

WELCOME
TO OUR
YEAR 7-11
PROSPECTUS
2026-2027



TOGETHER
WE FLOURISH
AMBITION
OPPORTUNITY
FAITH

A WARM WELCOME WHERE FRIENDSHIPS FLOURISH

“

Education is not
filling a bucket, but
lighting a fire

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

”



2 |

I am delighted to extend a **warm and heartfelt welcome** to you. As a former student of St Mary's, I am tremendously proud to be able to lead this school community and support our students as they embark on a journey of growth, learning and discovery.

As an **outstanding** school at St Mary's **we believe in nurturing** the whole person and aspiring for academic excellence but also the overall development of each child. Our dedicated team of staff are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and inspiring environment where your child can flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

Our curriculum is designed to challenge and engage young minds, foster creativity and critical thinking and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Our **Mission** recognises that the journey towards human flourishing takes time and is like a pilgrimage where we are united in our purpose to challenge and nurture our students on that journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Ambition, opportunity and faith are fundamental principles within our Mission. Our Christian faith is the cornerstone.

We are a pilgrim school
and we journey with Mary
to become the person God
intends us to be.

We are proud of our **continued success** and I encourage you to read on through the prospectus to find out more about what makes St Mary's so special.

M Hattersley

MARGARET HATTERSLEY
HEADTEACHER



PROUD HISTORY EXCITING FUTURE



3

St Mary's has a proud history of successfully educating the students of West Yorkshire. Our reach is beyond our locality serving students from as far as South Leeds and North Yorkshire. Opening in November 1964 the school has embarked on a journey which has seen it evolve and adapt to changing times, while staying true to its core Christian values.

Our alumni have gone on to achieve remarkable success in diverse fields, from academic to the arts, from business to public service. These accomplishments are a testament to the solid foundation our school provides, not only academic growth, but importantly, the development of character.

We are as proud of our history as we are excited about the future. As our 60th Anniversary concludes we have begun work with the DFE on a complete rebuild of the school. Our persistence in evaluating and continually improving the quality of education alongside a new state of the art school building will ensure that the school and it's students will thrive for years to come.



FORMER STUDENTS...



AIDAN WHITE
Played for Leeds Utd FC
and Republic of Ireland U21.



KAISER CHIEFS
Met in the same Year 7 class
at St Mary's.



MATTHEW LEWIS
Starred as Neville Longbottom
in the Harry Potter film series.

AMBITION OPPORTUNITY FAITH



“

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

NELSON MANDELA

”

We are a school with a reputation for academic excellence and we are proud of the consistently outstanding results our students achieve at GCSE and A Levels. And for the exciting destinations and opportunities this creates for them.

But it does not stop there. We have an ambition for all our students whatever their life story or individual context, to be the very best version of themselves. They grow, develop, and challenge themselves to overcome barriers and obstacles.

We want our students to search and strive for excellence in all that they do, say and achieve in life.

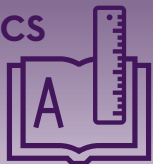
We do this through:

- Nurturing everyone's individual pathway through school.
- Offering an extensive extra curriculum program.
- Supporting and developing pupils' individual gifts and talents.

GREAT RESULTS...

86%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
ENGLISH &
MATHEMATICS
GCSE



86%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
RE
GCSE



90%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
MATHEMATICS
GCSE



91%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
FRENCH
GCSE



90%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
GCSE



89%

4-9 GRADES
ACHIEVED IN
GEOGRAPHY
GCSE



5

**'THE SCHOOL HAS
EXCEPTIONALLY
HIGH EXPECTATIONS
FOR THE ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT OF
ITS PUPILS'**

OFSTED 2025

...AND DESTINATIONS

56%



OF OUR UNIVERSITY BOUND STUDENTS
WENT TO RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES,
INCLUDING OXBRIDGE.

***'Pupils are very well prepared
for their next steps in education'*** OFSTED 2025

AMBITION OPPORTUNITY FAITH



6 |



We are passionate that every student here at St Mary's has the opportunity to enjoy a full, fun and enriching experience. One that takes them beyond the classroom and maybe even out of their comfort zone!

That is why we offer a varied and rich programme of events and activities beyond the formal curriculum. All our students are offered the opportunity to participate and achieve in creative, sporting and academic areas and to share personal interests and enthusiasms with fellow students and staff thereby enriching their skills and personal and social development.

We offer a range of extra curricular activities as well as school trips and excursions. An emphasis on the development of global citizens is promoted through foreign learning and cultural exchanges, Duke of Edinburgh and the World Challenge expeditions.

For our 6th form students, the Bambisanani Partnership provides a unique opportunity to work alongside Mnyakanya High School in South Africa.



...TO EXPLORE, LEAD & SHINE



AMBITION OPPORTUNITY FAITH



.....

Success is built on
our loving, caring
and supportive
Catholic values
and ethos.

