

SALESIAN



COLLEGE



EDUCATING FOR LIFE

Prospectus





“The pupils are very well prepared for the next chapter of their lives.”

ISI Inspection Report

Contents

WELCOME	04
SALESIAN ETHOS	06
ACADEMIC LIFE	08
PASTORAL CARE	10
PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS	12
SPORT	14
CO-EDUCATIONAL SIXTH FORM	16
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM	18



“Excellent numeracy is evident in mathematics and across a range of other subjects.”

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Education and
preparation for a
changing world

Welcome

Since 1901, when the College was founded by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Salesian College has maintained and developed a reputation as a school whose students achieve at the highest level, whilst remaining grounded in a firm foundation of Christian love.

As an independent Catholic grammar school for boys aged from 11 to 18 years, with a Co-educational Sixth Form, our aim is to send a young person out into the world who is confident without being arrogant, comfortable with themselves and all those round them; a good Christian, an honest citizen, a decent person, well equipped to take their place in and make a significant contribution to society. Students from other denominations and faiths are welcomed and play a full part in the life of the College.

We are proud to be acclaimed for our outstanding levels of academic, cultural, spiritual and physical achievement, exemplary student behaviour and a caring ethos.

You are warmly invited to visit the College by appointment. Be assured that you will be made most welcome.

We look forward to meeting you.



Gerard Owens
Headmaster



“The caring ethos finds expression in pastoral care of a high order.”

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Salesian ethos

In the Salesian education, Don Bosco was very clear that a Salesian school must be a happy place - a place of joy and lasting friendships. To achieve this a Salesian school must comprise of four parts and each part is interwoven.



A Salesian school must be a **Home** - a place that welcomes and where young people feel secure and loved; a **Playground** - where lasting friendships are made and experiences outside the classroom form character and personal development; a **School** - where students are educated for life and given every opportunity to achieve their full individual academic, cultural and sporting ability; and a **Church** where Gospel values and the presence of God in our lives is shared, understood, accepted and lived out in daily life.



“Pupils’ moral development is excellent. They have a clear sense of right and wrong and this is typified by their behaviour around the school.”

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*Developing the skills
and talents of each
individual*

Academic life



At Salesian College we encourage all students to aspire to the highest level of academic achievement. The selective nature of the College enables us to offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced which encourages a desire to learn and allows the students to fulfil their potential. As well as the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Religious Studies, boys in Years 7 to 9 study Art, Classics, Computing, Drama, French, Geography, History, Music and Spanish. Co-ordinated sciences are taught from Year 7 and then students study Biology, Physics and Chemistry as separate subjects. Boys in Years 7-9 have one period of Physical Education and two periods of Games.

From Year 10, students take Maths, English, Religious Studies and either Combined (Double) Sciences or Triple Science plus an additional selection of optional subjects as they prepare for GCSE. Our Co-Educational Sixth Form offers students a choice of 19 subjects from which they select their A level options.

The College seeks to help every student, providing comprehensive Learning Support which may focus on general literacy or numeracy issues, organisational support or specific learning related support. The College has the Don Bosco Centre which is a dedicated Learning Centre as well as a popular social venue for students at lunchtime. The Gifted and Talented Programme runs throughout the College in all areas of the curriculum ensuring that appropriate extension activities stretch and challenge those of higher ability.

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is offered to students providing them with the best research skills available when they leave for university and the opportunity to study another area in addition to their A level choices. The vast majority of our students go on to Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge for which we have an enviable record of successful applicants.





“Throughout the school teaching is very effective, successfully promoting pupils’ progress and fostering academic excellence in accordance with the school’s aims.”

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“The system of pastoral care is one of the College’s greatest strengths and provision for pupils’ personal development is excellent. The College fosters the development of courteous and considerate boys with a strong sense of duty.”

