

# St Peter's



Key Stage 3  
**pocket guide** Sept 26 Admissions



## Welcome

**Our mission** is to provide a rigorous and broad education within the context of a Christian environment. An understanding of the Roman Catholic faith, in line with the Gospel message, underpins the whole work of the school. Our main aim is to develop the self-esteem, dignity and respect of all members of the community by concentrating on each person's infinite worth in the eyes of God.

**Our school's Christian ethos** underpins all its work and provides all members of the school community with a safe and happy learning environment.

All students receive lessons in religious education and our Catholic identity and spiritual life are reflected in all areas of our school.

We join together in prayer three times a day and students participate in a service of reconciliation during Lent. Each tutor group has a form Mass every year and students are also given opportunities to take part in days of reflection and retreat held outside school. The whole school community celebrates Masses in the Autumn term and on the feast of St Peter.

“ The pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. In lessons, there is a calm, harmonious learning environment.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

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“ Leaders have established strong systems for managing behaviour... Pupils stated that bullying is unusual and that staff resolve it quickly when they are told about it.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

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**Our charity work** demonstrates our willingness to help others outside the school community, whether locally, nationally or internationally. Students and staff participate in a wide range of charitable events and fund raising activities. We support numerous charities. This includes CAFOD in its efforts to relieve poverty in the developing world which also educates our students.

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Students understand the distinctive nature of St Peter's and are able to identify the features that make the school unique. They speak of opportunities to pray, to celebrate the Eucharist and the importance of helping others. The ROCK values are well known and understood by students.

Diocesan Inspection Report 2025

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**The chapel** is a place of peace and reflection which may be used by all members of the school community. The chaplain responds to particular needs within our school, as well as leading our faith journey and liaising with parish priests and others.



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The school's Catholic ethos is the strength of the school. This is an inclusive school where all pupils are encouraged to live the school's values, regardless of faith or background.

*Ofsted Report, 2017*

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## Our School

**The principal and senior team** lead a dynamic, vibrant and ambitious school with a strong sense of community. Our purpose is to guide each student's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They are led and supported by a knowledgeable and enthusiastic governing body.

**Our students** are mature, friendly and polite and demonstrate excellent behaviour and attitudes to learning.

**Teachers** are experts in their subjects and have high expectations of all students. They are supported by a team of librarians, teaching assistants, administrators, technicians and laboratory assistants, all of whom are working towards ensuring that teaching and learning are at the heart of the school.

“Governors are knowledgeable about the school. They ask challenging and insightful questions about the quality of education.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

“Pupils in the sixth form are proud to attend the school. They told inspectors how much they value the education they receive. Pupils in other year groups also receive a good quality of education. Pupils are motivated to learn and eager to succeed in most subjects.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

“Pupils at St Peter's have many extra-curricular opportunities. As a result, pupils develop a breadth of knowledge and skills in many subjects.

