



**St Dunstan's College**  
**Sixth Form**



**“In the Sixth Form you get to study what you want and really focus on the subjects you love. We are encouraged to learn beyond the syllabus and develop independent study skills.”**

Douglas Butt, Head of School 2008-2009, now studying Politics at Edinburgh University

## **Mr Patrick Glavin** **Head of Key Stage 5**



The Sixth Form at St Dunstan's College is a place of opportunity for the students who come here. Our main business is education. We offer small classes, a proven track record of academic success and the potential to maximise attainment through independent study. Furthermore, students regularly go beyond the parameters set by their courses and show a passion for learning that they take with them when they leave. The Sixth Form is an ideal stepping stone to higher education, and students are carefully advised by internal and external experts to enable

them to make the right choices. In addition, the Sixth Form offers a wide range of opportunities for students to develop interests outside of the classroom. They initiate, lead and participate in a large number of activities which enhance their education and their own personal development.

Ben and Holly, who produced this brochure, personify some of the core values of the College. Most importantly, they have had a happy and successful time in the Sixth Form and will take their experiences with them into their future lives.



## **Holly Lanes** **and** **Ben Russell**

**Deputy Heads of School 2008-2009**



This guide aims to give you a flavour of what life is really like in St Dunstan's Sixth Form. We have used a mixture of our own experiences and opinions to produce this brochure, which we hope reflects why we have had such a great time...despite all the hard work!

For us, making the choice to continue at St Dunstan's for the Sixth Form was an easy one. And, later on, when we looked round universities and compared notes with other students from around the country, we realised how special the environment at St Dunstan's really was.

Now that we have completed our final IB examinations, we can look back on our time in the Sixth Form and firmly say that we could not have made a better choice; we have made many friends and will have fond memories for life.

Enjoy!

# Choice, Challenge and Success

The Sixth Form at St Dunstan's is a friendly, vibrant and challenging environment; it prepares students academically and socially with the skills needed to succeed at university and in the world of work beyond.

Uniquely, students have the opportunity to construct their own educational programme. The choice provided by the IB and A Levels gives students great flexibility to create a course that suits them. This in turn helps students to maximise their potential, giving them the best possible opportunity to excel in their studies.

Set against a backdrop of a warm and inclusive Sixth Form environment, a dedicated and inspirational teaching staff and an expansive array of modern facilities, students have the perfect place in which to live, work and learn. St Dunstan's prides itself on its diverse and welcoming student body, making the move into the Sixth Form for both new and old students an exciting and smooth transition.

Sixth Form students are not asked to wear a uniform, but are expected to dress smartly in business suits, creating an air of professionalism. Sixth Formers also benefit from the excellent facilities available - the Learning Resource Centre, Sixth Form ICT suites and the Sixth Form Common Room provide plentiful resources and opportunities for students to flourish.

As a result, in both the A Level and IB examinations, our Sixth Formers achieve outstanding grades. In the 2009 A Level results, 51.1% of the exams were awarded an

A grade (26.7% national average) and 80.1% of exams were graded A-B (national average 52%). This great success was mirrored in the school's fantastic IB results; students gaining on average 36.2 points (worldwide average of 30 points), which equates to 559 UCAS points or more than 4 A grades at A Level.

During the university application process, each student is given one-to-one advice, help and support from their tutor; this is supplemented by a Careers Evening and various university trips. In the last two years, the school was particularly pleased by Oxbridge and Medical School application successes; 14 students gaining places at Oxbridge, whilst all 8 applicants for medicine were similarly successful.

## Where are they now?

Recent students are now studying a wide range of degree courses at many of the top universities:

**Dominic** Medicine, *Imperial College London*

**Edward** Mathematics, *Cambridge*

**Hannah** Statistics, Economics and Spanish, *University College London*

**Alex** Geography, *Leeds*

**Joe** English, *Cambridge*

**Pascale** Archaeology and Anthropology, *Bristol*

**Ella** Engineering, *Cambridge*

**“I really enjoyed my time in the Sixth Form and would recommend it to anyone!”**

James, now studying English at Nottingham University



**“Pupils experience an excellent blend of a conventional academic curriculum, enlarged in the Sixth Form by the alternative of the IB, enriched by a very wide and heavily subscribed range of activities and visits, and balanced by close attention to the personal development of pupils.”**

Most recent St Dunstan’s ISI Inspection Report

# A Diverse Choice for a Diverse Future

## International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma

The IB option is suitable for those who wish to study a wide range of subjects throughout the Sixth Form, keep their university options open and who do not want to specialise too early.

The IB consists of six subjects studied over two years. Students study three of these subjects at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. Students choose one from each of five subject groups: English, Second Language, Individuals & Societies, Experimental Sciences, and Mathematics. The sixth subject is either an Arts subject or an optional second subject from one of the other groups. This gives IB students a broad education, while the Higher Level structure still allows students to study their favourite subjects in depth.

