



SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# Sixth Form Prospectus



A photograph of two young women, Francesca Pietrafesa and Rabia Dosani, standing in front of a building. They are both wearing dark blazers over white shirts. The woman on the left has her hair in a bun and is smiling. The woman on the right has long dark hair and is wearing glasses, also smiling. In the background, a building with a 'Welcome' sign and a 'Heart C' sign is visible. The overall scene is outdoors with trees and a brick building.

# A Message from our Head Girls

**Our time at Sacred Heart has given us the keys to our future successes and it has helped us to realise our full potential. At Sacred Heart every individual is encouraged to develop their own unique talents and, regardless of their starting point, are supported to achieve their hopes and dreams.**

As Head Girls we have been able to see the difference that a Sacred Heart Education can make and have experienced first-hand the care and dedication of the staff who ensure that each individual's education is tailored to their needs. The ethos of the school has meant that we can grow and develop in a safe and happy environment where we are able to take risks knowing that we will be supported to succeed.

We have not only received a well balanced academic education at Sacred Heart but, with the support of the school, have grown into the confident and caring people we are today. We have acquired skills inside and outside the classroom that have prepared us for our next steps and our future lives and we are grateful and proud of our Sacred Heart education.

**Francesca Pietrafesa & Rabia Dosani**

HEAD GIRLS

# A Welcome from the Headmistress



**A great education has the power to transform lives. This is especially important in the two years your daughter will spend with us in our sixth form, here at Sacred Heart. What happens during these months can determine what opportunities will be open to her in her future life. Excellent examination results will open doors to the careers and the future she aspires to: the character she forms will begin to determine the woman she will become.**

We have a wonderful track record of examination success over many years placing us as one of the top performing schools in our region, and that success is for every girl, whatever her starting point or ability. For the second year in a row we have made the Sunday Times Top 250 state schools, and we are listed as one of the top 3 schools in the North East.

However, as a school we are about so much more than academic results. We value each girl's unique talents and ensure she is given every opportunity to develop and broaden these, therefore our sixth form students can access a huge range of extra-curricular opportunities at Sacred Heart, St Cuthbert's and our wider community.

We believe passionately in the education of young women and want our students to have the highest aspirations for their futures, and so a key focus of our sixth form involves building their self-belief and confidence. These are threads that run through everything we do with our students during their two years with us.



THE SUNDAY TIMES  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE  
2017

The world is in need of good, confident, ambitious young women and we are rightly proud at Sacred Heart of the young people who leave our care and step into adult life each and every year.

**Mrs Bath**  
HEADMISTRESS

# Sixth Form Curriculum



**Our sixth form students are able to select from over 30 wide ranging courses. These provide excellent progression from Key Stage 4 and our partnership with St Cuthbert's Catholic High School gives a rich co-educational experience for our students.**

Students' independence flourishes and academic achievement is outstanding, with the majority taking up places in Higher Education. To complement the excellent learning experience a huge range of extra-curricular activities are offered with a wide range of visits, both in the UK and abroad.

Whatever the career path a student selects, we continue to support every young person in their choice, ensuring that their chosen courses will help lead them to success.

## Level 3 Academic Courses:

### CREATIVE:

Art	Ceramics	Dance
Drama & Theatre	Film Studies	Music
Textiles	Food Technology	

### LANGUAGE BASED:

English Literature	English Language	
French	German	Spanish

### SCIENCE / MATHS / COMPUTING:

Biology	Chemistry	Computer Science
Physics	Mathematics	Mathematical Studies

### HUMANITIES:

Economics	Geography
History	Religious Studies
Psychology	Sociology

## Level 3 Technical Courses:

Business	Applied Science
ICT	Health & Social Care
Law	Travel & Tourism

**In addition, St Cuthbert's Catholic High School offer further courses in: Italian; Photography; Geology; Sports Studies and Design & Technology (Graphics).**



# Ensuring Student Success

Once again the students at Sacred Heart have excelled and have continued to produce fantastic results. This year we have attained more A\*/A grades than ever before and almost two thirds of the grades are A\*- B. This is a phenomenal achievement for both students and staff alike and has placed us as a Times Top 250 School for the second consecutive year.

