



# INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

Stonyhurst College is setting new educational standards through its continued investment in academic excellence with the launch of new subjects and facilities, including a cutting-edge Art and Design Centre that blends creativity with innovation

Many may perceive Stonyhurst as a school better known for its heritage and values than its academic rigour, but its results tell a very different story. With an academic reputation that continues to go from strength to strength, Stonyhurst College consistently achieves strong outcomes when compared with local independent and state schools, and is recognised for its commitment to developing well-rounded, independent thinkers. This year, the College is setting a new benchmark in educational innovation with the launch of a new Art and Design Centre, alongside the introduction of pioneering subject areas such as Textile Design and Design Technology. These developments reflect Stonyhurst's dedication to offering an expansive curriculum that blends tradition with modern relevance.

Sarah Joseph, Stonyhurst's Deputy Head Academic, explains: "This is a significant

investment and will focus on the technical aspects of Art and Design, including 3D printing, laser cutting and CAD software so pupils learn the technical skills needed for the future."

The expansion of creative subjects is not just about exploring artistic potential but also equipping pupils with the technical skills that are increasingly valued in today's digital and design-driven world.

Alongside the launch of the new Art and Design Centre, Stonyhurst is introducing



Textile Design and Product Design at both A level and GCSE. These subjects will allow pupils to explore the intersection of creativity and technology, preparing them for a wide range of future career opportunities in the creative industries. This progressive move complements the College's established academic focus and STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) ensuring that pupils receive a comprehensive education that embraces the arts, sciences and technical subjects.

“STONYHURST IS SHAPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PUPILS TO THRIVE, BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY”

The College's academic achievements have always been a source of pride and this year's exam results highlight the success of its tailored educational approach. Stonyhurst's academic excellence is reflected in its A level outcomes, with 81 per cent of pupils achieving A\*-B grades, with 54 per cent earning A\*-A grades at A level. This performance places Stonyhurst in the top one per cent of schools and colleges nationally for value-added progress for pupils of all abilities, which is an impressive achievement. "This is the result of children making significant academic progress, irrespective of their starting point," says Sarah. "It means that pupils make more progress with us than

the vast majority of schools nationally. This reflects our Jesuit mission to enable every child to flourish."

In 2025, Stonyhurst's performance outpaced that of a local academically-selective school by over 20 per cent in A\*-A grades in the A level cohort. Stonyhurst, a non-selective school, exceeded this level of academic success, demonstrating how its value-added approach enables pupils of all abilities to achieve exceptional outcomes. Stonyhurst College offers three distinct pathways at Sixth Form, allowing pupils to choose the route that best reflects their individual strengths, ambitions and preferred learning styles.

**A LEVELS** – A level pupils typically follow a traditional, rigorous academic route, preparing them for university.

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP):** IB offers a globally recognised, holistic curriculum for the intellectually agile pupil – it promotes inquiry and critical thinking.

**CTEC (IN BUSINESS OR SPORT):** This pathway provides applied, modular learning with a focus on real-world skills. It is a vocational qualification that converts into UCAS points.

All pathways can lead to offers at prestigious universities – significantly this year 69 per cent of pupils gained access to Russell Group universities including UCL and St Andrews, 91 per cent secured their first-choice university. One pupil has gone on to study Music at the University of Oxford, where he has also been awarded an organ scholarship at Trinity College, while another is attending university in the United States on a tennis scholarship. Both pupils achieved three A\*s in their A levels – as Sarah explains: "It just goes to show, you can have it all."

Highlighting the College's commitment to helping pupils make informed choices about the pathway that suits them best, Sarah adds: "Education is about breadth and balance. We blend traditional subjects with those needed in the modern world. The support from our expert teaching staff ensures each pupil is guided and challenged to achieve the highest attainable excellence."

Stonyhurst's approach to academic support is rooted in personal mentorship. With small class sizes and a bespoke academic support structure, each pupil benefits from dedicated guidance. "Our academic vision is exceptional and that's down to the teaching staff who enable each child to achieve their potential.



"Through workshops, pupils also learn about executive functioning which helps them develop essential skills including task and time management, meeting deadlines and effective problem solving. These abilities are not only vital for exam success but also prepare them for life beyond the classroom and the world of work, increasing their employability for life after Stonyhurst."

“PUPILS LEARN ABOUT TASK AND TIME MANAGEMENT, DEALING WITH DEADLINES AND PROBLEM SOLVING. THESE ARE ALL THINGS THAT HELP WHEN THEY GO OUT INTO THE WORLD OF WORK”

The school's Jesuit principles also extend to the development of independent thinking and personal growth. Stonyhurst fosters a learning environment where curiosity, resilience and intellectual ambition are key. The Stonyhurst Learner Profile defines these values, encouraging pupils to be reflective, curious, resilient, compassionate and intellectually ambitious.

"These traits underpin success not only in examinations but in lifelong learning. By nurturing these qualities, Stonyhurst aims to produce pupils who embrace our motto 'Quant je puis' or 'As much as I can' making them not only academically accomplished but also equipped with the skills necessary for success in the modern, fast-changing world."

In addition to core academic studies, Stonyhurst offers a wide range of enrichment opportunities, from Oxbridge mentoring to debating and subject-specific

societies such as MedSoc and LawSoc. These extracurricular activities, often supported by a network of Stonyhurst alumni, play a vital role in supporting pupils' academic journeys, providing them with opportunities to engage with their interests in greater depth.

The school's strong academic support network ensures that every pupil has the tools they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. Those in receipt of scholarships, or on the College's Gifted and Talented programme, benefit from tailored one-to-one support designed to help them reach their full potential.

Stonyhurst College's continued investment in new subjects and cutting-edge facilities reflects its commitment to evolving with the needs of today's pupils. With a strong focus on creativity, technical innovation and personalised academic support, Stonyhurst is shaping the next generation to thrive, both academically and professionally: "Our vision ensures that every pupil can fulfil their potential, whatever path they choose to follow." ■



STONYHURST

Stonyhurst College  
Clitheroe BB7 9PZ  
01254 827073  
stonyhurst.ac.uk  
ukadmissions@stonyhurst.ac.uk



Scan to discover more during a private visit

