Prospectus Supplement 2024 - 25

SJP 5

Supplementary information for prospective parents and students



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KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7 - 9)

The following subjects are taught at Key Stage 3:

Art

2

2

2

2

4

6

6

6

6

6

6

- Computer Science
 - Drama
- Design Technology
- English Language
- **English Literature**
- Geography
- History
 - Mathematics
- Music
- **PSHF**
- Physical Education
- **RSHE**
- Religious Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Mandarin

KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 - 11)

All students follow courses leading to GCSE qualifications in these subjects:

- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- English Language
- **English Literature**
- Science
- Physical Education*

Students also have a further choice of subjects, leading to GCSE or equivalent.

Qualifications:

- Art
- **Business Studies**
- Computing
- Dance
- Design Technology Graphics
- Design Technology Product Design
- Design Technology Textiles
- Engineering
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality
- Childcare
- History
- ΙT
- Mandarin
- Media

- Physical Education
- Separate Sciences
- Spanish

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

All children, are fully integrated at St John Plessington Catholic College. We take careful consideration of their needs and, where appropriate, Student Centred Profiles are drawn up for them. These plans are regularly monitored by subject teachers, form tutors and SEND, with provision reviewed throughout the

The College prides itself on its links with Primary feeder schools to ensure a smooth transition for all children and especially those with additional educational needs.

The College also forges strong parental links and parents have regular opportunities to participate in ensuring that each child can achieve his or her full potential. For children with physical difficulties, links are formed with many branches of the Local Health Authority together with the service for visually and hearing-impaired students.

Physical Education

The PE Department delivers a broad and balanced physical education programme. There are a wide variety of clubs, practises and after-school fixtures whose popularity points to the enthusiasm staff and students have about competitive sport. In addition to traditional team games, students participate in athletics, badminton, tennis, basketball, girls' soccer, gymnastics and dance.

* In all year groups, students participate in Core PE as part of the College's commitment to the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Students may also choose to study this subject to BTEC level.



KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 12 – 13)

We consider our Sixth Formers at St John Plessington to be the most influential students at the College and all of them are given leadership responsibilities throughout their journey at St John Plessington. For example, some of our Sixth Formers take up additional responsibilities in peer mentoring. Each year, we appoint a chair and vice chair of the Junior Leadership Team.

We understand that choosing post-16 education can be a daunting prospect and so we do our utmost to provide the mixture of courses that best meets the needs of the individual. Students can take a mixture of A Level and BTEC qualifications in order to maximise their opportunities for progression.

We expect most students to study the time equivalent of 3 A Levels. Students hoping to follow advanced courses need to have achieved 5 or more GCSE passes at grades 4 - 9. Our Parent Handbook is available on our College website.

www.stjohnplessington.com All students follow the following

- General Religious Education
- Sports, community activities and other enrichment activities

A Level (and equivalent) courses are available in the following subjects:

- Applied Science
- Art & Design
- Biology
- **Business Studies**
- Chemistry
- **English Literature**
- **English Combined**
- Food Technology
- Graphic Design
- Geography
- History
- Health & Social Care ICT
- **Further Mathematics**
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Performing Arts Physical Education
- **Physics**
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Religious Studies

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- Sociology
- Spanish **Textiles**
- Mandarin

Curriculum Footnotes:

The notes above describe the curriculum planned for the Academic Year 2024 -25.

The curriculum may also change based on the number of students opting to study courses offered.



Policy Statements

ADMISSION POLICY SEPTEMBER 2025

St John Plessington Catholic College, a Voluntary Aided Academy, is an 11-18 Co-educational Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. It was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will always be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its Holy Family Catholic Multi- Academy Trust as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils.

At a Catholic school, 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 in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will 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 and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with these admission arrangements.

The Holy Family Catholic Multiacademy Trust is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The local authority undertakes the co-ordination of admission arrangements during the normal admission round (excluding admission to year 12). The admission authority has set the school's Published Admissions Number (PAN) at 270 pupils to year 7 in the school year which begins in September, 2025.

The admission authority will, where logistically possible, admit twins and all siblings from multiple births where one of the children is the last child ranked within the school's PAN.

