

02 July 2025

RHW/Raf/ApplicantDay2025



Dear parents and carers

YEAR 12 APPLICANT DAY AND PREPARATION FOR SIXTH FORM

It was so lovely to welcome many of our new Year 12 students to Applicant Day last week. If your son/daughter was able to attend, we hope they had an informative day and enjoyed their first taste of life in St John's Sixth Form.

In addition to subject taster sessions, we ran a session called 'Stepping up to Sixth Form' to give students advice about the jump from GCSE to A Level/ Level 3 study and adapt to their increased independence. Students were also given a useful checklist to help them to get organised for September.

For those that were unable to attend, we encourage you to review the 'Stepping Up to Sixth Form' slides, which can now be found on our website [here](#). You can also access the presentations that accompanied our 'Welcome' and 'Competitive/Early University Applications' talks.

Holiday Homework

To help students prepare for the start of Year 12, they are expected to complete up to 20 hours of preparation work over the summer for the courses they will take in September. The work is compulsory and should be submitted on the first day of term. You can access all the summer preparation work for September 2025 [here](#).

Why St John's for Sixth Form?

We also shared with students during Applicant Day some of the things that makes St John's Sixth Form special. We increased teaching time for Year 12 three years ago by one hour. This means all students have more time with specialist subject teachers. For most subjects they will now have ten timetabled lessons a fortnight in each subject they choose, giving them the best possible chance to be successful in their courses.

We have improved the way we deliver the personal development side of the curriculum. All students have games once a fortnight and will be able to choose between different activities. They do not need a school PE kit for this – just suitable clothing for their sport. We have also improved how we timetable Wellbeing/PSHE and taken into account student voice. Students

have asked for more focus on themes around Citizenship, Equality and Diversity and Consent and we have built these into their Wellbeing lessons, assembly and tutorial program.

Finally, we ensure students are recognised for all the many wonderful things they do outside the classroom, including volunteering, student leadership, learning new skills, taking part in physical activity and the part they play in our school and wider local community. As well as being useful on CVs, personal statements and applications, each of these activities carries House Points.

For further information, please visit our website or contact our Sixth Form Manager, Mrs Rachel Farr: rfarr@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk. The Sixth Form student handbook will be updated over the summer ready for September 2025.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R Haig'.

Mrs R Haig-Williams
Director of Sixth Form & Assistant Vice Principal