

St Joseph's College




Senior Prospectus



being
our
best





We believe that education is not a rigid process, but **a personal journey shaped around the needs of every child**

We don't all learn in the same way; nor do we all want to learn the same things.

The balance of education at St Joseph's College ensures each child has every opportunity and all the necessary support to find the right direction along their chosen path.



welcome



We set high standards for everyone in our community and we expect your daughter or son to 'be their best'. Parents, pupils and staff work together to ensure our pupils gain confidence without arrogance, are team players who will stand up for what is right in life, and are caring and compassionate members of society.

The College's beautiful grounds provide a surprising oasis of calm above the market town of Ipswich, where our pupils can enjoy their school days and mature in a safe and supportive environment. Ours is a very special and friendly community, where academic achievement, outstanding pastoral care and broad extra-curricular provision are underpinned by a distinctive Christian ethos capturing the spirit of our 17th century founder, John Baptist de La Salle, the patron saint of teachers.

Life at St Joseph's is challenging, enjoyable and very busy. Do visit us and experience first hand the strong community spirit and purposefulness, which draw particular comment from all our visitors. We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our pride in our College and the achievements of our pupils.



D. Clarke

Mrs D Clarke
Principal

We want your children to be the best they can be, wherever life takes them

The ethos of St Joseph's breeds confidence, balanced with a strong sense of responsibility.

Diversity of opportunity is an important element in creating balance in learning at the school. This extraordinary range of options – encompassing clubs and societies, leadership roles, academic extension, adventurous training, sports, the Arts, travel and charity work – prepares children for the future.

Our belief in a similar balance of emotional and spiritual development gives St Joseph's children a solid platform for life's challenges.

As a result, our students excel in more than just examinations: they become well-rounded and productive members of society.

You will notice it when you meet them for yourself.





The school's ethos comes from a Christian educational tradition. It adds to the strength of the community and builds the self-belief of every child. And in the Christian spirit, we embrace students, staff and visitors from all faiths and backgrounds.



But what is it really like here?





A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a white shirt, dark blue trousers, and a black backpack with a yellow floral pattern, stands in a grassy field. She is reaching up towards a large tree whose trunk and branches are wrapped in numerous colorful streamers (red, yellow, blue, green). The streamers are blowing in the wind, creating a dynamic, flowing effect. The background shows a green lawn and some trees under a bright sky.

Space
to think



Life can get busy, with hobbies, homework, friends and family to juggle around the school day, but St Joseph's College has space to take 'time out'. Its 60 acres of woodland, playing fields and gardens feels like a charmed world apart, but the school remains easily accessible, being close to the A12 and A14. Minibuses shuttle pupils to and from Ipswich rail station and serve most major hubs within commuting reach.

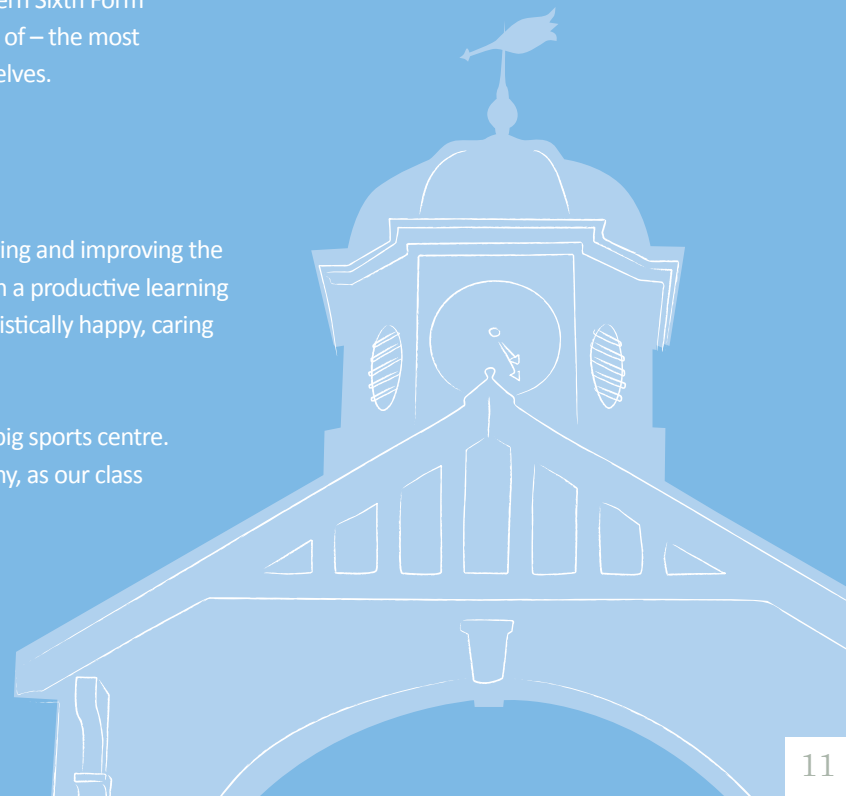
Energetic Year 7s can have an impromptu game of rounders, while exam-weary teenagers can compare notes sitting under the shade of our magnificent trees. When peace is needed, our welcoming Chapel is always open for quiet meditation and reflection.