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Developing each student spiritually, academically, culturally, physically and emotionally



Pastoral care

Pastoral Care is at the core of a Salesian education. The College regards education as a partnership involving the student, his/her family and the College. All three work in harmony to produce the young men and women of whom we are justly proud.



To ensure that all students experience individual Pastoral Care, Heads of Year and Form Tutors take a keen responsibility for the day-to-day welfare and progress of each student, helping them develop socially, academically and spiritually in all years. A structured programme of Personal, Social and Health Education supports students in developing their understanding of key areas affecting young people such as relationships, anti-bullying, financial awareness, study skills, substance misuse, social networking and media. Good relationships and mutual respect are a cornerstone of Salesian education and the aim of Pastoral Care within the College is to support all students on this journey.

The College's full-time Chaplain plays an active role in the College and is always ready to give support and a listening ear should students need it. The comfortable and welcoming Don Bosco Centre is a popular drop-in area for all ages and often a haven of peace in a busy world, particularly for younger boys. Every year students experience a retreat, which is tailored to the needs of their year group and provides them with the opportunity for a day of quiet reflection and discussion.





Developing new skills and promoting creative confidence

Performing & Creative arts

The Arts are an intrinsic and highly valued aspect of education throughout the College. The Music School, Drama Studio and Art Rooms, along with a well-equipped and fully functioning stage, provide an environment in which the Arts can thrive and flourish.

Drama, choir, orchestra and ensembles, public speaking and debating are all popular and successful, and every student, from Year 7 to the Sixth Form, is encouraged to take part. The philosophy of the College is that the Performing Arts not only enhances and broadens students' academic studies and develops their team skills, but also encourages their personal and cultural development.

Art is a core subject from Year 7 to Year 9. All students are encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media in order to develop skills and promote confidence.

Drawing and painting techniques are studied to a high level. Many students study Art for GCSE and A level enjoying outstanding success.

Music takes place in the modern, purpose-built McGuinness Music School which comprises a suite of well-equipped rooms designed to accommodate the many musical activities that take place in the College.

All music and music technology lessons are taught there, including the course followed by students in the first three years through to GCSE and A level. Individual lessons taught by a visiting team of instrumental and vocal specialists are available to all students on a ten week per term lesson basis. In addition, the Music School provides the venue for choir, orchestra and ensemble rehearsals, as well as for some concerts. The College Junior Choir is formed of the boys in Years 7 and 8 together with a schola for the boys in this age group. In conjunction with the senior choir and orchestra they perform at many major College events.

Drama has always been popular and successful in the College and continues to flourish. In addition to the curricular drama lessons, the Salesian College Theatre Company undertakes a major production each year in the Spring Term involving a large number of students. All students are actively encouraged to be members of the College Theatre Company and participate in performances either as actors or in the production team, in which they experience and develop a wide range of theatre skills.

In addition, a Junior Drama Club operates in school working towards a Performing Arts Evening in the Autumn Term. The boys also take part in the Shakespeare for Schools project performing at a local theatre. Inter-House Drama and examinations are also available to students.





“Teachers know their pupils extremely well enabling them (the pupils) to make strong progress.”

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A fine sporting tradition



Sport

Sport has always been an important part of the Salesian experience. The College believes that, in addition to the enormous sense of enjoyment and fulfilment active participation in sport offers, it helps to build teamwork and self-confidence.

Sporting success at Salesian College is outstanding. Students regularly achieve at District, County and National level in all sports. Competitive teams are fielded in rugby, football, cricket, athletics, swimming, biathlon, basketball, cross-country, golf, netball, skiing and tennis. Alongside representation in College teams, the Inter-House tournaments allow a large proportion of students to compete and represent their House.

Additional sports such as badminton and table tennis are also very popular.

There are also regular overseas trips, for example, the well-established ski trip, the many sports tours which in recent years have included Holland, Barcelona, Portugal and the West and East coast of America.

