



excellent and highly respected qualification, both in the UK and across the globe.”

Pupils also have the option to pursue the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) that helps boost their UCAS points, enhancing university applications.

While A levels and the IB Diploma are academically focused, the Cambridge Technical Diploma combines coursework and exams to suit different learning styles: “It offers pupils variety, allowing them to add an A level subject to the programme if they wish to.

“Often GCSE results alone determine a pupil’s academic pathway and some pupils just aren’t suited to exams. So, at Stonyhurst, we offer a bespoke approach to the curriculum and aim to find a solution that brings out the strengths of each individual child – our varied curriculum reflects this.”

Stonyhurst is ranked in the top 25 per cent of schools and colleges for value-added progress, earning the prestigious Added Value Award. It is also ranked among the Top 30 IB Schools in the UK, reflecting its dedication to academic excellence and global readiness.

While studying at Stonyhurst, Higher Line pupils also have access to a first-class Careers Department that has seen pupils progress to some of the world’s top universities and gain prestigious apprenticeships.



College’s Head of Careers Emily Nolan.

“We recently invited speakers who advised predominantly IB pupils, about studying in Europe and the US. We also have Old Stonyhurst (OS) speakers advising on apprenticeships from a whole host of companies including Rolls Royce, Bentley and BAE.”

From Year 11, pupils can access various societies, including the Medical Society, Law Society and a society dedicated to preparing for and gaining access to Oxford and Cambridge University: “If pupils have medicine, veterinary or dentistry interests they are advised on what they need to be doing in terms of their university applications and they are given advice on UCAS preparation and mock interviews.

“Our Law Society recently hosted an alumnus studying law at university and a talk by an international lawyer who joined via Zoom from Singapore.”

Potential Oxbridge pupils at Stonyhurst benefit from a range of opportunities, including advice on ‘super-curricular’ reading lists and UCAS preparation. One pupil, passionate about Norse and Anglo Saxon history, was granted access to the College’s unique historic collections, while a music pupil is currently leading the school choir. “To succeed in applications to such prestigious universities, this is what’s expected. Every potential Oxbridge pupil receives comprehensive support with applications, interviews and extra-curricular activities. It’s a significant process, but it works.”

Similarly, all prospective university and degree apprenticeship pupils receive

practical support with applications, interview preparation and CVs.

As an independent international boarding school, Stonyhurst College serves pupils from around the world and its Higher Line curriculum reflects this diversity.



Looking to the future the College is set to launch an International Language School giving overseas pupils a unique opportunity to improve their English before they begin their journey at Stonyhurst: “It’s a very exciting development and one that we will be promoting all over the world.” ■

# BRIGHT FUTURES

At Stonyhurst College, practical and proactive support is consistently available for pupils exploring future opportunities

Taking a unique approach, Stonyhurst College offers a totally tailored curriculum for each Higher Line (Sixth Form) pupil, drawing on their individual interests and academic strengths.

Awarded the Quality in Careers Standard, Stonyhurst’s Careers Department has forged a reputation for unrivalled excellence. Higher Line pupils are provided with numerous and diverse opportunities to explore potential careers, while being continually supported by a team dedicated to preparing them for a life that reflects the school’s Jesuit ethos of ‘creating men and women for others’.

“At Stonyhurst we take a very holistic approach to education,” explains Lorraine Wright, Deputy Head Academic.

“We shape individuals who can go into



“ WE FIND A SOLUTION THAT BRINGS OUT THE STRENGTHS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CHILD ”

the world and make a positive impact. It’s not just about academia and exams. While pupils are in a position of privilege, they know they have a duty to help others.”

Unlike most schools which only offer A level qualifications, Sixth Form pupils at Stonyhurst have the choice of three distinct pathways. Along with traditional A levels, the College offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) plus the Cambridge Technical Diploma (CTEC) – providing pupils with the flexibility to choose the academic journey that best fits their career goals and aspirations.

“We don’t have a stringent approach to timetabling. Unlike other schools we can be much more flexible when it comes to considering what each pupil is capable of and how we can support them. It’s not a one size fits all approach.”

The opportunity to study for the IB Diploma has proved immensely popular, with approximately half of Higher Line pupils opting for this internationally-recognised academic qualification.

“The IBDP is for intellectually agile pupils as they have to study six subjects. If pupils want to go on to study or work abroad it’s an



Their career journey starts in Year 7, with Year 9 pupils guided in selecting their GCSE subjects, while Year 10 introduces a more in-depth approach to career education.

As they progress, pupils embark on their journey with Unifrog, a successful global online platform where they can build their CV, explore leading international universities and degree courses, express their academic, sporting, and cultural interests, and develop their UCAS personal statement.

The Stonyhurst Careers Department also provides pupils with employability workshops, work experience and inspiring talks from leading figures – including Stonyhurst alumnus and World Cup-winning England rugby player Kyran Bracken.

“Former Stonyhurst pupils play a huge part in our Career’s Department,” says the



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