

St John  
the Baptist  
School

# Prospectus





Our mission is to be a Catholic school where every individual is highly valued and where care and concern for others is central to our work. All our students are expected to achieve their full potential and leave us ready to make a positive contribution to society. At SJB everything we do is guided by Gospel values... Love, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Justice, Faith, Integrity, Humility, Service, Peace, Hope, Prayer... and the greatest of these is Love.

# Welcome to SJB



We hope you will find our prospectus gives you a feel for what life is like here in school. It also shows what we stand for at SJB. We are very proud of our students and all those who are part of our community. Choosing the right secondary school for your child is a very important decision. You obviously want your child to be happy and successful, so you need to feel confident that SJB will provide an environment where this will be achieved.

Our aim is simple – we want to be the best school in the country! By this we mean that all our students will receive a better education here than they would at any other establishment.

## We want our students to:

- Deepen their relationship with God;
- Love learning;
- Achieve their academic potential;
- Have a wide range of experiences both in and out of the classroom;
- Grow into happy, confident, resilient and articulate young people;
- Leave SJB equipped to lead fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to society.

If you entrust your child to our care, you will see that we work tirelessly to achieve this aim. The best way to find out what SJB is like is to see us in action and you are very welcome to come and look round. Every day is open day, please make an appointment to come and see us at work. We look forward to meeting you.

James Granville Hamshar  
Headteacher



## Our school

SJB is part of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust. We are a group of sixteen schools in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton who have come together to work collaboratively for the benefit of all the children we serve. The Trust's aim is to provide a caring and supportive environment within which all children receive the best possible education.

Achievement is at the forefront of everything we do at SJB and it would be fair to say it is "cool" to achieve. Our staff are vibrant, enthusiastic and passionate about ensuring our students get the very best deal. We also want our students to have fun and to look back on

their school days with pride and fond memories. We promote a positive culture where the emphasis is always on rewards rather than sanctions. We place great value on our partnership with parents. We believe it is important to work together to ensure the children receive the best possible education and are prepared for their future lives. This is done in a positive, friendly atmosphere which is based on mutual respect. Parents are kept informed of their children's education and progress through our parent portal and through parents' evenings and information evenings. Parents are always welcome to come into school to discuss any concerns.

"All groups of students, no matter what their background or needs, make rapid progress in all years in a wide range of subjects."  
Ofsted





“Students display mature and enthusiastic attitudes to their learning. They want to do well and are confident to ask for help and support when needed.”  
Ofsted

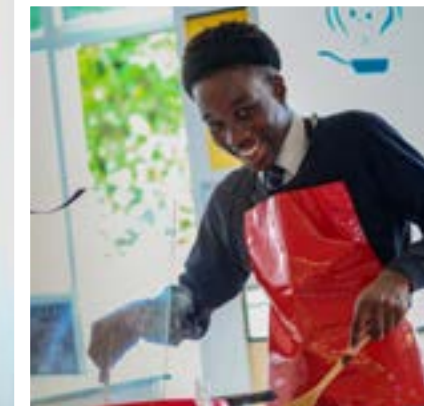
## Learning at SJB

All students are expected to work hard and do their very best. This ensures they are active learners and makes being in lessons fun and rewarding. Progress is monitored frequently and parents are kept up-to-date with useful information which enables them to support their child's learning.

### Our curriculum:

- Is underpinned by our motto "Have Faith, believe you can!" and supports the students in growing their faith: in God; in themselves; and in each other.
- Raises students' aspirations, challenges and equips them with the knowledge and skills to flourish in their future careers.

- Is inclusive, well designed and coherently sequenced in order to establish a strong foundation for all students.
- Is rich, inspiring and as broad as possible.
- Provides students with opportunities to take the curriculum beyond the classroom to develop independence, creativity and a love of learning.
- Offers a wide range of opportunities for students to take ownership of and personalise their curriculum in order to develop existing talents and interests as well as discover new ones.
- Fosters the development of character, communication skills, health and wellbeing in order to thrive beyond SJB.



In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study English, Mathematics, Science, RE, Geography, History, Computer Science, French/Spanish/Italian, DT, PE, Art, Drama, Music and PSHE. In Years 10 and 11 students study English, Mathematics, Science, RE, French/Spanish/Italian, Geography/History, PE and PSHE plus two further subjects of their choice. Options include Triple Science, Product Design, Food Technology, Art, Drama, Business Studies, Music, PE and Media Studies. There are cutting-edge ICT facilities with two specialist networked rooms, three Mac suites, a green screen and a wireless network. In addition to this, our Apple iPad Scheme ensures that every child has access to their own iPad which they use every lesson and at home to support their learning and organisation. Technology is an important part of life here as it allows all students, parents and teachers to access a wealth of resources that support learning, facilitate communication and celebrate success – all you need is internet access. Students are encouraged to be active and independent learners.

Statistics show that homework (or independent learning) is a key part of success in examinations. It is compulsory for all students and the work set is appropriate and challenging.





## Life at SJB

In order to be successful at school, children need to be happy. It is our belief that children thrive in a secure but challenging setting where they are treated with care and respect and where there are lots of opportunities for personal and spiritual development and for students to take responsibility. Students are encouraged to take part in the clubs and activities which take place at lunchtimes and after school. There are a wide range of opportunities from football and climbing, to cookery, art, choir, orchestra and drama. We also know that as children are growing up, they sometimes need to be quiet and to stand apart from their very busy lives in school. We make sure that time and space for personal reflection is also built into these important years.

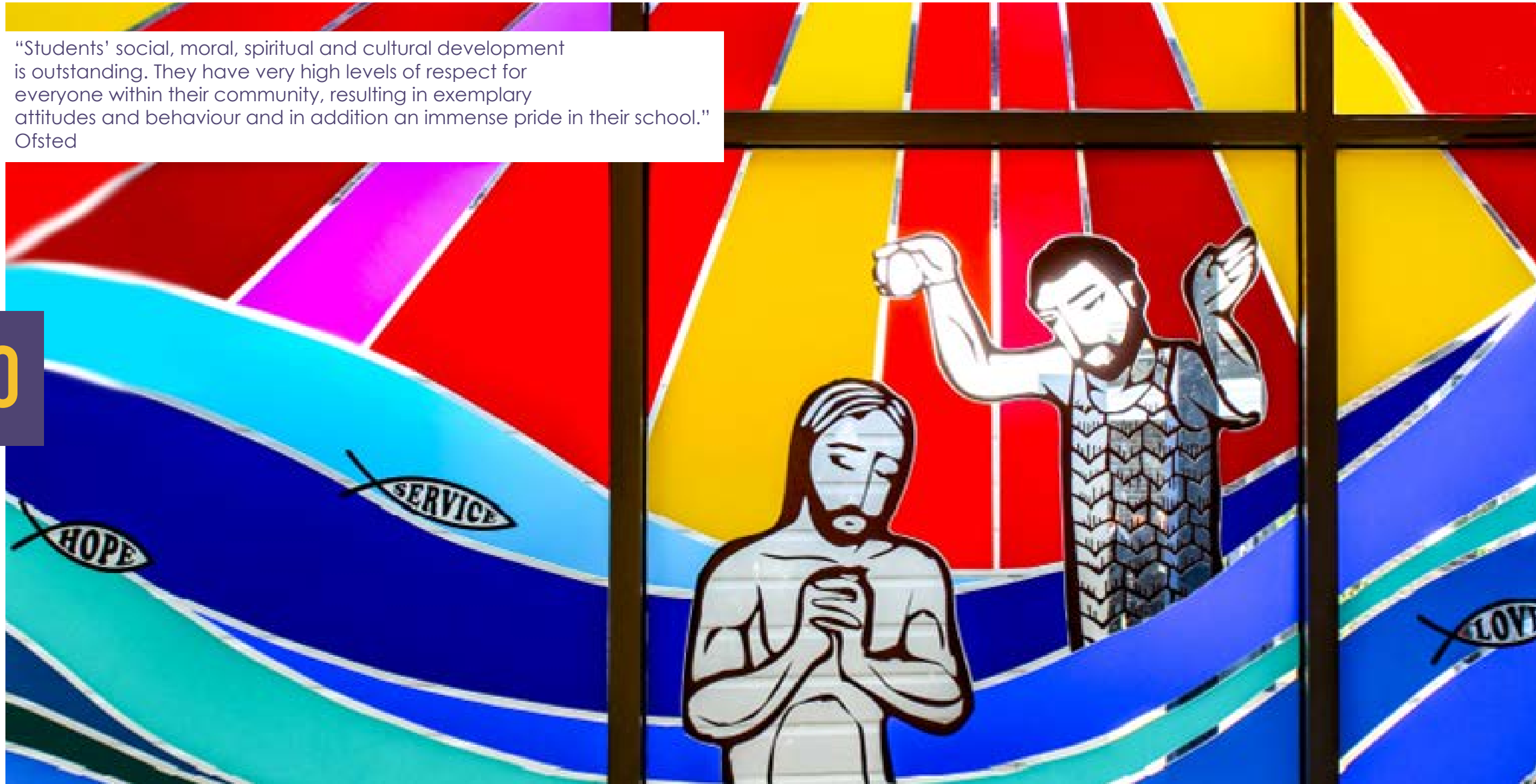
There are dozens of visits and trips. There is something for everyone; Skiing, World Challenge, Ypres, Hampton Court, Iceland, Bletchley Park to name but a few! Everyone is allocated to one of our eight Houses: Romero, Curie, Kolbe, Seacole, King, Stang, Bosco and Pankhurst. There are numerous fiercely fought competitions in all subject areas to win House points throughout the year!