.....

At St Mary's we embrace and welcome students of all faiths into our caring and inclusive community. As a strong family Catholic school with close relationships between staff and students, we believe that diversity enriches our learning environment and fosters a sense of understanding and acceptance.

Our core Catholic values are centred around creating a safe space where everyone feels respected, valued and supported on their educational journey. We cultivate an atmosphere of empathy, compassion and open mindedness. We strive to empower our students to grow in confidence and courage.

We encourage them to explore their individual beliefs, express themselves authentically, and engage in meaningful conversations that promote mutual understanding and tolerance.

Our school community is dedicated to providing a nurturing environment that enables students to achieve their full potential, academically, emotionally and spiritually. We firmly believe that by embracing the uniqueness of each student, we create a thriving community where everyone can flourish.

EXCELLENT PASTORAL SUPPORT

WE CARE

We believe in broadening and enriching our students so that they develop the values, resilience and motivation to succeed in life outside school. We promote a positive behaviour policy, focussed on teaching them good habits, behaviour and routines.

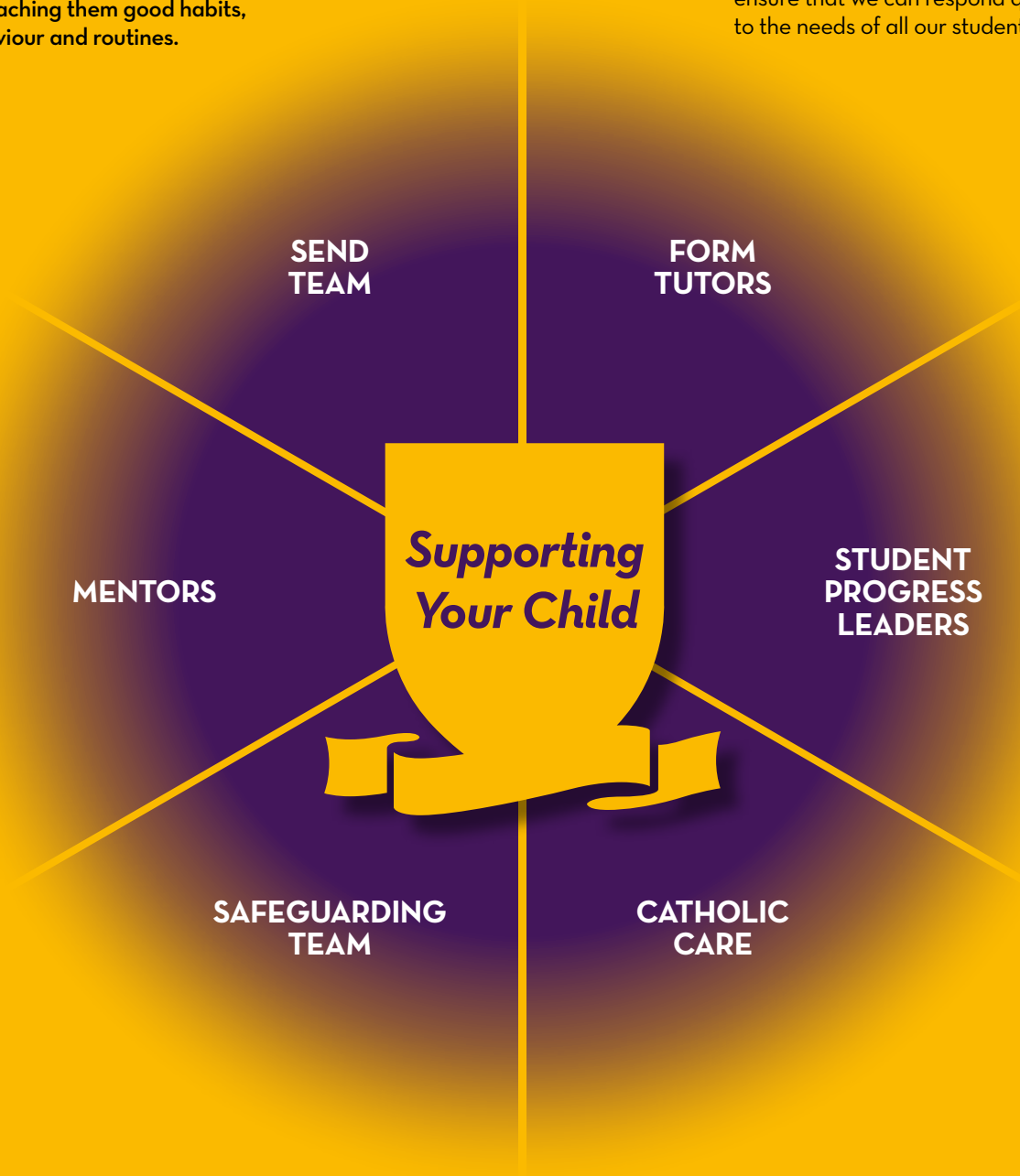
Our approach aims to talk about wellbeing with a common language where needs are defined by young people and families in partnership with professionals.