The IB also has three additional elements at its core, which underpin the philosophy of the Diploma. Students study Theory of Knowledge (TOK), they undertake 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) and write a 4000 word Extended Essay on a topic of their choice.

The IB is assessed through coursework and exams at the end of the two year course. Subjects are graded on a scale of 1 - 7 points, with 7 being the highest. Student performance in TOK, CAS and the Extended Essay additionally contributes up to 3 points. Thus, the maximum IB score is 45 points.

The IB creates well-rounded and successful individuals and is highly recommended internationally by universities and employers. For further information, see our International Baccalaureate Diploma prospectus.

### Subject Choices

Biology  
Business and Management  
Chemistry  
Classical Languages (Latin)  
Economics  
English Literature  
Environmental Systems and Societies  
Film  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Mathematics (and Maths Studies)  
Modern Language 'Ab initio' (for beginners)  
Music  
Philosophy  
Physics  
Spanish  
Theatre Arts  
Visual Arts

# A Levels

## Subject Choices

Art  
Biology  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Design Technology  
Drama  
Economics  
English Literature  
French  
Further Mathematics  
Geography  
German  
History  
Latin  
Mathematics  
Music  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Religious Studies  
Spanish

An A Level consists of an AS level, taken at the end of Year 12, and an A2 level, taken at the end of Year 13. Each of these levels consists of various module examinations and coursework, enabling students to develop both examination and personal research techniques.

At St Dunstan's, most students take four AS Levels, and then have the option to drop one subject at the end of the first year. In some circumstances it is possible to study more subjects at the discretion of the Headmistress; we want all our students to reach their full potential.

During Year 12 and 13, students are taught for four to five hours per week for each subject. In addition, each student is timetabled for the General Studies programme, ICT training, tutorial and independent study periods and Wednesday afternoon Games sessions.

When selecting subjects, students will be guided towards appropriate A Levels with consideration given to their chosen university course and future career. For example, if students wanted to study Medicine at university, it would be expected that they take Chemistry and Physics or Biology at A Level.

Students are graded at AS level from an A to U, and at A2 from an A\* to U. The newly introduced A\* grade is given when students achieve a minimum of 90% in their A2 module examinations. Top Russell Group universities will typically ask for grades ranging from B, B, B (Edinburgh for example) or A\*, A, A (Oxbridge).

# Extra Curricular Activities

## Broadening Horizons for Life

St Dunstan's is proud of the vast range of societies and activities available to Sixth Formers to participate in and to lead. The Armstrong Science Society, Modern Languages Society and Historical Film Society, to name just a few, provide an excellent opportunity for all students to get involved. This also enables students to become rounded individuals who stand out in the university application process.

In the Sixth Form, particular emphasis is placed on encouraging students to lead and organise activities which involve pupils from across all areas of the College. In previous years, students have directed Lower School drama productions, taught First Aid in the Combined Cadet Force and have inspired younger pupils to become involved in the successful College Debating Society. This has not only helped students in developing leadership and inter-personal skills but has also boosted their confidence. Generally students' commitment, attention to detail and determination whilst organising these events are seen as core to success, allowing the individuals and the groups to flourish.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is particularly popular within the College. Being one of the largest independent

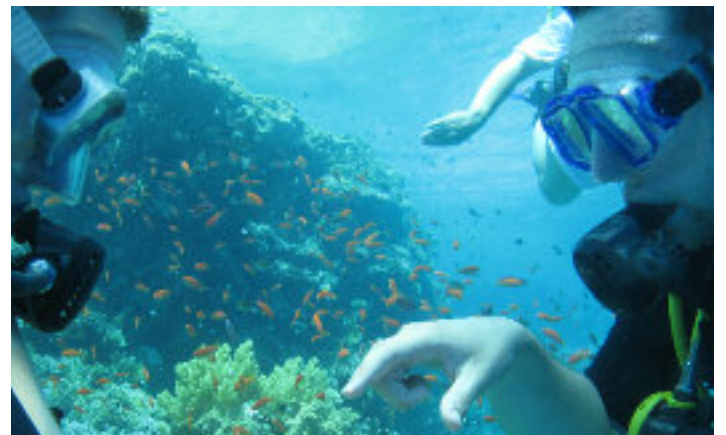
award centres, we allow large numbers of students to participate and excel within the programme. Last year alone over half the Year participated in expeditions to Snowdonia, Spain and the Brecon Beacons.

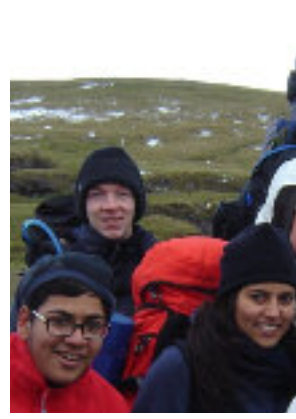
The Sixth Form Curriculum is also enriched by the eclectic mix of trips. This not only helps to bring subjects to life, but broadens the socio-cultural horizons of each student. In previous years there have been History trips to St Petersburg, Music tours to USA and Estonia, Language excursions to Paris and Rome, to name but a few. With the College's generous travel bursary scheme, all students can take advantage of these unique learning opportunities regardless of family circumstances.

