



**St John Plessington Catholic College**  
a Specialist Science, Technology and Humanities College

# Sixth Form Prospectus 2010



*School of the Year Finalist 2009*

*"This is an outstanding school in which exceptional things happen."*

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# Welcome

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce our Sixth Form to you. As you approach the end of your compulsory education you have many important choices to make with a range of opportunities available to you. The next two years should be some of the best years of your life, providing you with memories to last a lifetime. We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form at SJP – students, tutors and teachers alike - not just for all that they achieve but also for all that they do to contribute to our thriving College community. We hope that this prospectus will confirm the reasons why our Sixth Form is such a great place to continue your education.

As a Catholic school, every decision we make and everything we do, places the needs of the individual student first. We are totally committed to providing the very best education we can offer,

not just academic but also extra-curricular. If you are a current student at SJP you will already know that the staff here will go that extra mile for you, but don't be fooled into thinking that Sixth Form life is just "more of the same." Whilst the fundamental ingredients which make us such a successful school are still present, Sixth Form life is very different. You will be given greater privileges and responsibilities, both for your own formation and the well-being of others. You will be taught in smaller groups, have more self-directed study time and will work towards becoming a highly successful, capable and independent learner, ready to tackle the challenges of life after SJP.

Throughout your time with us you will receive the very best pastoral and academic support possible. Sixth Form study has to be challenging and

worthwhile, preparing you for life at University and the workplace but it also has to be enjoyable. Those new to the school in the Sixth Form are welcomed with open arms, make new friends quickly and benefit from all that SJP has to offer.

I hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of life as a Sixth Form student here and make SJP the natural choice for your Sixth Form education.

Mr T Quinn  
Head Teacher

**“We are really proud of our Sixth Formers and hope that your time with us will be happy and successful”**

## We believe...

that SJP can offer you the very best education possible, enabling you to achieve your goals and fulfil your ambitions, whatever they may be. You will learn new skills, grow in confidence, become more independent and more fully developed as an individual and, most importantly, have had a brilliant time in the process.

## You can achieve...

great things through hard work, commitment and dedication. We will offer you outstanding support and guidance during your time with us. Our shared goal is to stimulate and challenge you to use all your gifts positively.

## Our aim is to...

**Inspire** Curiosity, creativity and compassion

**Enrich** Spiritually, socially and culturally

**Empower** Independence, responsibility and confidence

**“The College is like a big happy family where everyone is the same”**

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# Why choose SJP?

## Quality Teaching and Learning

Regardless of what courses you choose, you will be taught by excellent teachers all of whom will go that extra mile to ensure you fulfil your enormous potential. The support and encouragement you will receive from your teachers, tutors, pastoral staff and fellow students is second to none.

## Excellent Choice of Courses

Over 30 courses are offered at SJP. Students can follow courses at AS, A2 and BTEC Levels 2 and 3. It is our expectation that all Level 3 students will take four courses.

## First Class Facilities

The Sixth Form have dedicated facilities including the Basil Hume Sixth Form Centre which houses fully-networked computer and study suites. In addition, a state-of-the-art Sixth Form Zone, with a wide range of recreational and educational

facilities, was opened in September 2009. All classrooms, in line with our Technology College Status, are furnished with the latest in educational technology. In addition, Sixth Form students have access to the library throughout the day which houses computers and multi-media resources. All Sixth Form students have the opportunity to loan their own netbook computer for the duration of their studies.

## Valuable Enrichment Opportunities

Whether it is being elected to the Sixth Form Council, undertaking voluntary service or work experience, playing in a sports team, learning a musical instrument, acting on stage, participating in the pilgrimage to Lourdes or getting involved with sports leadership, there is something for everyone. All of these enrichment activities help you to develop and flourish as an individual.

**“In the Sixth Form the opportunities for curriculum enrichment are a strength that students appreciate”**

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**“Students benefit from an excellent curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations”**

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# Curriculum

At SJP we believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their academic potential.