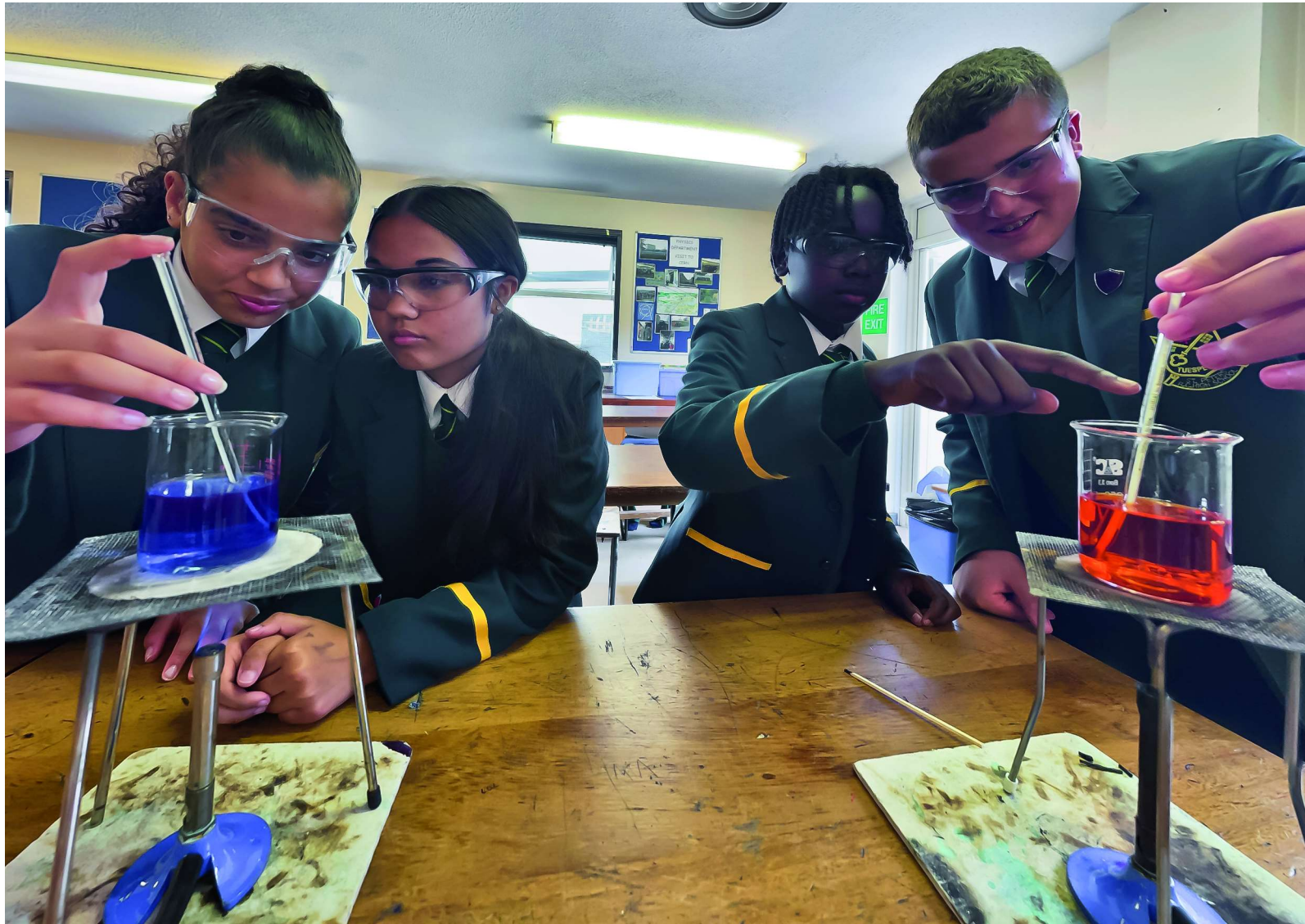
*Ofsted Report, 2022*



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**St Peter's** became a faith academy in August 2011. We work closely with a family of Catholic primary schools in Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester, as part of The Little Way partnership. We also work with other secondary schools and within the wider community.





## Curriculum

The teaching of key subject knowledge is rigorous and often inspiring. Students' learning skills are well developed. Senior members of staff visit every 11 - 16 lesson every period of the day to ensure that students are working well.

We offer a coherently planned, ambitious and well sequenced curriculum.

We know that high quality teaching is vital to ensure student progress and "**The St. Peter's Six**" is founded in cognitive science. Careful lesson planning, varied teaching methods, motivating guidance and sensitive but honest assessment will enable all students to achieve their academic potential.

“ Leaders have designed a well-structured curriculum.

Pupils use their prior knowledge to learn more complex concepts.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

[stpetershigh.net](http://stpetershigh.net)





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**At key stage three** all students follow a core curriculum including Art, Computer Science, Drama, English, Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Maths, Music, PE, Religious Education, Science and Technology.

In Key Stage Three students are mostly taught in mixed ability groups (with some setting in Maths) enabling young people to progress academically and socially.

**At key stage four** students are prepared for GCSE and vocational examinations. They continue to follow a core curriculum of RE, English, Science and Maths but are also able to make some option choices. They have a wide range of options. Most students can expect to study at least eight GCSEs.

The *English Baccalaureate* is a performance measure introduced by the government in 2010. It recognises the success of pupils who attain good GCSE passes across a core of academic subjects English, Maths, History or Geography, the Sciences, Computing and a language.

It is designed to encourage more students to receive this broad education in core academic subjects which ensures they have plenty of options at key stage Five and in the future.

The English Baccalaureate may not be appropriate for all students, however, and we will offer appropriate guidance to year 9 students about key stage four option choices.

**At key stage Five** we offer a wide range of A-level and level 3 vocational courses. St Peter's students are guaranteed a place in the sixth form as long as they meet the individual course requirements.

We teach RHSE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) in line with statutory requirements but with guidance from the Catholic Education Service. Mental health and wellbeing of students is a very important component of this curriculum. We also have a well resourced Student Support Services centre to aid this work.



## Special Educational Needs

St Peter's identifies and provides for students with special educational needs, learning difficulties and those with other physical, emotional, behavioural and social learning needs across all abilities and ages so that each student is able to develop and achieve.

Subject teachers identify pupils with learning difficulties or special educational needs by using departmental criteria and/ or data from, for example, primary schools. They will use a range of strategies to address the student's needs but may also involve the school's Partnership and Learning Team.

All pupils identified as experiencing learning difficulties will be monitored by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the Partnership and Learning team.

All members of the community will be made welcome at St Peter's. The school will do all within its power to provide the best education for each student offered a place here.