Above all, our Sixth Formers are highly regarded as role models throughout the College community. The prefect team of 6 senior "red tie" prefects and a larger body of "blue tie" prefects allows students to give something back to the wider College community. Sixth Formers also perform a vast array of community service and charity activities - taking part in Fun Fizzical, organising Cake Sales and even going on community Scuba Diving projects to clean Britain's lakes.

“There are so many opportunities! I was pushed out of my comfort zone, helping me to discover new skills, talents and interests I never knew I had before...having great fun.”

Harry, current A Level student





# A Sixth Form Experience

## Friendships beyond the classroom

St Dunstan's College Sixth Form is a place where strong friendships are formed. Excursions and social events create a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Whether it's a charity concert event, a sports tour to St Lucia or the many other opportunities for students to immerse themselves in.

Friendships between students are based upon a strong foundation of respect, sociable and considerate. This is also reflected in the relationships which are built on respect and independence.



**“When I look back on my time in Sixth Form, I will only remember, but am also grateful for the lifelong friendships I made.”**

Emily, 16



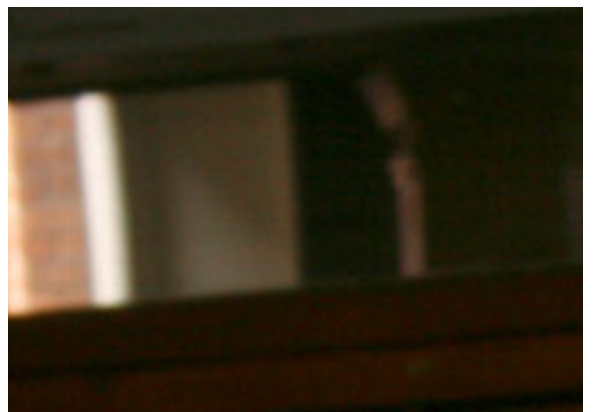
# nce classroom

g friendships are formed. The various trips,  
and friendly atmosphere. Whether it's participating in  
annual Sixth Form Ball, there are a wide array of

foundation of mutual respect; everybody is caring,  
relationships Sixth Form students have with teachers,

**St Dunstan's Sixth Form I not  
eful for, the many memories and**

currently studying History at Warwick University



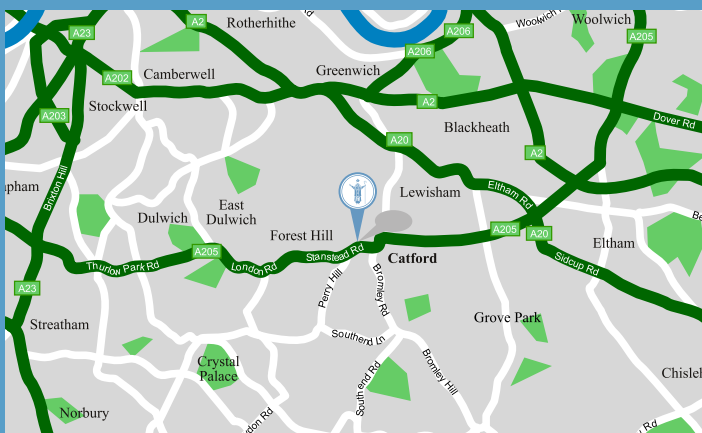
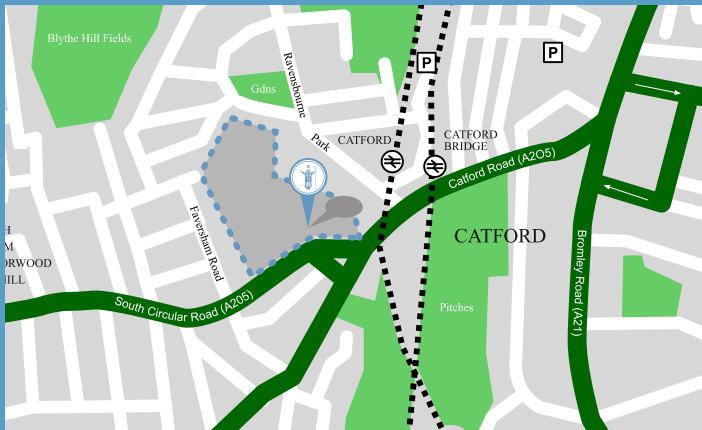
If you would like to find out more about joining the Sixth Form at St Dunstan's College please visit our website for details of forthcoming 16+ Open Events or contact us to arrange an individual visit.

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