## LEVEL 3 COURSES (A LEVEL AND EQUIVALENT)

BTEC National Award qualifications are offered alongside more traditional GCE A Levels. These different courses offer a range of assessment opportunities, including exams and coursework. Applied A Levels are aimed at linking your education more closely to the world of work. These courses carry equal weighting in UCAS points to the A Levels.

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Naturally your GCSE results will influence the type of course that you can follow in the Sixth Form. Therefore, success in Year 11 is crucial in opening up the many choices available. Please see the Sixth Form Course Guide for more detailed information about each subject.

*If you are likely to gain at least 5 GCSEs at grade C or above (including some A\*, A or B grades), then you can consider Level 3 courses (A Level and equivalent).*

*If you are likely to gain fewer than 5 GCSEs at grade C or above, then you should be thinking of a one year Level 2 course.*

### GCE AS/A2 Levels

GCE Advanced Subsidiary (AS) is a qualification in its own right, which is taken in Year 12. The AS can also be the first half of a full A Level.

**Students will be expected to take 4 AS courses in Year 12.**

GCE A2 is the second half of the full A Level course and is taken in Year 13. Following a subject at both AS and A2 gives a full A Level qualification. Most GCE A Levels are assessed by examination, although some are more practical in nature and are consequently examined through coursework and practical assignments.

### Applied A Levels

The main method of assessment for these courses is through coursework assignments. This style of study may suit some students who prefer not to rely on performance in end of year examinations. Applied A Levels are qualifications that enable students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in the vocational area they are studying, and that prepare them for both the world of work and progression to higher education. They are designed to equip students with up-to-date knowledge, skills, and understanding of the underpinning principles and processes of the sectors they represent.

### BTEC National

A BTEC National Award is equivalent to A Levels. BTEC courses are assessed through coursework assignments and there is no final examination. This style of study suits students who might not

perform as well in exams but are motivated to complete assessments throughout the year. BTECs are work related qualifications which are designed to meet the needs of employers and also allow for progression to university. Students study real life, work-based case studies and complete a range of projects and assessments. As the assessment is ongoing it allows students to evaluate and improve their own performance.

## LEVEL 2 COURSES (GCSE EQUIVALENT)

We also offer a range of BTEC First Diploma Courses. Like the BTEC National Awards, these courses are suitable for those students who wish to explore a vocational route in their post-16 education. Assessment is by portfolio only – there are no exams – and so these courses suit students who prefer to focus on delivering high quality coursework over the duration of their studies. BTEC First Diploma Courses are ‘Level 2’ courses – this means that they are worth the equivalent of four GCSEs at Grade C or above.

# Resources

The greatest resource we offer is our staff who are some of the most dedicated, innovative and caring professionals in the country. Every single student at SJP matters and no one is left out. There is a more adult relationship between teachers and students in the Sixth Form and lessons are tailored to meet the learning needs of everyone.

Ongoing investment ensures our students enjoy state-of-the-art facilities. The Basil Hume Sixth Form Centre is a dedicated and separate building from the main school which includes a large

resources centre with lots of high-specification computers, wi-fi access and a careers library containing all the necessary information for Higher Education applications or employment opportunities.

The newly-opened Sixth Form Zone acts as a social meeting point and focus for all those in Years 12 and 13, offering comfortable seating, easy access to refreshments and free wi-fi (filtered in line with the internet protection we offer throughout the College).

Every teaching room has an interactive

whiteboard and projector, used to deliver stimulating visual and audio content. All students in our Sixth Form have the opportunity to borrow a netbook on long-term loan for the duration of their studies.

# Courses

More details about each subject are given in the Sixth Form Course Guide and in the leaflets available on the Information Evening or on request. Individual courses will run when sufficient applications have been received. If we do not offer your preferred combination of courses, please make a note of this on your application form and we will make every effort to accommodate your choice. Students working at Level 3 (A Level and equivalent) will work towards 4 AS subjects and continue 3 of those subjects in Year 13.

The subject specifications are also available on the exam board web sites:

AQA [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

OCR [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

Edexcel [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)

WJEC [www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

# Studying at SJP

Sixth Form courses are as challenging as they are rewarding. We recognise that in your pursuit of excellence you will also need exceptional support. You will get the support you need whether SJP is a stepping-stone to university or to employment: your learning goals are our priority.