Admission to the Sixth-Form

The school operates a sixth form for a total of 540 pupils. 270 places overall will

be available in year 12. While the admission number is 270, if fewer than 270 of the school's existing pupils transfer into year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted until year 12 meets its capacity of 270. Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. If either internal or external applicants fail to meet the minimum course requirements, they will be given the option of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually in the school's prospectus and on its website.

When year 12 is undersubscribed all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress.

When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements, priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria 1 and 3-7 set out below.

Where there is a space in year 13 i.e. where there are fewer than 270 pupils in the year group, the school will admit additional pupils up to this number using the oversubscription criteria 1 and 3-7 set out below.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (see note 1)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan that names the school must be admitted. Where this takes place before the allocation of places under these arrangements this will reduce the number of places available to other children.

Oversubscription Criteria

At any time where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following

order of priority:

- Catholic looked after and previously looked after children. (see notes 2&3)
- 2. Catholic children who attend a feeder Catholic primary school, namely, Christ the King (Bromborough); Our Lady and St Edward's (Birkenhead); St Anne's (Rock Ferry); St John's (New Ferry); St Joseph's (Birkenhead); St Michael and All Angels (Woodchurch); St Peter's (Noctorum); St Werburgh's (Birkenhead). (see note 3)
- 3. Other Catholic children. (see note 3)
- 4. Other looked after and previously looked after children. (see note 2)
- 5. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church. (see notes 4&5)
- Children of other Christian denominations and children of other faiths whose membership is evidenced by a minister of religion or other religious leader. (see notes 6&7)
- 7. Any other children.

Within each of the categories listed above, the following provisions will be applied in the following order.

(i) The attendance of a brother or sister at the school at the time of enrolment will increase the priority of an application within each category so that the application will be placed at the top of the category in which the application is made after children in category 1 above. (see note 8).

Tie Brea

Priority will be given to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance. Distance will be measured using the shortest road route, unless it is possible to use a footpath which we consider a safe walking route, from the seed point of the child's home address to the nearest pedestrian gate of the College, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the College receiving the higher priority. In the event of distances being the same for two or more children where this would determine the last place to be allocated, random allocation will be carried out and supervised by a person independent of the school. All the names will be entered into a hat and the required number of names will be drawn out.

Application Procedures and Timetable

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round, you must complete a Common Application Form (excluding admission to year 12) available from the local authority in which you live. You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form attached to this policy if you wish to apply under oversubscription criteria 1 to 3 or 5 or 6.

The Supplementary Information Form should be returned to Miss Rennie, Admissions Secretary at St John Plessington Catholic College, Old Chester Road, Bebington, CH63 7LF by 31/10/2025.

Sixth Form Admission Policy 2025/2026

In addition to places available for students already in the College, the Governing Body will make available a further 30 places for external students. For both, entry to the Sixth Form is subject to the Entry Qualification for individual courses of study, as published annually in the Sixth Form Prospectus. If more applications are received from external candidates than the number specified then the criteria applied at Year 7 will be used to determine admissions.

Outcome of admissions application

You will be advised of the outcome of your Year 7 application on 1st March or the next working day, by the local authority on our behalf. If you are unsuccessful (unless your child gained a place at a school you ranked higher) you will be informed of the reasons, related to the oversubscription criteria listed above, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and return it by the closing date, together with all supporting documentation, your child may not be placed in criteria 1 to 3 or 5 or 6, and this may affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31st October 2025.

Late Applications

Late applications will be administered in accordance with your home Local Authority Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme. You are encouraged to ensure that your application is received on time.

Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group

A request may be made for a child to be admitted outside their normal age group, for example if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

Any such request should be made in writing to the Clerk to Governors (St John Plessington Catholic College, Old Chester Road, Bebington, CH63 7LF) at the same time as the admission application is made. The admission authority will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. In addition to taking into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, the admission authority will take into account the views of the parents and of appropriate medical and education professionals, as appropriate.

Waiting Lists

In addition to their right of appeal, unsuccessful children will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained in order of the oversubscription criteria set out above and not in the order in which applications are received or added to the list. Waiting lists for admission will operate throughout the school year. The waiting list will be held open until the last day of the Autumn term.

Inclusion in the school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available.

In-Year Applications

An application can be made for a place for a child at any time outside the normal admission round and the child will be admitted where there are available places.

