

Sixth Form Pastoral Leadership Team

- Director of Sixth Form, Laura Maw
- Head of Sixth Form, Fiona Nodwell
- Head of Year 12 2026-2027, Glenn Selwood
- Applications inbox, post16applications@st-pauls.org.uk

Things to consider

- We offer the opportunity to take English and Maths GCSE again for all students who do not secure a standard pass (grade 4) at GCSE.
- Add the EPQ if you are on the Excellence & A Level only pathway and plan to go to university in the future. Universities value the qualification and it allows you to study a particular area in greater depth.
- Add Maths Studies if you are on any of the Level 3 programmes that have an element of Maths content (and you are not studying A-Level Maths).
- Add Maths Studies as a valued qualification by universities and future employers.
- NEA 100% - look out for this symbol, because this indicates that the qualification includes coursework (non-examination assessment: NEA).
- Consider “families” of subjects. It is often very good to study subjects that complement each other.

Finally: make sure you are choosing courses in the Sixth Form that interest you and that you will meet the entry requirements for.

Excellence Pathway

Average grade 7+ across 8 subjects

This pathway is designed for students who probably want to progress to higher education at Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. Students will study 3 A-levels. In addition all students will also study either mathematical techniques or EPQ and they will be part of the academic excellence mentoring programme. Students need to have achieved an average grade of 7+ across 8 subjects and meet subject specific entry requirements.

A level only Pathway

Average grade 4+ across 8 subjects

This pathway is designed for students who probably want to progress to higher education or degree level apprenticeships. Students will study 3 A-levels. In addition most students will also study either mathematical techniques or EPQ. Students need to have achieved an average grade of 4+ across 8 subjects and meet subject specific entry requirements.

Blended academic Pathway

Average grade 3+ across 8 subjects

This pathway is designed for students who probably want to progress to higher education or degree level apprenticeships. Students will study a blend of AAQs, legacy vocational qualifications, or A-levels. Some students may chose to study mathematical techniques too. Students need to have achieved an average grade of 3+ across 8 subjects and meet subject specific entry requirements.

Vocational and AAQ Pathway

Average grade 3+ across 8 subjects

This pathway is designed for students who probably want to progress to higher education, degree level apprenticeships, apprenticeships, or employment within a specific sector. Students will study a blend of AAQs and legacy vocational qualifications. Students need to have achieved an average grade of 3+ across 8 subjects and meet subject specific entry requirements.

Level 2 Pathway

Average grade below 3 across 8 subjects

This one year pathway is designed for students who need a little more time to pass their GCSE in English and/or maths. Alongside this students will study a level 2 vocational course in either Science, Business or Creative Media.

A-levels - average grade 4+ across 8 subjects

OA	OB	OC	OD	OE
Art	Biology	Biology	Design: Engineering	Chemistry
Business Studies	Business Studies	Drama	Design: Fashion & Textiles	Computer Science
English Lang/Lit	Chemistry	English Literature	Economics	Economics
History	Design: Product	Further Maths	English Literature	Physics
Italian	French	German	Film Studies	Psychology
Maths	Geography	History	Politics	Philosophy, Theology & Ethics
Music	Maths	Photography	Psychology	Sociology
Polish	Sociology	PE		Spanish

Additional Level Three Programmes

OA	OB	OC	OD	OE
Polish A-level (may be selected as one of the three choices or as an additional qualification)				
EPQ	EPQ	EPQ	EPQ	EPQ
Maths Studies: Mathematical Studies for Biology and Social Sciences		Maths Studies: Mathematical Studies for Business, Economics, ICT and Comp Sci	Maths Studies: Mathematical Studies for Physics and Science	Maths Studies: Mathematical Studies for Business, Economics, ICT and Comp Sci

AAQs and Vocational - average grade 3+ across 8 subjects

OA	OB	OC	OD	OE
Business (Diploma OA+OC)	Applied Science (AAQ)	Business (Diploma OA+OC)	Business (Extended Cert)	Sports Science (Diploma OA+OE)
Sports Science (Diploma OA+OE)	Criminology (Applied Cert.)	H&SC (AAQ)	H&SC (AAQ)	ICT (AAQ)
Sports Science (Extended Cert.)		Medical Science (AAQ)		

Level 2 Qualifications – average grade below 3 across 8 subjects

Business, Science or Creative Media Level 2 Diploma in addition to...

OA	OB	OC	OD	OE
Maths (functional skills)	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths
GCSE English	GCSE English		GCSE English	GCSE English

A level Subject Entry Requirements

Art	English 4+, Art 4+ (preferable)	German	German 5+ (preferably higher tier)
Biology	English 4+, Maths 4+, Sciences 2 grade 6s including Biology	Geography	English 4+, Maths 4+, History or Geography 4+
Business Studies	Maths 4+, English 4+, Business 4+ or L2P+ (if studied)	History	English 4+, History or Geography 4+
Chemistry	Maths 5+, English 4+, Sciences 2 grade 6s including Chemistry	Italian	Italian 5+ (preferably higher tier)
Computer Science	Maths 5+, Computer Science (if studied) 4+	Mathematics	Maths 6+ (higher tier)
Design: Engineering	Maths 5+, D&T 4+ or Level 2 Pass+	Music	English 4+, GCSE Music 4+ (if studied), grade 3 on an instrument (preferable)
Design: Fashion & Textiles	Maths 4+, D&T 4+ or Level 2 Pass+	PE	PE 4+ (preferable)
Design: Product	Maths 4+, D&T 4+ or Level 2 Pass+	Philosophy, Theology & Ethics	English 4+, RE 5 (preferable)
Drama	English 4+, Drama 4+ (preferable)	Photography	English 4+, Art 4+ (preferable)
Economics	English 4+, Maths 4+	Physics	Maths 5+, English 4+, Sciences 2 grade 6s including Physics
English Lang & Lit	English language 4+, English Literature 4+	Politics	English 4+, History or Geography or RE 4+
English Literature	English language 4+, English Literature 4+	Psychology	English 4+, Maths 4+, Sciences 4+
Film Studies	English 4+	Sociology	English 4+, Sociology 4+ (if studied)
French	French 5+ (preferably higher tier)	Spanish	Spanish 5+ (preferably higher tier)
Further Mathematics	Maths 7+ (higher tier)		

Additional Level Three Programme Subject Entry Requirements

EPQ	A level pathway	Maths studies	Maths 4+	Polish	Polish 7+ or fluent speaker and writer
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AAQs and Vocational Entry Requirements

Applied Science	4+ in two Sciences	Business / H&SC / ICT / Sport	Level 2 Pass+ or 4+ if studied at KS4
Criminology	English 4+	Medical Science	English 4, Sciences 2 grade 4+