## Induction Programme

Having completed your GCSE examinations and successfully applied to us, you will begin your programme of induction which will start to prepare you for the demands of Sixth Form life. This is followed up with Parents Evening in the Autumn Term and ongoing sessions covering important areas such as study skills, managing your increased workload successfully, being an effective independent learner and meeting deadlines - some of the many life skills we strive to prepare you for.

## Support

Your Form Tutor will get to know you very well, keeping an eye on your progress, offering support when necessary and helping to guide you in your application for university or employment. In addition, you will receive at least three one-to-one support sessions each year in which you will discuss your progress, set targets and plan for the future with the Learning Coach. As well as this, students benefit from the ongoing support of two dedicated Heads of Learning and the Director of Sixth Form. Our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of young people is of paramount importance and we believe that safer students make more successful learners.

## Academic Monitoring

Taking ownership of your own academic success is essential if you are to fulfil your vast potential. Your subject teachers, Form Tutor, Learning Coach and Heads of Learning and Director of Sixth Form will monitor your progress closely, setting you target grades to meet and exceed. Your progress will be reviewed regularly as part of the established routines of the Sixth Form. Every student is expected to do the very best they possibly can. You and your parents will receive academic monitoring and feedback with a half-termly report and three Achievement Plans each year, in addition to the Parents Evening. Our pastoral team operate an 'open door' policy at SJP and you are encouraged to use this as soon as you have any concerns or worries.

## Careers Advice

Our pastoral team will offer advice on applying for Higher Education, gap year opportunities or employment. Drop in sessions and one-to-one interviews are available to help you plan for the future whilst work experience placements (available for all students, not just those intending to go straight into employment) look great on your CV.

## Financial Support

You may be eligible for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) whilst you attend Sixth Form at SJP. Students who qualify for EMA will receive payments, provided they meet the terms of the EMA contract. Visit <http://ema.direct.gov.uk/> for more information on this.

In addition, all Sixth Form students are able to have a netbook computer on long-term loan in return for a deposit.

## Dress to Impress

Sixth Form students are not only role models for younger pupils but also the public face of SJP within the local community. Our students have worked closely with us to produce a uniform code to reflect the professionalism and high expectations staff and students have towards their work. In recognition of their increasing maturity and sense of responsibility, all students have a fob and lanyard which gives them access to the College buildings – these should be worn at all times.

**“The College makes you feel  
confident you can achieve”**

Student



# Life beyond the Classroom

The Sixth Form at SJP is not just about academic learning, it is also about broadening your experiences and interests. The enrichment programme is designed to give all Sixth Formers the opportunity to participate in a range of activities as part of their weekly routine.

## Enrichment

Whatever your choice of subjects you will find an exciting array of opportunities and challenges awaiting you at SJP. This could include:

- School and voluntary service
- Creative arts
- Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA)
- Work experience
- Mentoring programmes
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Retreats

## School and Voluntary Service

We are immensely proud of all that the Sixth Form contribute to the school, local and wider communities. The energy and enthusiasm of our students have transformed the lives of many others. All Sixth Form students are expected to commit at least one hour each week to such service

Some of the many projects SJP Sixth Formers are involved in include:

- Fundraising for Lent and Advent
- Leading retreats and away day programmes
- Peer mentoring of younger students
- Offering support to tutors and teachers

- Taking an active part in school events such as Open Evenings
- Working with younger pupils in Music and Drama activities
- Role models and group leaders in Project Week
- Key role in Here Comes Christmas fun and fundraising extravaganza
- Leadership of the School Council
- Eco-team

## Sixth Form Challenge

This is a series of fun sessions in which students can pit their wits and talents against the staff in a whole range of activities including Wii-bowling, pop quizzes, sports and even blindfolded cake decoration!

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The College supports a large number of students who travel to Lourdes as part of the Shrewsbury Diocesan Pilgrimage. Those who make the journey are entrusted to follow the example of Christ in 'serving the needs of others' as they embark on the week-long trip to the Pyrenees. To gain a fuller understanding you should speak to previous pilgrims and ask why they are so keen to return to this holy place.