The Student SJB 7 was created by the students and is made up of seven learning behaviours they felt were important to reward. Nominations recognise and praise our student's effort and attitude to learning and star badges are given to the students (Years 7-11) to wear or they are given a stamp on their 'Drink Card' (Year 12-13).



"Good relationships between staff and students are a strong feature of the vast majority of lessons. Students thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect... The behaviour of students is outstanding." Ofsted





“Students’ social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is outstanding. They have very high levels of respect for everyone within their community, resulting in exemplary attitudes and behaviour and in addition an immense pride in their school.”  
Ofsted

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## Spiritual life at SJB

At SJB we love the children. This is a place where every child is listened to, challenged and inspired. The spiritual life at SJB is guided by the Catholic ethos in that it is inclusive and child-centred. Spirituality happens every day at SJB through encouraging the children to treat others as they would want to be treated. At SJB every day begins with prayer; this takes place during form time and is an opportunity for the children to reflect upon the day ahead. Every child attends RE lessons throughout their time at SJB where the RE staff seek to inspire faith and spirituality through being a witness to it themselves. In the Sixth Form, the RE department facilitates spiritual development classes which centre on faith development and the challenges it poses in the outside world.

As a Catholic school, collective worship is a very important part of the spiritual experience at SJB. The whole community comes together to worship at whole school Mass twice a year and we also hold Masses for each Year group during the year. This provides the children with a real sense of community and belonging. The Chapel is always open for quiet thought and reflection. Throughout the year, the children are encouraged to be spiritually active. All the children get involved in providing hampers at Christmas, in Lenten fundraising for different charities, and on SJB Day to help with costs to support students volunteering on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The spiritual highlights at SJB are the Christmas and Easter liturgies which are performed by the children, for the children and staff. Retreats and reflection days are enjoyed by all the Year groups.





## Transition

We understand that the transition to secondary school is more challenging for some children than for others. For that reason, we offer a Transition Programme that operates a much smaller class size of around 15 to 18 students throughout Year 7. The programme is available to all Year 7 learners, who we deem appropriate, not just those with special educational needs.