Pastoral support is a strength of the school... pupil's behaviour is excellent in and out of the classroom. They are able to listen to their peers, show understanding, tolerance, and when called for, forgiveness

SECTION 48

Following the NHS '5 Ways to Wellbeing', we use a combination of self-help, in-school support and external partnerships.

The following school-based teams ensure that we can respond quickly to the needs of all our students.



PERSONALISED TEACHING & LEARNING

“

Student's personal
development is
outstanding
OFSTED

”



St Mary's offers each of its students their own unique journey. The success of the academic outcomes we achieve are founded in the quality of the teacher-student relationships our staff create.

Students are known from day one, with personalised seating plans for all classes, and teaching and learning underpinned by the latest educational research.

We pride ourselves in providing a unique individual learning experience across 5 to 7 years designed to match the goals, interests and pace of each student.

BROAD & BALANCED CURRICULUM

KEY STAGE 3

Key Stage 3 (KS3) is an important part of a child's learning journey.

Learning from Year 7 will be engaging and challenging, as they make the transition into secondary school, engaging with new subjects and extending their knowledge. The KS3 Curriculum is designed with progression at its centre, aiming to ensure that learning from KS2 is sequenced effectively and appropriately for our students. The curriculum is enhanced with the BWCAT Baccalaureate which recognises pupils academic work and their contribution to other areas of school. Support is in place for learners at all stages ensuring that all students can access their curriculum, whatever their starting point.

KEY STAGE 4

Key Stage 4 takes their learning from KS3 further and deeper. Students follow a two-year programme of study towards GCSE and technical qualifications taken at the end of Year 11.

Alongside a strong core offer of English, RE and Mathematics, a broad and balanced curriculum allows for individual pathways to ensure that their own curriculum meets their needs.

SIXTH FORM

Our successful sixth form curriculum is founded on level 3 courses, mainly A-Level, with a number of Applied General courses.

Based on an entry requirement of 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, our Pathways to Success options programme include a number of routes for students to achieve their goals, whatever their starting point.

A THRIVING SIXTH FORM

“

The relationships with teachers here are really brilliant, their extensive knowledge and expertise really shows, I thoroughly enjoyed my time here and can't recommend it enough - I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

HEAD GIRL

”

Many words describe St Mary's Sixth Form - personal, ambitious - but the most used adjective is, without question, “friendly”. These words combined begin to give you a flavour of what makes St Mary's so special. Our excellent quality of teaching and devoted focus on the individuals in our community, all contribute to our on-going success as a thriving, happy, academic establishment.



We pride ourselves on the excellent results our students achieve, but this is only a small part of our offer to students. Each year we excel in securing places at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, as well as positions on competitive apprenticeship schemes with top employers. Students' life after St Mary's is promising and fulfilling for all of our alumni and we'll be there to support them long after they leave us.

However, we're so much more than results. Our Catholic ethos means that people are at the heart of all that we do; we strongly believe every student deserves to be happy in their learning, develop their personal character as they go on their journey, have ambition for their personal best and enjoy the highest quality of academic and pastoral support every step of the way.

Principles of leadership, community spirit, compassion and kindness are fundamental to our unique sixth form. If you're looking to achieve personal success, benefit from excellent care and enjoy a memorable sixth form experience - journey with us - you're in the right place!

A North

Mrs A North
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PROGRESS,
KEY STAGE 5



READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD



TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT OUR
SIXTH FORM



A PLACE TO FLOURISH



- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Proud track record of academic achievement
- Inspirational teachers
- Extensive opportunities beyond the classroom
- Excellent pastoral care

TOGETHER WE FLOURISH • AMBITION • OPPORTUNITY • FAITH



WHAT'S NEXT...

COME & VISIT US

Join us for our open event on the 26th September (11-2pm) to meet the team and talk to our students. If you are unable to attend or would like to book a personal tour please contact our office, with the details below.

EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website for all our latest news and videos. You will find further information on the transition and applications process as well as important information on starting life here at St Mary's.

www.stmarysmenston.org/Admissions/

TALK TO OUR TEAM

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via our website, email or phone.

www.stmarysmenston.org

E: admin@stmarysmenston.org

T: 01943 883 000

JOIN US

We are delighted that you are considering St Mary's for your child. The process for admission is via the local authority with a deadline of 31st October 2026 to complete your application.

Details of their processes can be found at:
www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions



ST MARY'S MENSTON

Bradford Road, Menston, West Yorkshire, LS29 6AE

www.stmarysmenston.org

T: **01943 883000**

E: admin@stmarysmenston.org

Headteacher: **Miss Margaret Hattersley**

Chair of the Academy Council: **Mr Chris Billington**



PART OF THE BISHOP WHEELER CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST