



**Saint
Francis
Xavier**

CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

WELCOME BROCHURE 2025



A WARM WELCOME TO ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

"You have joined one of London's most successful and vibrant learning communities"



A very warm welcome to you all and I am delighted that you have chosen to begin the next phase of your education with us at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College. You can feel confident that you have joined one of London's most successful and vibrant learning communities, so congratulations!

We also have a strong pastoral team to guide you through all aspects of your student journey, from providing the best information advice and guidance at enrolment, to helping you navigate the application processes for university or employment. You now have the opportunity in the coming months and years to immerse yourself in your chosen studies and to work with your teachers and fellow students to achieve your future goals and aspirations. You will encounter teachers who are experts in their fields and passionate about their subjects.

You can certainly count on their commitment which, when combined with your own determination and thirst for learning, will improve your chances of success.

Outside of lessons you will be part of a lively and exciting community with tremendous opportunities to engage in a wide range of additional activities. Experience informs us that our most successful students are those who participate in all that the college has to offer, not solely in their academic endeavour, so I strongly encourage you to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

There really is something to suit everyone! Once again, I am delighted that you have chosen to study with us and I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Mr. Graham Thompson
PRINCIPAL

KEY UPCOMING DATES



RESULTS DAY

Thursday 21st August

Receive your GCSE results and upload them onto your St. Francis Xavier account (go to the 'Already registered' section at <https://prospect.sfx.ac.uk/> and select 'Evidence') to receive your enrolment email and letter.



ENROLMENT

Friday 22nd August -
Thursday 28th August

Your enrolment appointment can be found on your enrolment letter/email.



INDUCTION DAY

Wednesday 5th September

Once your course has been confirmed at enrolment you will be invited to attend the induction day to familiarise yourself with the college, and receive your timetable before the start of term!



LESSONS BEGIN

Monday 8th September

You will receive your timetable at your induction day.



TERM DATES

2025-2026	TERM BEGINS	HALF TERM	TERM ENDS
Autumn Term	Monday 8 th September (Weds 3 rd September - induction day)	Thursday 23 rd - Friday 31 st October	Thursday 18 th December
Spring Term	Monday 5 th January	Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th February	Friday 27 th March
Summer Term	Monday 13 th April	Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th May	Friday 3 rd July

THE ENROLMENT PROCESS EXPLAINED



STEP ONE

Upload your results from home

1

Once you receive your results, we will ask you to log into the 'Already registered' section at <https://prospect.sfx.ac.uk/> and select 'Evidence'. There you will be asked to upload a photograph or PDF of your results and passport or birth certificate. Uploading both these documents will speed up the enrolment process at your appointment.



STEP TWO

Arrival & Welcome

2

You will be invited in on a specific day between **22nd - 28th August**. We will start the enrolment process by double checking your enrolment letter and your application status on our system.



STEP THREE

Student ID photo taken

3

We will be taking the photo that will be on your student ID card for the year. Your student ID card is used to tap in and out of college and worn whenever you are on-site, so make sure to smile!



STEP FOUR

Document check



We will double check that there are no problems with the documents you uploaded prior to your appointment. If there are any issues we may need to see them again or re-scan them, so we ask you to bring them along just in case. If you were not able to upload them prior to your appointment we can scan them in at this point.



STEP FIVE

Course counselling



You will discuss your subjects / courses of interest with one of our teachers. The teacher will check that you meet the entry requirements of those courses and add you on to the course or discuss alternate options with you. During this process we will also check whether you are eligible to receive free college meals.



STEP SIX

Confirmation of enrolment



A member of our senior staff team will finalise your enrolment, making sure that you have been put on the best course we can offer you and that you are happy with your selection.