Enquiries may be made at the school office but applications must be made via the transfer form available on the Wirral Council website at www.wirral.gov.uk/school admissions or by calling 0151 606 2020 during office hours.

Where there are places available but more applications than places, the published oversubscription criteria, as set out above, will be applied. If there are no places available, the child will be added to the waiting list (see above).

You will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing, and you have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Fair Access Protocol

The college is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admission round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power even where admitting the child would mean exceeding the PAN.

The admission authority reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place or, where the child is already attending the school the place itself, where it is satisfied that the offer or the place was obtained by deception.



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College Polices & Other Documentation

Behaviour Policy

Our Code of Conduct is published annually in the Parent Handbook. Parents are requested to read it carefully and to remind children to value their rights and responsibilities.

Charging Policy

Students should not be required to pay for any material, books, instruments or other equipment for use in connection with lessons provided during College hours, but the College may charge for, or require the supply of, ingredients or materials for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.

Charges are made to cover the costs of board and lodging on residential trips.

No charge shall be made for entry fees for prescribed public examinations for which registered students have been prepared at College providing the Headteacher recommends entry. Students are entered for a variety of external examinations and tests, according to their abilities, including qualifications in GCSE, BTEC and A Level. Provided that coursework is completed where required, work is up to date and intermediate tests or examinations are satisfactorily completed, these entries are made without cost to students.

Security

We make all reasonable attempts to ensure the security of all members of the College community and members of the public on the premises. All visitors sign in at our Reception in the Atrium and are required to wear a visitor's badge from this point on. The College campus is monitored by CCTV cameras within and without the building.

The gate leading to The Oval Sports Complex is locked at 08.35 and re-opened at the end of the school day. Staff routinely requiring access via this gate are issued with keys. Full copies of College policies, Long Term Plans, and our Ofsted Report are available upon request or can be viewed on our College website

www.stjohnplessington.com

Policies covering the following areas maybe of interest:

- Attendance Guidance
- Behaviour
- Pastoral Care and Safeguarding
- Primary/Secondary College Liaison
- Health, Safety, Security and the Environment
- Visits and Journeys
- Education in Personal Relationships
- SEND Education Needs
- Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality
- Religious Education
- Collective Worship
- Privacy Notice and Data Protection
- Child Protection Guidance

RHSE

Relationship, Sex and Health Education is delivered parallel to our PSHE Programme (Personal, Social and Health Education). All aspects of the programme are informed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our aim is to ensure that students have the knowledge "that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships." (DFE Statutory Guidance). Parents/ carers who do not wish their children to receive particular strands of the RSHE programme are invited to write to the Headteacher.

Religious Education

Religious Education is taught throughout the College. Parents who do not wish their children to receive Religious Education are invited to write to the Headteacher.

Examinations

All students in Years 10-13 attempt public examinations (including GCSE and BTEC). A range of other accreditations are also available to students. Students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to follow A Level, BTEC and other courses.

Students may also gain additional qualifications at GCSE level. Courses are available at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Level covering a wide range of curriculum areas. Please see our Parent Handbook for further details. Most students have the opportunity to study the subjects which contribute to the 'English Baccalaureate'.

Homework

Students will receive homework weekly. A homework timetable is provided to all pupils and available on the college website.

Arrangements for students with disabilities

All necessary considerations are taken to prevent students with disabilities being treated less favourably during Admissions procedures.

Ramps are provided to allow access to ground floor areas and toilet facilities are available for students with physical disabilities. There remain areas of the College which present difficulties for wheelchair users to access. Lifts are installed in the main block. The College complies with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Complaints Procedure

All complaints, whether by a staff member, a parent or guardian, or generally by a member of the public, must always be addressed in writing in the first instance to the Headteacher in accordance with the HFCMAT complaint policy available on the college website.

Smoking Policy

The College Campus is a no smoking area. Vaping is also prohibited.

Attendance Policy

The college has high expectations on student attendance. Parents should note that we take all possible measures to encourage full attendance, as students who are absent are inevitably being held back in their work.

Following an absence, a student must bring in a note of explanation in their student planner. The law states that the College alone may authorise an absence.

Drinks Policy

We encourage children to lead healthy life-styles. We strongly recommend that students drink water throughout the day.

Fizzy drinks and energy drinks such as Lucozade, Powerade etc are not allowed. High-caffeine drinks including Red Bull, Monster etc are not permitted. If they are brought into school they will be confiscated and disposed of.

Parental Letters

A note must be brought by every student:

- a) returning after illness
- b) requiring leave of absence (see below)
- c) requesting to be excused PE for medical reasons
- d) unable to follow the regulations for uniform
- e) arriving late either in the morning or afternoon
- f) failing to complete homework.

A student who has received permission to leave College during school hours must sign out at Reception. Equally, students arriving at College after the start of the school day (08:40) must sign in at Reception.



Education Social Welfare

The Education Social Welfare Officer for the College can be contacted via www.wirral.gov.uk.

This service is concerned with school attendance and may be able to assist with other matters which affect the welfare of students.

Notes on Attendance

Students may not be absent from College without permission and no one may leave College early on any day without prior authorisation. It is important that parents seeking permission for Leave of Absence should write rather than telephone and that their letter should arrive at least three days before the day concerned. Visits to the doctor or dentist should be made outside school hours, except in an emergency.

Holidays should not be taken during term time, as these absences impede students' progress.
Following amendments to national regulations, Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please see our Parent Handbook for further details.

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General Information

Timing of the College Day

8.40am	9.00am	Registration
9.00am	9.55am	Period 1
9.55am	10.50am	Period 2
10.50am	11.10am	Break
11.10am	12.05pm	Period 3
12.05pm	1.00pm	Period 4
1.00pm	2.10pm	Enrichment/PD/Lunch
2.10pm	3.05pm	Period 5
3.05pm	3.10pm	Daily Examen

College Dates 2024 - 25 Autumn Term:

College re-opens on Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Autumn Half Term:

Close on Friday 25th October 2024 Open on Monday 4th November 2024

Christmas Holiday:

Close on Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term:

College re-opens on Tuesday 7th January 2025

Spring Half Term:

Close on Friday 14th February 2025 Open on Monday 24th February 2025

Spring Break:

Close on Friday 4th April 2025

Summer Term:

College re-opens on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Summer Half Term:

Close Friday 23rd May 2025 Open Monday 2nd June 2025

Summer Holiday:

Close on Friday 18th July 2025

Open Days & Evenings

Please see the back cover for opportunities for prospective parents and students to visit the College.

Uniform & Equipment

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The College has its own uniform and PE kit which has been selected so that students will feel part of the College community. Items of clothing have been chosen carefully so that they are not unduly expensive, but are smart.

It is the policy of College that uniform should be worn by all students and students in our Sixth Form.

This is because personal presentation is important and we want to make sure that our students develop a sense of pride in their appearance. We would advise that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.

Compulsory Main Uniform

- Blazer French navy with SJP logo
- Jumper Navy with SJP Logo (compulsory from the beginning of September onwards unless advised otherwise) (a sleeveless version is also available)
- **Shirt** Light blue (short or long-sleeved)
- Blouse Light blue revere collar blouse (short or long-sleeved)
- Tie SJP clip-on tie (navy/silver stripe)
- Checked skirt Checked skirt (Bedford Check) or trousers (black). The skirt must be worn to knee length
- Trousers black
- Tights & Socks Navy or black plain tights (not patterned).
 Knee-length or mid-length Socks plain navy socks. (Navy ankle socks may be worn as part of the summer uniform)
- Shoes Plain black without logos or accessories
- bag is compulsory for Years
 7-11 students. There are four
 styles of SJP bag, available in
 the following styles; satchel,
 rucksack, sports bag,
 drawstring. The bags will be
 personalised by our suppliers.

During cold or inclement weather pupils are advised to wear a suitable coat for school. Tracksuit tops or hooded sweatshirt tops are not allowed to be worn whilst pupils travel to or from the College.

A coat must not be worn as a substitute for a blazer, but can be worn on top. A blazer is a compulsory part of the uniform and as such must always be worn, including in and around the building, when the coat is removed.

If any part of the uniform is missing, a note to explain why must be provided from home. Failure to do so will result in detention.