Physical Education at Salesian College is delivered through a well-resourced and experienced department. Students throughout the College have an afternoon for games each week during which they participate in the major team sports in the appropriate season. In the Lower School (Years 7 to 9) there is an additional PE lesson during which boys concentrate on individual sports, small-sided games and fitness. In the Upper School (Years 10 -13) GCSE and A level PE are a popular and successful choice for many students. In addition to the excellent curricular provision, the College has a very strong and well supported tradition of extra-curricular sport including Saturday fixtures throughout the year, in rugby, football and cricket.



“Individual students and College teams have achieved distinction in a wide range of activities.”

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*Driving academic
excellence*

Co-educational Sixth form



At Salesian College, we have a vibrant and successful Co-educational Sixth Form and the students are an integral and important part of the College. Considerable investment has been made in Sixth Form provision in recent years including a dedicated Sixth Form Centre, which contains a comfortable common room and several study rooms all equipped with the latest ICT broadband technology.

The Sixth Form provides the continuity that is so essential not only for outstanding A level success, but also for growth and maturity, self-discipline and individual responsibility.

Through the Sixth Form leadership programme and mentorship scheme the traditions and values of the College are passed on to the younger students. This process not only engenders a close relationship between the staff and the Sixth Form, but it also gives the Sixth Form students valuable supervisory and pastoral contact with the younger boys. Being treated as young adults gives Sixth Form students an experience of greater freedom which in turn leads to a sense of responsibility.

Small teaching and tutor groups are an important feature. They enable each Sixth Form student to receive the individual guidance and support they need during the important years of study for A levels and to achieve the highest examination results of which they are capable. The vast majority of our Sixth Form students go on to Russell Group Universities including Oxford and Cambridge for which we have an enviable record of successful applicants. To facilitate this, the College has in place a comprehensive programme of UCAS guidance to help them make the best individual choice of course and university.

All members of the Sixth Form benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities which includes regular social events. In addition there are a variety of sporting, cultural and musical activities in which they play a full and active part throughout the year. The Sixth Form students are at the forefront of fundraising for charity and each year a large number travel to Lourdes as helpers of children with special needs on the annual HCPT Easter Pilgrimage.

The Sixth Form thus provides the opportunity for students to experience a unique sense of independence and personal responsibility within the atmosphere of a close and supportive community.





Careers

Careers guidance is part of the entitlement of every student throughout the College and is an important element of the Personal and Social Education programme.

The careers library includes access to the ECCTIS computer system for higher education guidance as well as a full collection of relevant literature. Detailed advice is given to the students both in school and at Parents' Evenings. All students benefit from the opportunity to visit university open days and take part in the Careers Fair. We are members of the Independent Schools' Careers Organisation, and individual careers interviews are provided by a specialist careers adviser.





“You can be who you want to be.”

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Beyond the classroom

Opportunities and activities beyond the classroom form an important and exciting feature of life at Salesian College and contribute enormously to the academic, cultural, physical, social and spiritual life that the students experience. All students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of clubs and societies including sports, drama, chess, computing, orchestra, choir, debating, public speaking and a whole variety of subject-based clubs and activities.

Students participate in regular international and domestic trips including skiing, Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Year 7 Lake District Activity Week. There are many educational visits of an academic, cultural and leisure interest, which include, regular foreign language visits and exchanges to France and Spain, international History, Geography, Physics and Classics tours, as well as day visits and theatre trips within the UK for all curriculum areas. There are many clubs and societies for the boys to join including Chess Club, Computer Club, Drama Club, Linguistics, Maths Olympiad, Numbercrunch, Photography, Rubik's Cube Club and STEM Club.

Opportunities to help others are also a main feature of Salesian College, ranging from the numerous charity events organised by all year groups, to the Student Voice programme, Justice and Peace group, Share the Light visit to Zambia and the annual Lower Sixth Pilgrimage to Lourdes with HCPT. Salesian College is a community where we want life for all our students to extend far “beyond the classroom”.

“The excellent provision of extra-curricular activities is a great strength of this vibrant community.”

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