Elegant Grade II listed buildings sit comfortably beside more modern structures. Their beauty is being further enhanced as the College's exciting Building for the Future plans continue to come to fruition, including the recently opened technology centre and our ultra-modern Sixth Form accommodation, designed for – and with the approval of – the most discriminating of consumers, the Sixth Formers themselves.

Our students feel at home

Once a home, always a home, we say. As well as repairing and improving the fabric, we aim to preserve the spirit of a family home in a productive learning environment. Like all the best homes, ours is characteristically happy, caring and supportive. (Scary just isn't our thing.)

Unlike most homes, however, ours comes with a very big sports centre. Many of the other rooms are large too, which is an irony, as our class sizes are not!



Individual school, independent learners

Our students achieve success in more ways than can ever be measured or graded. But does our academic performance match our pastoral care?

We expect the very best examinations results that each child is capable of – but no more. We are not a hothouse. Whatever your child's academic ability, they will achieve their full potential at St Joseph's.

Children who are gifted and talented in one or more areas have their strengths nurtured and developed. Likewise, St Joseph's has an excellent learning support department which identifies and supports specific and general learning differences and needs.

We teach our children how to be independent learners who take responsibility for their own learning.

They are taught to review their own progress and encouraged to share successes with others through assemblies and formal prize-giving events.

A bespoke profile is drawn up for each pupil entering the senior school. This is used to nurture their academic, sporting and creative abilities and aspirations through a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum.



We celebrate the Arts and value the individual

In a smaller, family-oriented school there's no room for stereotypes. There's room here for sports students to be good at art and academic high flyers to excel on the stage. So when it comes to the main school production, everyone rises to the challenge and takes a part – even the toughest prop-forward.

At St Joseph's we don't see the Arts as just an after-school activity, but rather as a potential career path. The Arts Council of England has recognised our commitment with the awarding of Artsmark status. Our annual Arts Festival has an outstanding reputation amongst the local community for being inspirational and inclusive.

All our students pursue and benefit from the creative arts. For those who demonstrate particular talent and enthusiasm, this early start is vital. Our facilities, specialist staff and equipment allow them to get 'ahead of the pack' in the highly competitive creative and performing arts jobs market.



Art and Design

Digital Mac media arts suite
Arts Festival week

Dance

Dance studio
Dance performances
and workshops
Annual school musical

Music

Auditorium
Music recitals, choir, jazz, choral and
chamber music performances
Music technology suite

Drama

Drama showcases
Poetry recitals
Debating and public speaking
LAMDA affiliation



Faster, higher, stronger... and for fun

Competitive and recreational sport has always had a special place in the life of pupils at St Joseph's. We strongly believe sport develops teamwork and instils self-confidence and leadership skills, as well as providing exercise and competition.

A good number of pupils have gone on to represent England and their own home nations in their chosen sport. Others, of course, are happy to be able to put 'recreational runner' at the bottom of their CV. The College hosts national and regional rugby, cricket, netball and hockey festivals and tournaments.

Our first-rate sports facilities are on-site, allowing children to access games pitches during break and lunchtimes – not just during scheduled games lessons. And proximity to the school buildings has the added benefit of a steady flow of coffee for parents shivering on the sidelines during matches.