Optional Main Uniform

Embroidered student initials in white on PE items/bag

Compulsory PE Kit List

- Aptus Essentials 1/4 Zip Training Top
- Aptus Essentials Polo Shirt
- Aptus Essentials Training Shorts
- Contrast sports socks and plain white ankle socks
- Predominantly white or black sports trainers
- Football boots for football and rugby lessons
- Shin pads for football lessons

Optional PE Kit List

- Aptus Essentials St John Plessington leggings
- Aptus Essentials St John Plessington training pants
- Separate bag for PE kit (St John Plessington College Bag)
- Gum shield

When PE kit is brought into school, it must be carried in a school bag.

All items of uniform are available from:



Wirral Uniform Centre, Birkenhead Town Centre www.wirraluniforms.com

Hair and Make-up

Students are expected to wear hair in a neat and acceptable style. Hair must be of one colour and natural in appearance. Hairstyles judged to be extreme by the Headteacher are not permitted. Hair fashion accessories must be kept to a minimum and must be navy or black. Holiday 'braids' are not permissible. Lines or 'parts' are not allowed.

We recognise and understand that young people want to wear some make-up: it shows they are taking pride in their appearance. For students in Years 7, 8 and 9, make-up is not permitted.

For Students in Year 10 onwards, discreet and business-like, natural looking make-up is permissible. However, eye shadow, eyeliner, false eyelashes, lipstick, nail varnish and acrylic nails are not permitted. Excessive or inappropriate makeup is not acceptable. The school will insist that make-up is removed if it is felt that this privilege is being abused. We all want and expect a common sense and mature approach on this issue, which has been evidenced through the pupil voice we have gathered and used to shape this policy. Students who do not conform to the College uniform and appearance policy will be sanctioned in line with our Behaviour Policy.

The Headteacher reserves the right to make the final decision on what is or what is not appropriate.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, apart from watches, jewellery including rings, bracelets, earrings (including clear studs) and necklaces must not be worn. Studs in other parts of the ear, eyebrow, tongue, nose, lips, navel or any other body piercing is not permitted. Students will be asked to remove them whilst at school. This is because of the potential risk of accidental damage from the wearing of such items and they will be confiscated. We will not accept that jewellery has to be kept in on medical grounds. We would recommend any piercings are done at the start of a holiday period to ensure that they can be removed on return to school. Our advice is that



the pierced hole can remain open during the school day without any adverse effects. Confiscated items can be collected from our college reception by the student at the end of the day on Friday.

Mobile Phones

We advise that students do not bring mobile phones into the College. However, we do recognise that some parents may wish their child to have a mobile phone with them as they travel to and from school. Any mobile phones brought in should be both switched off as they enter the school premises and put away until they have left the premises. We do not take any responsibility for loss of or damage to mobile phones. Inappropriate use of phones in school will result in confiscation without notice. Parents will be notified via an Arbor message. Phones may subsequently only be obtained by parents/carers from our College reception.

Should a pupil present as a persistent concern regarding phone usage in school, the Headteacher reserves the right to insist that pupils hand their phones in to reception first thing in the morning on a daily basis, to be placed in the safe, to be collected at the end of the same day. Should you need to contact your child in an emergency, please use the main College number 0151 645 5049. Do not seek to contact your child in school directly via their mobile phone. More information can be found on the DfE website.

Mobile Phones

Whilst we will do our best to assist your child in safeguarding their property, the College does not take any responsibility for the loss of or damage to personal possessions brought on to site. Large amounts of money or items of value (including personal audio equipment such as iPads or similar devices, electronic games or jewellery) should not be brought into the College. Such items will be confiscated by staff and can be obtained by parents/carers from Reception.

Should you need to contact your child in an emergency, please use the main College number **0151 645 5049.**

Do not seek to contact your child in school directly as your child's phone should be switched off as they enter the premises in the morning.

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Open Evening

The College will host its annual Open Evening on Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 6.00pm

Open Mornings*

Wednesday 18th September 2024 - 9.00am - 11.00am Tuesday 24th September 2024 - 9.00am - 11.00am *For parents carers only.

College Address

St John Plessington Catholic College, Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH637LF

Telephone: 0151 645 5049

General Email: schooloffice@stjohnplessington.com

Website: www.stjohnplessington.com

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Headteacher

Mr Peadar McLoughlin BSc (Hons) / NPQH