## Spiritual Life

At the heart of the Sixth Form is our faith. We are an unashamedly Catholic Sixth Form who welcome people of all faiths to our community. In addition to the academic needs of our students we recognise that without a depth of spirituality our lives can lack true meaning and purpose. All Sixth Form students are entitled and expected to follow the spiritual programme offered at SJP. This includes daily prayer with Tutor Groups and weekly Assemblies. All students follow a certified programme of General RE which includes a variety of enriching and thought-provoking modules with guest speakers, individual and group work. Our faith is by no means thrust upon you, although you will be given time and space to contemplate and reflect on your own and others' beliefs and values. Students are given opportunities to get to know each other better, including the Emmaus Walk at the beginning of Year 12 which forms part of the Induction Programme. In addition, they are encouraged to speak openly and honestly about their faith, for example in spending some time away from the pressures of an academic environment during residential retreats at Kintbury but also more regularly at the weekly mass at the College.

### **Leadership Opportunities**

Each and every Sixth Former takes on a leadership role in the SJP community through the example that they set to younger pupils and through enrichment opportunities such as peer mentoring and school service. At SJP we aim to prepare you for the challenges of the 21st century. Any student can stand for Head Boy/Girl or their Deputies who, along with the other members of the Sixth Form Council, take a real part in the day-to-day running of the Sixth Form. In recent years, the Sixth Form Council's successes include their major impact on shaping the facilities available to the students such as the provision of netbook computers (available to all), the design of the Sixth Form Zone and the refurbishment of the Basil Hume Centre. In addition, they take a lead role in fundraising activities and represent the student body at key events such as Awards Evening and Open Evening.

### **Social Life**

As with the rest of College life at SJP, the social life of the Sixth Form is a reflection of the energy and creativity of our students. There are many events throughout the year including: university visits, retreats, various field trips within the UK and abroad to places such as France, Germany, Poland and the United States, sporting events, school productions and the final event of the Summer Term for Year 13, the Leavers' Ball.

# Life beyond SJP

### **Enrichment**

The vast majority of our students opt to continue their studies at university and at SJP we monitor this process closely and individually. In addition, we provide expert advice to guide you in your selection of universities and colleges. We organise visiting speakers from universities and trips that will enable you to select your course and institution wisely. Those who decide that university is not for them and want to go straight into the world of work are encouraged and supported with work experience visits and references. Every student in the Sixth Form has access to expert professional advice regarding career

guidance. Careers information is also available in the Basil Hume Centre, which students can access at any time.

To help to prepare students for their next step we hold an annual Higher Education Evening. This enables students and their families to consider the wider implications of university life. In addition, a programme of preparation for life beyond SJP covers a broad range of topics including budgeting, cooking and how to make the most of those crucial first weeks at university.

# Empower

A photograph of three students in a modern, brightly lit setting. A young man in a dark suit is seated on the left, facing two other students. A young man in a dark sweater and a young woman in a black blazer are seated across from him at a high wooden table. In the background, a television screen displays a news report with a man and a woman. The text on the screen includes 'FBU - Warwickshire Fire Service' and '99-99 SERVICE PLANS'. The overall atmosphere is professional and educational.

**“Guidance is outstanding, enabling students to move successfully to their first choice higher education establishment or enter employment or training”**

**“Success in life is not determined by how we are doing compared with others, but by how we are doing compared to what we are capable of doing. Successful people compete against themselves.”**

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for young men and women with a desire to embrace all aspects of Sixth Form life. This means young adults who want excellent teaching in a unique atmosphere where they will be challenged to meet the person that they might become.

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## What happens next?

Start speaking to your teachers about the subjects you would like to study in the Sixth Form; ask your Head of Learning or Learning Coach for their insights; for applicants new to us, come and visit and ask our advice – we look forward to meeting you.

If you think SJP might be the place for you then please complete the enclosed application form or contact us directly. For all those who will begin their Sixth Form journey with us in September, we look forward to discovering together what you will bring to our vibrant community.



**Aspire**  
not to  
have more  
but to be  
**more...**

Archbishop Romero



**“Sixth Form students are mature, articulate and hard working.”**

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