Congratulations, your enrolment is confirmed and you are officially a student of St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College! You will return on Wednesday 3rd September for your induction day.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR COURSE

A Levels / Applied Diplomas

TWO YEAR COURSE

FULL-TIME STUDY

Take a combination of 3 subjects (*4 with exceptional GCSE results/a fluent second language*)

There are 30 A Level/Applied Diploma subject options

Our 3 Applied Diploma subjects (Criminology, Law and Psychology) are equal to one A Level and each can be taken with two other subjects

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entry requirement of 6 GCSEs graded 4 or above, preferably including Maths & English Language (*many subjects require grade 5s*) See our website for subject-specific requirements

GRADING

A Levels: Final grades mainly based on exams completed at the end of the two year course, although there may be some coursework units

Applied Diplomas: Final grades mainly based on coursework completed throughout the two year units

Highest possible grade of 3 A* = 168 UCAS points

PROGRESSION

The majority of our A Level students progress to university



Extended Diplomas

TWO YEAR COURSE

FULL-TIME STUDY

There are 11 Level 3 Extended Diploma courses

Study 1 subject in-depth

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entry requirement of 5 GCSEs graded 4 or above, ideally including English Language / BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (*Merit or above*) See our website for subject-specific requirements

GRADING

Final grades mainly based on coursework completed throughout the two year course, although there may be some exam-assessed units

Highest possible grade of BTEC Triple Distinction or UAL Distinction = 168 UCAS points

PROGRESSION

The majority of our Extended Diploma students progress to university

The structure of the course also makes it a great route into a Level 4 apprenticeship or employment



If you don't qualify for a level 3 course this year you will be able to take a one-year, full-time Level 2 transition course while studying the Maths and English Language GCSEs if needed. We offer Level 2 courses in Business, Health & Social Care and IT. You will then be able to move onto a Level 3 course next year as long as you achieve a Merit or above at Level 2.

T LEVELS

TWO YEAR COURSE

FULL-TIME STUDY

Study 1 subject in-depth
(equivalent to 3 A levels)

There are 4 T Levels

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entry requirements of 5 GCSEs graded 4 or above, including Maths and English language at grade 5. 80% of the course is classroom based and 20% (*at least 45 days*) is spent in an industry work placement

GRADING

Final grade based on a combination of exams, and employer-set project and practical assessment/coursework.

Highest possible grade of Distinction = 168 UCAS points

PROGRESSION

T Levels are an excellent route for progression into employment, apprenticeships and higher education



ENROLMENT FAQs

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT THE COURSE(S) I'VE APPLIED FOR?

Yes, you will finalise the courses you would like to study when you enrol. These can be different to those on your application form if you have changed your mind. During the enrolment process you will meet with a course counsellor who will discuss which courses would be best for you based on your GCSE results, interests and your future career plans.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME TO ENROLMENT?

You will need to upload your GCSE results and ID online prior to your appointment. When you attend enrolment, you should bring your GCSE results, proof of identification and your enrolment appointment letter. Don't worry if you have a problem uploading them; we can scan them in at enrolment.

I CAN'T MAKE MY ENROLMENT APPOINTMENT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Enrolment should be your priority over other arrangements. If you have a genuine reason that means you cannot attend your appointment, and you can attend another day during the enrolment week (**Friday 22nd - Thursday 28th August**), please email admissions@sfx.ac.uk with your availability and we will see if it is possible to move your appointment. If you are away for the whole of the enrolment week we recommend you ask a trusted family member or friend to attend in your place. You will need to upload your results and ID to the online enrolment system ahead of your appointment and your family member/friend will need to have a clear idea of what courses you are hoping to enrol onto. If you do not have someone that can attend in your place, please contact us. Please be aware we are not able to reserve places and cannot guarantee there will be places remaining once enrolment week has ended. Please note we will not be able to enrol students who are not able to attend lessons for an extended period at the beginning of term due to being out of the country. Instead we would ask you to come and see us as soon as you are able to, but we cannot guarantee a place will be available. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY GCSE RESULTS DON'T MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR MY CHOSEN COURSE(S)?

Students with results close to the entry requirements will still be considered for the course. We will look at your overall results to make our final decision. We will do our best to accommodate everyone who has received a conditional offer, even if they have not met the entry requirements for their chosen course, and will find a suitable alternative course for you. It is important to attend your enrolment appointment to see what we can offer you.

CAN I CHANGE A SUBJECT ONCE THE YEAR HAS BEGAN?

It is possible in some cases to change a subject or course early in the autumn term. This is dependent on whether there are spaces available on the subject you want to move to and how much work has been missed so far. You will be expected to catch up on any missed work in your own time. We strongly advise you to make sure the subjects you pick at enrolment are right for you, as any missed lessons could mean falling behind, and there is no guarantee you will be able to change.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND ENROLMENT WITH MY PARENT/GUARDIAN?

