



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form



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7th January 2021

Re: Sixth Form applications

Dear Year 11 student and parent/carer

I felt it appropriate to write to you at this stage to outline how we will need to modify the Sixth Form application process in light of the current lockdown rules.

The Year 11 into Sixth Form taster day is a vital part of the application process as it allows students to gain a real sense of what their post-16 choices will be like to study. It is important that students are able to benefit from this day before they make their final choices. As we currently do not know when students will return to school, we will advertise a new date for the taster day in due course. As a result, the current deadline for applications of Friday 5th February has been postponed and a new deadline date will also be advertised once we have a clearer idea of when schools may re-open.

In previous years we have felt it important to complete the application process well before the GCSE examinations started so students could focus purely on their exams. As exams will not now occur this summer, there is less pressure to complete this process by the normal deadlines.

We are also keen for students to be able to attend a face to face (socially distanced) interview in the future when it is safe to do so, a vital part of the application process which allows students to receive in-depth personalised careers advice on their subject options, as well as gain experience on what it is like to attend an interview. By postponing the deadline for applications, this also allows us time to complete these interviews without needing to rush the process, to ensure students receive good quality advice and guidance.

I know many families will be concerned about ensuring there is a clear place reserved for students next year, and wish to reserve places on courses as soon as possible. We are committed to ensuring that all current Holy Family students have a place in our Sixth Form from September, should they wish to accept it. This means students now have the time to carefully research their subject options and career pathways without the pressure of an upcoming deadline. The formal application is completed via our online application form. Students will shortly receive the username and passwords for this form, to their school gmail account. In the meantime, to help in this process, I have attached a number of helpful guidelines:

- 1) Subject option blocks:** Attached to this letter is a copy of the subject option blocks from which students will need to choose their subjects combinations. When students gain access to the online application form, they will see these blocks repeated in the same format. Providing students with the blocks now, allows students and their families to start considering the best combinations of subjects to take.
 - Students wishing to take an **A Level route** should refer to the A Level blocks and choose one subject only from each block A-D, a minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 subjects should be chosen (please note we would only recommend starting on 4 subjects if students gain a GCSE average of 6.5 or above, due to the academic demands of this level of study)
 - Students wishing to take a **full BTEC route** or a **mixed BTEC / A Level route** should refer to the BTEC blocks and choose one subject from block A and one subject from either block B OR block C. Please note, Health and Social Care is a triple award, so should be chosen on its own if students wish to take this subject.

- Also listed below the blocks are some of the additional subjects students may take depending on their main subject choices.
- Lastly, included is an overall description of a student's study programme which includes additional compulsory events and timetabled lessons

2) Subject information: As a reminder, the sixth form section of the school website has a wide range of videos and documents that provide information on Post-16 courses, including guides to choosing subjects, courses entry requirements. Follow the links below for the relevant information

Curriculum offer and subject entry requirements

<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/assets/Sixth-Form-/Curriculum-pathway-Sept-2021-v2.pdf>

Curriculum pathways

<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/assets/Sixth-Form-/Curriculum-pathway-Sept-2021.pdf>

Guidance on subject choices and description of courses

<https://www.holyfamily.waltham.sch.uk/sixth-form/admissions/>

3) Useful careers websites

Informed choices: We would strongly advise that students and their families access the website below which gives useful impartial guidance on subject combinations, career routes and entry to Russell Group Universities

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk>

UCAS: UCAS is the system by which students apply for university. Students can use the search facility on the UCAS website to gain an understanding of the Level 3 entry, grade and subject requirements for every degree pathway in the UK.

www.ucas.com

4) Post-16 Careers advice and support

Both students and parents should feel free to contact the sixth form team on the email addresses below if they would like any advice and guidance on sixth form options

I hope this clarifies how we have adapted the application process this year. Revised dates for the taster day, application deadline and interview process will be advertised once we are clearer in the timetable for students to return to school. I would encourage students or parents to contact us if they have any questions, at any stage in the process and would like to reassure you that there is no rush to complete this process.

Yours faithfully,

M Delf



Assistant Headteacher (KS5)

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Level 3 option blocks (For Sept 2021)

A Level Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Geography	Art (Fine Art)	Chemistry	Biology
History	Business Studies	D&T (Product Design)	English Literature
RE	Government & Politics	Economics	Physics
Psychology	Photography	Film Studies	French
Biology	Sociology	Spanish	Psychology
	Drama	Sociology	Maths
	Maths		

Level 3 BTEC Blocks

Block A	Block B	Block C (A Levels)
BTEC Business (Double award)	BTEC IT (Single award)	Chemistry
BTEC Health & Social Care (Triple award)	BTEC Sport (Single award)	D&T (Product Design)
BTEC Media Production (1.5 award)	BTEC Performing Arts (1.5 award)	Economics
		Film Studies
		Spanish
		Sociology

Note: BTEC Health and Social Care is a triple award – equivalent to 3 A Levels, so if chosen it should be the only subject selected

Additional aspects to timetabled study programmes

1) Block E includes:

Students can choose supplementary subjects from Option Block E which include:

- Extended Project Qualification EPQ
- AS Core Maths
- AS/A Level Further Maths
- GCSE Maths and English Re-sit classes

2) Core RE (x2 lessons a fortnight) – Core RE is a compulsory part of the sixth form study programme for all students

3) Compulsory study sessions (x6 lessons a fortnight)

4) Enrichment (x2 lessons a fortnight Wednesday P5)

5) Pastoral Support:

- Morning registration/Tutorials
- Assemblies (Weds week 1)
- Extended Reg/PSD (Fridays)