“ St. Peter’s is like a family. There is a strong feeling and sense of belonging and looking out for each other.

*Parental comment from the survey by Ofsted*

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## Safeguarding & Child Protection

All staff (including volunteers) have to undertake safeguarding training every three years in accordance with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children’s Executive stipulation. Designated child protection staff receive training every 2 years. All staff have a responsibility for the safeguarding, welfare and protection of all students in the school. The safeguarding policy, the child protection policy and St Peter’s ‘offer of early help’ can be found on the school website.

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Leaders have ensured that pupils are physically and emotionally safe. Leaders provide pupils with additional support, such as mental health counselling. Leaders work well with external agencies to ensure that pupils are protected.

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

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## Working together

We work with parents and guardians to achieve the same goal; the success of every student. We welcome the involvement of parents and guardians in school life and want to know about anything which can help us to help your children. Your support is vital.



It is important that the school and parents work together to ensure students progress.

Every student has a personal tutor who gives special care, guidance and support to the students in his or her tutor group. One period a fortnight focuses on Personal Development. Any concerns which parents or guardians have should be raised with the tutor or the head of year.

Students who are experiencing severe emotional difficulties or personal problems and who need additional assistance can seek confidential and sensitive support from the chaplain and the Student Support Services and may wish to receive counselling.

We are responsible for identifying students who are clearly very able or have a particular talent. They are challenged in lessons with demanding material and concepts or by working on the same material in a different way. We want to motivate our more able students rather than allowing them to 'coast.'



Students who are able and those with a particular interest are also given opportunities to develop their skills in a wide range of extracurricular activities including art, creative writing, drama, mathematics, music, sport, or languages.

Staff complement classroom teaching with other experiences, including the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, visits to the science festival and to Cern, trips to art galleries, museums and theatres; sporting activities including skiing and rugby; trips abroad to places such as Paris, Canada, Madrid, New York and Iceland and to outward bound centres at home and abroad. Experts are often invited into school to work with students.

Events have included creative writing workshops with visiting authors; science talks from visiting experts; students collaborating with visual artists and participating in drama workshops.

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## Facilities

We enjoy excellent specialist facilities including a sports pavilion, a new 3G pitch and astroturf; a drama theatre and drama studio; music and ICT rooms - all well equipped with computers and specialist software; a large library, managed by a chartered librarian.

We are committed to a constant programme of refurbishment to ensure the school meets the needs of its students both now and in the future.

## ROCK Award

St Peter was the Rock of the Church and our school is founded on the core ROCK values of Respect, Optimism, Community and Kindness. Students strive to gain points in each of these areas which lead to badges and bronze, silver and gold ties.



## Assessment and Feedback

Each subject sets homework in accordance to its own homework policy. We use an app called 'Edulink' which allows parents, as well as pupils, to see which homework has been set and when it is due. Students and parents receive log in details to allow them to access the relevant homework.

Also, at two specific points in the year, assessment letters will be sent home which show the levels that have been awarded for assessments and pupils' attitude to learning in every subject.

Parents and carers can follow their children's progress in detail by signing up to the school's 'insight' programme. Parents' evenings are held once every academic year and are an important opportunity to discuss the progress of every student. Parents and guardians are also asked to look regularly at the work of the students especially their homework.



## Thinking ahead

**At key stage four**, students are guided by subject teachers and tutors to make sensible option choices to complement the core, compulsory subjects.

Education is now compulsory until students are 18 years old.



**St Peter's Sixth Form** offers a range of level 3 courses, both academic and vocational.

The newly refurbished sixth form provides a wide range of academic and vocational courses which allow each student to develop personal talents and aspire to fulfilling courses and employment in the future. Full, independent advice and guidance are provided for all year 11 students, so that those who have needs and wishes beyond what we can offer at St Peter's can be guided properly and sensitively.

There is a prospective sixth-form evening each winter where students can see the options available. We try to be flexible and meet the needs first and foremost of our own students when planning our courses.

After their final exams, most students progress to higher education or to degree apprenticeship. They receive individual guidance about applications for colleges and university.



Recording board - Wrap

KETTLE CHIPS

Milk

Board Reference



RECORDING

## More information

### Gaining a place

We currently prioritise places to all Catholic pupils in Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and the Forest of Dean who want a Catholic secondary education, providing this is evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church.

We welcome applicants from other faiths but demand for places is great. Therefore the governors have a set of criteria for non-Catholic applicants. Please review the admissions policy on our website to find out more.

### Visiting the school

We welcome prospective students, parents and guardians to Open Week which is held in late September.

This is an opportunity to see students and staff at work during the normal school day. You are also invited to attend Open Evening when there is a chance to talk to staff and current pupils.

### Contact information

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