These wonderful results mean that Sacred Heart girls have, once again, successfully met their University offers and gained places on their first choice destinations. This year students have secured Level 3 apprenticeships with Virgin Money and Sage and 100% of girls with offers for high tariff courses such as Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry successfully secured their places.

At Sacred Heart we offer our girls an environment that allows them to stretch themselves academically and socially. There is a sense of community that allows girls to develop confidence in their own ability and that they are not defined by their gender. All of our high performing scientists are girls, all of our mathematicians are girls and all of our student leaders are girls. There is no area of school life where girls cannot succeed and this leads them to be aspirational and realise their ambitions. We want girls to leave Sacred Heart with the courage to take on new challenges, confident in the knowledge that they can achieve great things.





“What really sets the school apart is their development of teaching and teachers who go that extra mile to set girls on course to make the right choices after Sacred Heart.”

The Good Schools' Guide, May 2012

# Enrichment



**At Sacred Heart we are committed to the development of the whole person. Our taught curriculum has been perfected over many years to inspire women to become leaders and pursue careers in a safe and nurturing environment suited to their unique learning styles.**

We believe the security of single sex education, however, should be complemented with the opportunity to work co-educationally with our colleagues at St Cuthbert's High School. We are delighted to welcome more and more young men into our lessons, just as more of our young women take the opportunity of a broader provision in photography, engineering from the Reece Foundation, sports science and other specialist courses at St Cuthbert's.

The enhancement programme is set in place to provide extensive opportunities to engage students outside the taught curriculum and encourage the acquisition and discovery of new skills while honing and developing further those already in place.

Additionally, we offer visits to local Russell Group Universities, study skills days, admissions preparation and practice for the most competitive courses. We have hosted top National universities in their outreach work alongside key regional employers for high quality selective apprenticeships.

We offer a range of enhancement including debating, computer programming, medicine preparation and discussion, advanced studies in politics and classics via the Open University, Latin, volunteering with the National Citizenship Service and work experience as examples.

There is also the opportunity to participate in laboratory work at Newcastle University in Chemistry, Biology fieldwork on the Northumbrian Coast and international fieldwork to Iceland in Geography. Outside of academic fieldwork there are also opportunities for extended visits in art, drama, dance and music.

The more adventurous will also be able to engage in visits, such as World Challenge to Sri Lanka to work in the unique national parks. These follow on from previous sixth form expeditions to Morocco, Uganda, Iceland and Kenya.

# After Sacred Heart the Future is looking Bright...



## World Class Universities and Courses

At Sacred Heart we are always rightly proud of our sixth form students and the career paths they take when leaving us, and this year has been no exception. We are ambitious for girls and want them to truly believe that no university is off limits to them. This summer, three of our students were accepted into Oxford and Cambridge, and a further four went on to study at Durham with whom we work very closely. In fact, of the students entering Higher Education this year, around half are now attending Russell Group universities, well above the national average. Many candidates stayed in the North, mainly at Newcastle, Durham and Leeds Universities.

## Oxbridge Preparation

At Sacred Heart we realise that applying for courses at Oxbridge can be an intimidating process; we do not want our girls to have any less individualised support than they would receive at a fee-paying equivalent. In the run-up to writing applications and interview, the personalised support received by the girls is remarkable and in demand from other schools. Staff keep in close contact with both institutions, to ensure we give the most up to date advice. Potential candidates are taken to each university in the summer term, so they can explore potential colleges, faculties and the city. Mock-interviews, objective feedback, specialised lessons; we do it all. We want our students to have just as good a chance as any other applicant and we know it is working, indeed this year 4 girls are currently undertaking interviews at Oxbridge, 6 for medicine or dentistry and more for competitive applications to veterinary medicine, engineering and architecture. We wish them every success.

**'What was clear throughout the whole process of applying for, and interviewing at Cambridge, was Sacred Heart was on my side; helping me to be the very best I could be; fighting my corner; cheering me on.'**

## Infinite Variety...

The vast majority of Sacred Heart girls go on to University or College and last year a huge variety of courses were covered: The most popular areas of study were in the physical sciences and engineering, followed by psychology, education, medical and geography based subjects, proving the "can do" attitude a single sex education instils. Every year, a number of our students opt for high quality apprenticeship.