Your parent/guardian is very welcome to attend, but it will not be a problem if they cannot attend. We do ask you to limit family members to two people.

I AM FLUENT IN A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE. CAN I TAKE THIS AS A FOURTH A LEVEL?

Students fluent in French, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese can take the language as a fourth A level or in addition to their BTEC/UAL course. You will need to attend timetabled lessons for the language.

Students who do not have a GCSE qualification in the language will need to first be assessed by the subject teacher. Students who are fluent in a language not offered among our A level subjects are welcome to apply to be entered for the A level exam.

CAN I APPLY FOR A BURSARY AND WILL I RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

Information on applying for a 16-19 bursary will be available at the induction day after enrolment. Those who qualify will need to have their own bank account for the bursary payments to be paid into, and not their parent/carers account. The bursary will be dependent on attendance and punctuality.

Visit www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund to see if you are eligible to receive a bursary. If you received free school meals at school it is highly likely you will receive free college meals.

CAN I TAKE FOUR A LEVELS?

Students with exceptional GCSE results will be offered the opportunity to take four A levels. In this situation we often recommend considering the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is equal to half an A level. It is a coursework based project on a topic of your choice that you complete during the first year and is highly valued by universities. Students qualifying for four A levels may also be considering applying to Oxbridge or Russell Group universities - See the Aiming High programme on page 10.

CAN I TAKE A BTEC WITH AN A LEVEL?

The majority of our BTEC subjects and all of our UAL subjects are Extended Diplomas. These are full-time courses equal to 3 A levels. For this reason they are not taken with any additional A level subjects. We also offer Applied Diplomas in Criminology, Applied Psychology and Law. These are equivalent to one A level, and are taken with 2 other A level or Applied Diploma subjects.

WHEN WILL I HAVE MY TIMETABLE?

You will receive a provisional timetable at your induction session on **Wednesday 3rd September** after you have enrolled. You will be able to access your timetable online. Be aware there may be some minor changes or additional lessons added in the first few weeks of term.

THE AIMING HIGH PROGRAMME



Unlock your potential with our Aiming High programme, designed exclusively for high achieving students at St. Francis Xavier Sixth Form College. This programme is crafted to elevate your academic and personal profile, making you a standout candidate for prestigious universities and sought-after degree apprenticeships.

TASTER SESSIONS & LECTURES

Participate in university-style taster sessions and lectures that focus on subject-specific content and skills. Led by experienced university lecturers, these sessions are designed to deepen your knowledge and prepare you for the rigors of higher education.

UNIVERSITY & CAREER GUIDANCE

Receive bespoke advice on university applications, including personal statement crafting, interview techniques, and selecting the right course and institution for your aspirations.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES

Gain access to esteemed university mentoring programmes such as Realising Opportunities, which partners with leading universities to support your application process and gives reduced offers to 13 Russell Group universities upon completion of the programme.

OXBRIDGE SUPPORT

For students interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge, we have a range of support to help with the decision-making and application. We have established a strong relationship with both Jesus College, Oxford and Robinson College, Cambridge and throughout the year we have talks from and workshops from each university covering aspects such as course and college choice, the application process, super-curricular advice and preparation for entry assessments and interviews. In addition, each year we take prospective students on visits to both universities, so that they can make an informed decision as to which one would be right for them.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The EPQ is a highly valued and respected course which is designed to enhance the student's ability to work independently through the development and utilisation of a series of academic skills, all of which are beneficial to future study and employment. For those looking to apply for university, this course provides excellent preparation for the kind of study required at degree level. The EPQ is particularly beneficial for those applying to Oxbridge and other highly competitive universities.



STUDENT ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Going to sixth form is about more than studying. At St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College we have a range of groups, clubs and opportunities to ensure your time at sixth form is fully enriched. As well as enhancing UCAS statements and job applications, enrichment activities can help you to meet new people with similar interests, keep you fit, offer exciting new opportunities and give you some time to take your mind off of your studies.

As a new student, you will be invited to sign up to clubs of your interest in the autumn term. If you have an interest in something that isn't offered, speak to your tutor - we always welcome new ideas!