In Transition, the students are provided with a calm, constant and nurturing environment as they begin their time at SJB. Core subjects – Maths, English, RE, Geography, History, Computing and PSHE are taught by one teacher in the same classroom. Science, Drama, Music and Art are taught by subject specialist teachers in specialist rooms. For Design Technology, Food and Physical Education, the students are taught amongst the rest of Year 7. The students will also belong to a form group where they will be able to mix socially with other students. Break time, lunch-time and extra-curricular activities also provide opportunities to mix with the wider Year 7 cohort. Removing the anxiety of multiple teachers,

rooms and environments significantly aids the learning and settling in process. It also provides the opportunity for additional literacy and numeracy support where needed. Specific SEND support can also be deployed in the same environment.

The students become quickly familiar with the expectations of the school and receive the best possible support, whilst accessing the full curriculum in an inclusive environment; overall having a better transition into secondary education. We will select students based on their KS2 data, discussions with their primary school teacher as well as further assessments that we conduct on the Year 6 into 7 day in July and on the Induction Day in September. Students will be placed in the programme from the very start of September; parents will be notified once the children are settled into the group.





## Healthy body, healthy mind!

Great fun, competitive, exciting, educational - PE is all of these and more at SJB. It is important and high profile. Every student has the opportunity to be part of a range of clubs and teams from rugby union and netball to cheer leading and climbing. There is an active Inter-House sports competition which runs throughout the year and culminates in an energetic sports day! made of expert coaching with professionals from rugby, netball, football and tennis clubs. They inspire our students, and we enjoy sporting success at local and national levels with students representing England and

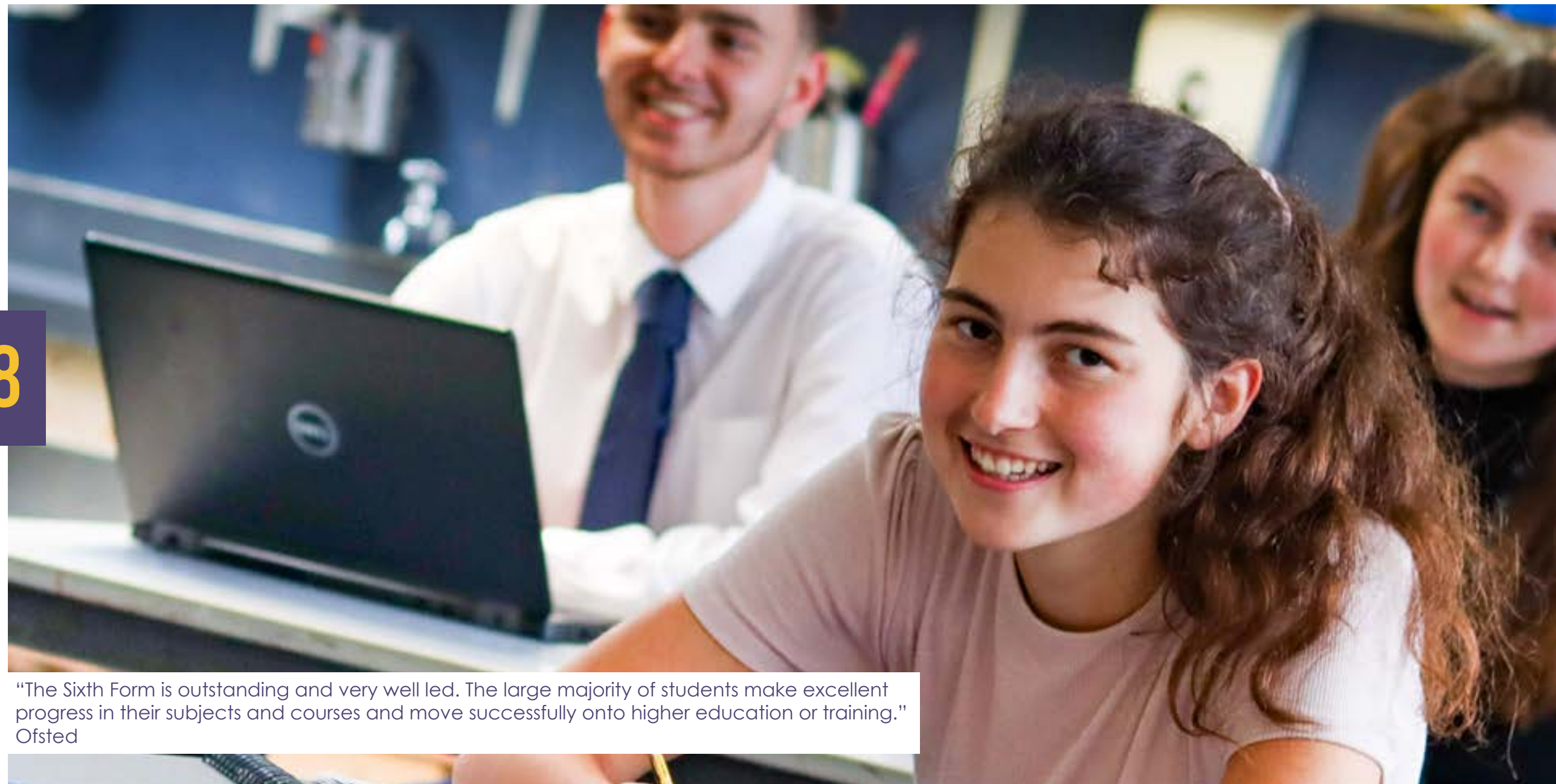
Great Britain in athletics, basketball, rowing and weight-lifting. Our Sports Hall includes six badminton courts with cricket nets, climbing wall, a dance/gymnastics studio, a fitness suite and fitness testing area and four outside tennis courts. We also have commitment to encouraging students to have a healthy lifestyle by undertaking sporting activities and eating a healthy and balanced diet. This approach is supported in PE, Food Technology and PSHE as well as in the food served by the catering team in school.