Archery Athletics Badminton Basketball Cricket
Equestrianism (off site) Football Gliding Golf Handball
Hockey Judo Karate Netball Rounders Rowing (indoor)
Rugby Sailing (at Alton Water) Squash Swimming (off
site) Table tennis Tennis Trampolining Volleyball (not
the beach variety, sadly)

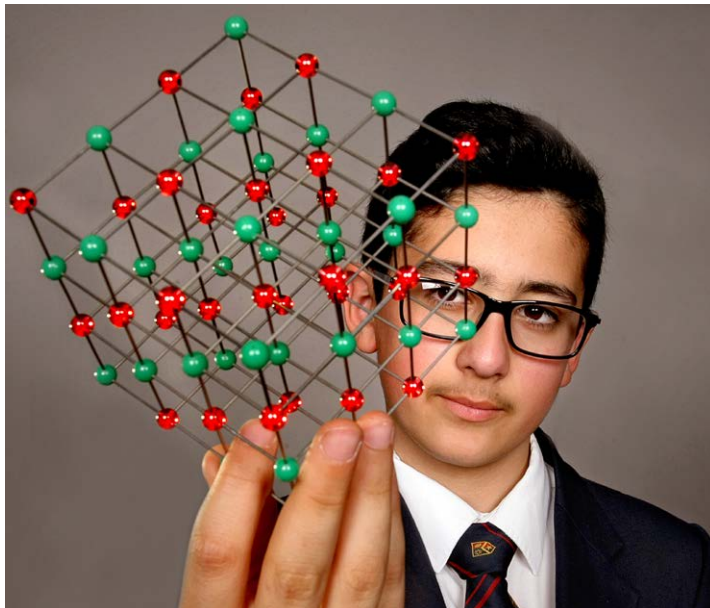




Every week is
packed with
opportunity.



A week in the life of the school





We give you space
to develop ideas
and talents.



being our best



Support and
encouragement are
all around, not just
from staff but the
whole St Joseph's
family.



Teenagers

You can take ours anywhere

It's in the Sixth Form that intellectual exercise and self-discipline are finely honed, as we prepare our young adults for university and future careers.

But we give our Sixth Formers more than the opportunity to achieve top examinations results; we give them responsibility for helping to set the tone and ethos of the College.

Teenagers will always be teenagers. But we're proud that ours have the gentleness to help our infant children over the hurdles at sports day and the compassion to make food parcels for the homeless.

Young people progress at their own pace, and at St Joseph's we aim to give them all the tools they need to find their own direction. We encourage our Sixth Formers to find their voice by taking every opportunity to gain experience in public speaking. From reading in Chapel, to welcoming important guests, they eventually become accomplished at this important life skill.

All this exposure and responsibility leads to the 'confidence without arrogance' that our young people are known for.

We offer a wide variety of A-level courses and General National Vocational Qualifications. We endeavour to 'tailor' a selection of courses to meet the needs and wishes of each individual student. All this is supplemented by extra-curricular activities, such as sports tours, charity work in developing world countries and the popular (if high-spirited!) May Ball.



The majority of our Sixth Formers go on to study at university. We are proud of them – and we're equally proud of those who take 'time out' to travel or volunteer on Developing World projects, including lending a hand at our partner primary school in Kenya. We're confident that, wherever they end up, our leavers go on to lead productive lives and enrich the lives of others.

Sixth Form courses

A-levels in Art (Fine Art), Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Drama & Theatre Studies, Economics, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Photography, Psychology, Physics, Product Design, Sociology and Spanish. General National Vocational Qualifications in Applied Science, Business Studies, Creative Media, ICT and Sport.



Our new state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre has been designed with end-user input to provide the perfect place to nurture individual interests and enjoy growing intellectual, personal and social independence. Students are given all the support they need to make the transition from school to university.

During their time in the Sixth Form, students will have the opportunity to visit a university, giving them a flavour of university life.



Be what you want to be...

Former students remain a valued part
of the St Joseph's community.



Richard Aoyade, writer, TV presenter and director. Best known for his role as Maurice Moss in The IT Crowd



Poppy Davidson, Editor of Taste East Anglia magazine



Matt Henry, New Zealand national team and Canterbury Cricket Club



Lewis Ludlam, Northampton Saints and England Under 20 rugby player



Laura Aspinall , midwife at Ipswich Hospital



Sherry Danlin Liao is the Deputy General Manager of Laurel Films, in charge of the Project Development Department



Patrick Cheung, Ipswich chef-entrepreneur who has now opened a restaurant in the heart of Soho



Chris Mullin, author, journalist, former MP & minister and Regional Chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund



Louise Rickard, played rugby for Wales and currently plays touch rugby for England – as well as being Head of Science at Woodbridge School



Dominick Chilcott, Britain's Ambassador to Ireland. He was previously High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Iran



Dominic Christian, Executive Chairman Aon Benfield and Chief Executive Officer Aon UK Ltd



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