## Nursing

This year we had a bumper crop of nurses with 8 successful applications to start their training this September. Many of these students followed technical qualifications in the sixth form, mainly in Health and Social Care and Applied Science. There can be a misconception that only academic A levels lead to worthwhile university courses, this is absolutely not the case and so many of our students are testament to this. Leah Barwick is currently studying Mental Health Nursing at Manchester University, she studied Health and Social Care, Philosophy and Ethics and IT.

Often with articles like this, we are only able to mention a small number of students and cannot reflect the wonderful achievements of all our Year 13s.

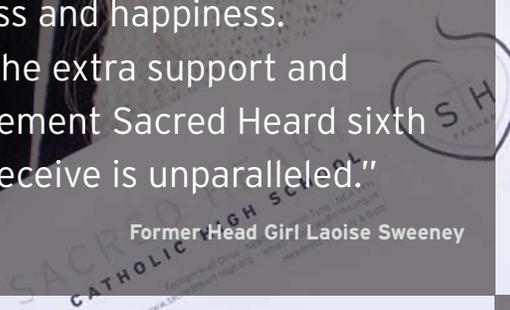
**It is also important to note that we are equally proud of all of our leavers whatever route they have taken.**

Aoibh Burke, one of our 2017 Leavers said,

**"The goal of Sacred Heart is to prepare every student to leave school to pursue something that they love. Becoming a doctor has been my greatest aspiration for many years and I am now fortunate enough to be able to study in a medical school that suits me perfectly. However, I would not be where I am now without the support I received from school, starting from my first day and continuing long after I left."**

"Throughout my time at our sixth form, I was acutely aware of how fortunate I was to be attending a school that cared so much about my success and happiness. I believe the extra support and encouragement Sacred Heart sixth formers receive is unparalleled."

Former Head Girl Laoise Sweeney



Board	Level	Element Code	Title	Grat	Grat2	Mark	Eq	Grat1	Eq02	Points
GCE	EXP3/B	7993	GCE History ADV							
GCE	GCE/A	2041	GCE English Literature B ADV							
GCE	GCE/A	2746	GCE Mathematics ADV							
GCE	GCE/B	6561	GCE History Unit 3B							
GCE	GCE/A	H936	GCE History Unit 4K							
GCE	GCE/B	H94X	GCE English Le B Unit 3							
GCE	GCE/B	U7B3	GCE English Le B Unit 4							
GCE	GCE/B	U7B4	GCE Mathematics Unit D01							
GCE	GCE/B	MD01	GCE Mathematics Unit PC3							
GCE	GCE/B	MPC3	GCE Mathematics Unit PC4							
GCE	GCE/B	MPC4								

These lovely words are from one of our students who left us this year to take up an amazing opportunity at LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts). Winning a place at such a prestigious drama school is amazing enough, but this year we have two students who accepted places at this world renowned institution. Alongside Laoise, fellow student, Maria Buckley is also now at LAMDA studying stage management; Maria also won the Andrew Lloyd Webber scholarship, the only student worldwide to do so. At Sacred Heart, we want girls to follow their dreams and believe that all careers are within their reach. If Maria and Laoise are anything to go by, we are getting this right.

**'Drama School has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember. Sacred Heart was always incredibly supportive of what was perhaps, an alternative path.'**



"Much teaching, including in the sixth form, is outstanding ...resulting in the girls' outstanding progress throughout the school and their rapid acquisition of skills."

Ofsted Nov 2013

# Top Class Facilities



**In 2014 we doubled the size of our sixth form building in a £1.4 million expansion, adding a further 10 teaching rooms and creating excellent additional study and recreational space. An even wider range of subjects are now taught here in addition to the existing superb facilities available on the main site. In October 2016 we also opened our own café, situated within the sixth form common room, providing high quality food for sixth form students and staff.**

The addition of our new auditorium allows opportunities for public speaking and performances in theatre standard surroundings. As a Lead Associate school for the Royal Shakespeare Company students are able to have unrivalled opportunities to see and participate in world class drama.