"Students value the impressive range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities they are offered in sporting activities and participation rates are high."

Ofsted





"The Sixth Form is outstanding and very well led. The large majority of students make excellent progress in their subjects and courses and move successfully onto higher education or training."  
Ofsted



## The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is highly successful and all students who choose to be part of it are expected to have high standards in their attitude and work. We offer a wide range of courses for full-time students aged 16+ who are looking to study Level 3 qualifications. Both academic and vocational qualifications are on offer, to cater for all abilities and career options. Most of our GCSE students stay on to continue their studies here and students from other schools also join us and become a valuable part of our community. The Sixth Form is housed in specialist accommodation including teaching rooms,

a fully networked learning resource centre, a quiet study room and a café where students can relax with friends. It has its own strong identity, but the students also have a unique role as leaders within the school. We ensure all the students are prepared well for university, further education and the world of work. They receive high quality teaching and their tutors give them academic guidance and pastoral support. They also have time allocated each week for key skills and spiritual guidance. The students can be sure of receiving a fully rounded education which will prepare them for their future.



# Our school credo

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You are very special.

In all the world there is nobody like you.  
Since the beginning of time there has never been another person like you.  
Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair.  
Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice.

You're special.

Nobody can paint your brushstrokes.  
Nobody has your taste for food, or music, or dance, or art.  
Nobody in the universe sees things as you do.  
In all time there has never been anyone who laughs in exactly your way and what makes you laugh, or cry, or think may have a totally different response in another.

So... You're special!

You're different from any other person who has ever lived in the history of the universe.  
You are the only one in the whole creation who has your particular set of abilities.  
There is always someone who is better at one thing or another but nobody can match the symphonic sound when all are played together.  
Your symphony.  
Through all eternity no one will ever walk, talk, think or do exactly like you.

You're special.

You are rare and in all rarity there is enormous value and because of your great value the need for you to imitate anyone else is absolutely wrong.  
You are special and it is no accident you are.  
Please realise that God made you for a special purpose.  
He has a job for you to do that nobody else can do as well as you can.  
Out of billions of applications only one is qualified.  
Only one has the unique and right combination of what it takes and that one is you.

You are special.





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