.ac.uk

For further information on our Sixth Form, you can access our Sixth Form Handbook here:

Attendance

Attendance plays a crucial role in achievement. Experience clearly demonstrates that excellent attendance is fundamental in achieving academic success. Attendance is monitored closely by the JFK Sixth Form team and issues are dealt with before they become problems. Parents/Carers will be contacted by the school 'In-Touch' messaging service should the need arise.

Our school day begins at 8.50 with registration and Form Period. One morning in the two week timetable there will be Year 12 Briefing in place of Form Period which allows the year group to meet together to share key messages and celebrate success.

Lessons start at 9:10 and morning break is between 11:10 and 11:35, lunch is between 13:35 and 14:30. Sixth Form students have the privilege of being allowed off-site during lunch but must remain on the premises during their study periods.

The school day ends at 3.30 p.m.

In order to maintain curriculum balance and teach 5 periods of 60 minutes per day, the timetable operates over a 10-day/2-week cycle.

Private Independent Study and Directed Study

All students are to remain on the school site during private study periods and use one of the facility options provided for students.

The demands of sixth form study require that students will need to complete a significant amount of private non-directed and independent study, this is around 5 hours per week, per subject. Students are advised to create a study plan for all assignments to ensure that they are handed in on time.

As part of the students programme of study they will be expected to attend a minimum of two hours per week of directed study. This is where the students will be registered in the library and will complete independent study within this allocated time.

Home Study

The opportunity for home study becomes available to students in both Year 12 and Year 13. Home study is allocated to those students who demonstrate excellent attendance, attitude to learning and attainment throughout the course of the year. Home study is only allocated to those students who we feel would benefit from this way of working and must be agreed with parents/carers.

Term Dates 2027-2028 (Provisional)

Autumn Term 2027

Term Starts	**1st September**
Half Term	**25th October - 29th November**
Term Ends	**17th December**

Spring Term 2028

Term Starts	**4th January**
Half Term	**14th – 18th February**
Term Ends	**31st March**

Summer Term 2028

Term Starts	**18th April**
Half Term	**29th May – 2nd June**
Term Ends	**24th July**

Training days and occasional days to be arranged.
All information is correct at the time of publication

How to Apply to the JFK Sixth Form

Step 1 – Now

Consider the pathway to follow and undertake some research into the possibilities and options. Look at the entry requirements for this preferred pathway and decide if Sixth Form study is the right option. Then decide which subjects you wish to study and complete the online initial interest form which should be submitted by **Friday 4th December 2026**. The application form will be available in mid January and will close mid February 2027.

Step 2 – From now until June

Focus on GCSE subjects and create a study plan that balances the needs of getting the best grades and maintaining a healthy perspective on social life. The Year 11 teachers and pastoral team will advise you on best practice.

Step 3 – Attend the Sixth Form Transition Day

The transition day will be held in the summer term. This is an important day for students continuing their education into Sixth Form. Prospective students will receive information about Sixth Form Life and gain an insight into lessons for their chosen subjects. Details of the subject summer tasks will also be issued in this induction session.

Step 4 – August GCSE Results Day

Confirmation of subject choices are to be made on the day by completing the form enclosed with the results. If changes to subjects wish to be made, this is possible by appointment with the Sixth Form Team

Step 5 – Sixth Form Induction Day

In September students will spend a day completing induction where they will be allocated to forms, meet the Sixth Form team and participate in a programme of activities until lunchtime with timetabled lessons starting the following day.

Changes in choices

Students may change their choices at any point until the end of September 2026, as long as they meet the requirements. After this time too much will have been completed to allow any changes.

2027 SUBJECT ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Subject	Prior attainment at GCSE	Grade required
Art & Design - Fine Art	Art	6
Biology	Science Mathematics	6 6
Business	English Language Mathematics	5 5
Business BTEC (Single Award)	English Language or Mathematics	4
Chemistry	Science Mathematics	6 6
Computer Science	Computer Science	5
Design & Technology: D&T	D&T or Engineering Mathematics	5 5
Drama & Theatre Studies	Drama English Language	5 5
Economics	English Language Mathematics	5 6
English Literature	English Language English Literature	5 5
French	French	6
Further Mathematics	Mathematics	8
Geography	English Language Mathematics Science	5 5 5
History	History English Language	5 5
Mathematics	Mathematics	7
Music	GCSE Music Grade 6/ ABRSM Grade 5 Theory - Merit Performance Skills Of Grade 5 Practical	6 5
Physics	Science Mathematics Maths A level should also be studied	6 7
Politics	English Language	5
Psychology	English Language Mathematics Science or Biology	5 5 5
Religious Studies	Religious Studies English Language	5 5
Sociology	English Language	5
Spanish	Spanish	6

Sport BTEC	English Language or Mathematics	4
Travel and Tourism BTEC	English Language or Mathematics	4

Please note any subject may be withdrawn if low student uptake doesn't make the course viable to run, due to this we will ask you to choose a reserve subject that you may be interested in studying.