All rooms have smartboard technology, and student access to IT facilities anywhere in school, via our extensive use of laptops and sixth form WiFi facilities. We have six dedicated IT rooms and all students are provided with access to our Microsoft Office 365 cloud based service, with their own email address and 1TB of online storage. We have also very recently been accredited as a "Microsoft School". Students also have the opportunity to give feedback and pose questions to staff using cloud based solutions such as Edmodo and SMyLE (Support My Learning Experience)

For scientists, eight laboratories provide relevant equipment for practical chemistry, physics and biology. The school positively exudes creativity, with three dance and drama studios, three fully equipped music rooms, four practice rooms, a dedicated sixth form art studio, two textiles work spaces, hard technology areas and a ceramics building.



"She has been nurtured and cared for and had a very happy sixth form. We know that she has been treated with just the right combination of respect and guidance and as parents we know that she has flourished, both academically and personally."

Parent of sixth form student

# The Best Teaching and Learning



**The success of our sixth form has resulted in a diverse range of subjects available to study. Students are taught in small groups by dedicated and focused teachers, comfortable with the rigours of A-Level. Sacred Heart is a Teaching School, recognised nationally as able to train and develop the most effective teachers in the country.**

Ofsted graded our post-16 leadership, teaching and learning and achievement as outstanding. The purposeful atmosphere and amazing facilities has helped to attract the very best teachers and learners. Most students will have two teachers per subject, responsive to curriculum change and well versed in the latest teaching and learning methodology.

A walk through our sixth form lessons would reveal a wide range of learning experiences to incorporate group work, traditional lectures, creative presentations and discussions, study skills, independent working and practicing past questions.

At Sacred Heart, it is not just about covering the curriculum in detail. Our subject teachers are well versed in preparing their students for the transition to university. Our teachers have maintained excellent links with prestigious universities, both near and far. Last year over thirty visits were made to universities to take part in taster sessions or extension and enrichment days. Widening horizons and setting challenging but realistic goals is part of our work.

Academic success is essential, impressive grades help our students to be accepted for study at the best universities, top apprenticeships and positions in reputable companies.

“The girls are very proud to attend the school. They show this through their excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning and to each other, their high attendance and their support and respect for each other and the staff.”

Ofsted Nov 2013

A young man and woman are shown in profile, looking at a laptop screen. The man is on the left, wearing a black sweater over a white collared shirt. The woman is on the right, with long brown hair, also wearing a black sweater. They appear to be in a classroom or office setting. A semi-transparent grey box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“To sustain the academic success is one thing but the extent to which your girls love their school and every opportunity you afford them is something else.”

Head of School Performance  
Newcastle Local Authority

# Caring For Your Daughter



**Every year Sacred Heart sixth form welcomes a significant number of students who have previously studied at other schools in our locality or further afield. We take pride in ensuring that every sixth form student feels that they belong to an institution with the highest possible standards. Although academic achievement is a major feature of Sacred Heart, we also place great value in providing a genuinely welcoming and inclusive school environment.**

Each student is guided by a personal tutor, from sixth form induction through academic mentoring to university application and post-results discussions. Communication between home, school and student is constructive and often. Students know exactly what they need to do to improve further, and are aware of, and make use of the support staff and structures around them.

Please contact our Director of sixth form if you think that you would benefit from the unique Catholic education that we provide at Sacred Heart.

We deliver outstanding Post-16 education in Newcastle and welcome applications from students new to Sacred Heart. We also welcome students from St Cuthbert's High School for Boys, who may join us to access agreed courses. Our ethos embodies a culture of developing independence, resilience and academic excellence with a nurturing and compassionate approach to pastoral care.

“Her A-level staff have been inspirational as individuals and in fostering a love of independent learning. Consequently she is ready to move on to Oxford and whatever life holds for her, with confidence.”

Parent of sixth form student

"I look back on all I have achieved here. I now know what it means to be a Sacred Heart girl. No thank you would ever say enough!"

Sixth form leaver





SACRED HEART  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Every day is an open day at Sacred Heart. If you would like to visit or would like more information, please contact us.

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