Take a look below to see just some of the groups we have on offer!

- 🛡 **Young Enterprise**
- 🛡 **The Student Union**
- 🛡 **Student Ambassadors**
- 🛡 **The Model United Nations Team**
- 🛡 **Equality & Diversity Committee**
- 🛡 **London School of Economics Tutoring**
- 🛡 **Muay Thai Martial Arts classes**
- 🛡 **Cricket Academy**
- 🛡 **Culture Cafe**
- 🛡 **Puzzle Club**
- 🛡 **Theatre Trips**
- 🛡 **Creative Writing**
- 🛡 **Football (Men's & Women's)**
- 🛡 **Badminton / Table Tennis Club**
- 🛡 **Basketball Club (Men's & Women's)**
- 🛡 **Hidden History Club**
- 🛡 **Film Club**
- 🛡 **Mindfulness Courses**
- 🛡 **Philosophy Group**
- 🛡 **Create & Craft**





DIGITAL INNOVATION AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



The St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College Digital Innovation Strategy has been developed to enhance the learning experience and develop the skills of our students, ensuring they're best placed to succeed in a rapidly-changing career environment.

To ensure students have the opportunity to benefit from this strategy, every new student will have access to an Apple iPad to use in lessons and at home.

The Digital Innovation Strategy incorporates technology into teaching and learning through the use of Apple iPads, Google GSuite and Microsoft Apps. Using these tools, students can collaborate on group tasks, access digital resources easily and work remotely - particularly useful when working on assignments at home.

The iPads will be managed and updated centrally by the College, but students can switch between their College account and their personal Apple ID. Students will be able to purchase their iPad at a significantly reduced rate and students in receipt of bursary will be loaned an iPad for the duration of their time at St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College.



OUR STUDENTS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

WHAT IS YOUR TIMETABLE LIKE? DO YOU HAVE TO GO IN EVERYDAY?

The timetable is different to GCSEs and depends on the courses you study, but generally you'll be in college most days. On my course, I had a free day on Tuesdays, when I could study. I attended college from 9am to 4pm Monday and Thursday, and Wednesday and Friday were shorter days.

JOEL

HOW GOOD ARE THE TEACHERS?

The teachers are really good, they always try to make sure you understand what you are doing and they give you a lot of resources to help with your studies. They respond pretty quickly to their emails which is amazing for anyone that has a lot of questions like me.

ANITA

I would say that the teachers are excellent. They all provide a great support system and your tutor is there to help with any issues. You can always visit your teachers during their office hours to raise concerns and you can also email anytime. They're friendly and great to work with.

ISABELLA

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU NEED TO BRING WITH YOU WHEN YOU FIRST START?

I bring a pen and a notebook and if I'm doing maths, I bring pencils, rubbers and a ruler. If I'm not sure of something in maths I write in pencil so I can correct my mistakes after in pen.

ANITA

You'll typically need a well-stocked pencil case: arm yourself with your favourite pens, pencils, rulers, rubbers, highlighters. Bring paper and a good notebook too, although some teachers provide you with exercise books.

GODFREY

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO PLANS TO STUDY 3 STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHS) SUBJECTS?

If STEM subjects are what you want to study, then go for it. Make sure you work hard and don't get distracted as it's important to pay attention. If you do need help make sure you ask. If you end up taking a STEM subject it would be good to do some extra studying at home after your lessons, especially topics you find tricky so the information can stick in your head.

ABENA

SCAN TO WATCH OUR LIVE STUDENT Q&A VIDEO



WHAT ARE THE BEST EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

There's an excellent gym and plenty of sport clubs to choose from (football, basketball, athletics etc) and lots of interesting clubs such as Debating, Hidden Histories, Student Union, etc. They're all really interesting and open to anyone.

ISABELLA

ARE THE WAY LESSONS TAUGHT SIMILAR TO SECONDARY SCHOOL?

The teachers assess more often than in secondary e.g. mini assessments, practise questions on certain topics and every few weeks teachers have a one to one with you to review your work and set targets.

ABENA

I found that the lessons are smaller and more interactive - there is more emphasis on making your own notes and expect to have homework from every lesson for the next lesson, you'll find a good routine soon.

ISABELLA

HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE? DO YOU GET HELP WITH THIS?

In preparation for life after college your form teacher and subject teachers will give you tips on the right websites to sign up to e.g. UNIFROG, and assistance with CVs and anything related to life after SFX. You will receive talks from the careers advisor, along with the chance to meet different universities at the College's Higher Education Fair. Even if you decide not to go to uni, your teachers will still help you with what you plan to do after college. There are workshops available to attend to help with preparing for the next year and the weekly college bulletin informs you of the latest placement, work experience, apprenticeship and job opportunities.

ABENA

WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE?

Life at SFX is fairly different to school in that there are so many people your own age. The teachers are friendly and very interactive, there's plenty of interesting clubs to get involved with (I'm in Student Union and Hidden History) and the library is also excellent. It's really easy to fit in as the classes aren't too large and you'll make friends quickly.

ISABELLA

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE, WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO STUDENTS USUALLY WEAR?

The dress code isn't a concern, you're allowed dyed hair and your own fun style as long as it's not too revealing or has any inappropriate messages. I prefer just jeans and tops myself to keep it comfortable - there's no pressure to dress up.

ISABELLA

The dress code is informal, you are free to wear what you would like and what you feel helps to express yourself, as long as it isn't inappropriate. There are a variety of styles within the college from tracksuits to formal wear.

AMY

ARE THERE ANY OTHER LESSONS BESIDES THE ONES WE CHOOSE TO STUDY?

In year 12 everyone studies Religion and Philosophy where you discuss different topics in the world and different religions. For example, in my class we were discussing LGBTQ+ issues, how different religions pray, and their rules in their holy books.

ANITA

HOW LONG ARE THE FACILITIES OPEN AFTER LESSONS END?

The library is usually open before, during and after lessons. There is also the gym that is open for about an hour after College finishes. Sometimes your teachers are free that time of the day and they can assist you with any work you have or you can sit in their classroom to complete any work instead of going to the library. Teachers also arrange for university students to come in and help students after lessons end.

AMY

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE FOR LUNCH? IS LUNCH THE ONLY BREAK IN THE DAY?

There are two different lunch times: 12:20 and 13:10, depending on what your timetable looks like. You can leave college at these times to get food if you wish, but the college cafeteria is also pretty great; different food options every day, hot and cold, and my personal favourite addition, the college Costa coffee shop. A hot chocolate in the afternoon makes all the difference. There's also a break at 11am. There are lots of places inside and outside to eat and sit for lunch/break.

ISABELLA

"It's not just about the studying here; it's about the support and other opportunities on offer, such as: using the LRC for study; a variety of extra-curricular activities; becoming a student ambassador."

"The College is very diverse. If you step out of your comfort zone, you can meet some great people, especially in sports."

"There are a lot of opportunities here to get involved and it pushes you to do it of your own accord. Having been given the opportunity to be Vice-President, I have grown in confidence and enjoyed more responsibility."

"The extra-curricular programme has a lot to offer. How the college cares about our mental health as well has made me very grateful."

"Join the Chaplaincy base group and you'll meet a lot of good people."

"The college gives you a good opportunity to be your best self and enables people to make the best choices for themselves. It will boost your career in the future and I was grateful for the opportunity to do the EPQ. I really think it's an amazing place and helps people to decide their career path."

"Teachers are helpful and communicate with you well. Students are friendly."

"I felt so at home when I enrolled. SFX has exceeded my expectations."

"Teachers are very kind, caring and knowledgeable. Always there and open to new perspectives."

"I am a proud student ambassador, building my communication skills with potential students. It's a good way to make new friendships and connections. I am also a student governor, which has given me lots of new skills and confidence"

"If you're looking for independence but also one-to-one feedback, SFX gives you that. I did the programme and it was helpful when doing my personal statement for university."

"The college is very supportive about our mental health - it is very easy to access. The college is very welcoming and there is a place for everyone here."

"There are lots of trips on offer. We went to Paris for English for our anthology. We combined it with the French class and it was a great experience. It was very affordable too!"

"The careers department talked me through how to apply for the apprenticeships and degrees. I wouldn't have applied for Accenture if it wasn't for the college and the opportunities they gave me."





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