

Xaverian College

Prospectus 2027 Entry

A community shaped by learning, faith and service.

Accessible Version

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Section 01: Welcome to Xaverian College

A community shaped by learning, faith and service.

Hello from the Principal

Whatever brought you to this prospectus, you're probably weighing something up. Whether A Levels are the right path. Whether Xaverian is the right place. Whether you're ready. These are good questions, and this prospectus is designed to help you answer them honestly.

Xaverian has been part of Greater Manchester for over 160 years. Every year, young people from all kinds of backgrounds walk through our doors and find something they didn't quite expect: a place that takes them seriously.

I've been part of this community for more than 50 years, first as a student, then as a Teacher, and now as Principal. Xaverian remains a popular place because of its character. It's warm, ambitious, and we believe in people.

We're a Catholic college, and that shapes everything we do. But you don't need to be Catholic to belong here. What our mission means in practice is that we invest in the whole person, not just exam results. We notice you. We support you. We want you to leave Xaverian better prepared not just for your next steps, but for life.

Celebrating 50 years of being a Sixth Form! Come and visit us. See for yourself.

Inside, you'll find honest information, real student voices, and the practical detail you need to make a confident decision. We don't presume Xaverian is right for everyone. But, if you're considering it, we hope what follows helps you decide.

— Tony Knowles, Principal

Welcome from the Student Council

Xaverian is hard to describe until you've experienced it. The best we can do is tell you what it felt like to arrive, settle in, and realise this was somewhere worth choosing.

The first thing that surprised most of us was how different it feels from school. You're treated like an adult. You manage your own time, make your own choices, and take responsibility for your work. That can feel daunting at first, but it gets easier quickly, and it's one of the best things about being here.

The social side is real too. Most of us arrived not knowing many people. Within weeks, that changed. There's no single way it happens. For some it was a shared free time. For others, it was an Xtras activity, a sports team, or just sitting next to someone new in a lesson. Xaverian is a big enough college to feel exciting but small enough that you don't get lost in it.

What we'd want you to know most, though, is that it looks out for you. Not in a way that feels managed or formal, but in a way that feels human. If you're struggling, someone will notice, and if you need support, it's there. And if you're not sure what you need yet, that's fine too.

College isn't always easy. There will be moments when it's hard work, when you doubt yourself, when you wonder if you're on the right path. That's normal. What matters is that you don't have to figure it out alone.

We hope this prospectus gives you what you need to make the right decision for you. Whatever you decide, we wish you well.

Yilei Chen — High School: Co-op Academy Manchester

A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Further Mathematics and Mathematics, and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

"I received lots of support from the Medics, Dentists & Vets (MDV) group with opportunities for work experience, lectures, and interview preparation sessions pertaining to medicine and Oxbridge-style interviews. The Oxbridge group also posts many opportunities for supercurriculars and talks from link Oxbridge colleges, where we got to speak to current students which were incredibly helpful!"

— Yilei Chen

Next step: Degree in Medicine

Everyone belongs here

Xaverian is a community of learning, faith and service. That's not a slogan, it's how the place actually works. You'll find it in the way people treat each other, the way achievement gets noticed, and the way staff back you when you're aiming for something that matters to you.

You're celebrated for who you are and what you do

Your background, culture and beliefs are part of what makes this place what it is.

But you're also celebrated for what you achieve. Staff notice progress, not just results. A good essay, a difficult exam passed, a first time speaking up in class: it gets seen here.

"During my time as a College Ambassador, it was an enrolment day, and the Teachers noticed me for being the most proactive person and the one who was willing to take on the most. It felt really good that my efforts were recognised and it kept me going."

— Hannah

You're treated fairly

Fair doesn't mean everyone gets treated the same. It means everyone gets what they need to do well. That might mean extra support with a subject, or someone stepping in when something's gone wrong. If something doesn't feel right, you'll always have someone to go to.

"I chose Xaverian because of the personal, in-depth disability and mental health support available throughout the College."

— Mar

You're encouraged and supported to go further

Ambition looks different for everyone. Some students know exactly where they're heading and others are still working it out.

Staff push you, and back you, in equal measure. You'll be challenged to do better than you thought you could, and supported properly when it's hard.

"Coming into College with quite average GCSEs was very daunting. With the teaching methods and extra support sessions I have received at Xaverian, I am much more confident, and that memory helps me continue my revision and strive for the best A Level results I can get."

— Ophelia

Faith in Everyday Life

Xaverian is a Catholic college. That shapes everything here, but perhaps not in the way you'd expect.

"You don't need to believe anything in particular to walk through our door. You just need to be willing to be yourself."

You won't be asked what you believe. You won't need a faith background to feel at home. What you will find is a community built on a simple idea: that every person deserves to be treated with dignity, and that we're stronger when we look out for one another. That idea comes from Catholic Social Teaching, the Church's thinking on how we live together well. It asks big questions. What do we owe each other? How do we treat the most vulnerable? What kind of world are we building? You'll explore these questions properly in Core RE, but you'll also see them lived out day to day, in the causes staff and students choose to support and the way people treat each other around College.

Faith at Xaverian isn't something that happens to you. It's something you can step into as much or as little as you like. The Chapel of Saint Anne is open all day, for regular Mass, for quiet reflection or just for somewhere to sit. Morning Prayer runs four days a week and takes ten minutes. Exposition and Adoration offers real stillness in a busy week. None of it is compulsory, and none of it assumes you're Catholic. It's simply there, for whoever wants it.

None of this exists in isolation. Xaverian belongs to the Diocese of Salford, to a network of Catholic schools and colleges across Manchester, and to a tradition that traces back to Theodore James Ryken and the Xaverian Brothers in 1839. It's a long story, and you're invited to be part of the next chapter of it.

Students shape a lot of this themselves. Student Chaplains, drawn from every faith and none, lead prayer, plan events and support anyone who's unsure where to start. The Christian Union meets weekly, and is entirely student-led.

Every year, students and staff travel to Lourdes, not as tourists but as volunteers supporting people with serious illnesses or disabilities. Ask anyone who's been.

Section 02: Your Decision

What comes next? A guide to your options after Year 11

Finishing Year 11 means a decision, and it's a bigger one than it might feel like right now. There's no single right answer. The right path depends on how you study, what you're aiming for, and in what kind of place you want to spend the next two years.

Here's what's actually on offer, so you can work out what fits.

Staying in full-time education

Option	What to expect
School sixth form	You already know the Teachers and the buildings. Days will feel familiar, closer to Year 11 than a fresh start, with a few more freedoms added on.
Sixth form college	A place just for Year 12 and 13 students. Expect mostly A Levels, some additional qualifications, and more independence than school gave you. It's the closest thing to a university-style experience before you actually get there.
Further education college	Bigger, and broader. You'll find A Levels, T Levels, and Applied Courses like BTECs, often alongside Apprenticeships and Foundation Programmes, across a wide range of work-related areas.
Independent training providers	Some routes combine a qualification with an activity, like training and playing sport alongside a BTEC in Sport.

A Levels, T Levels, V Levels, Applied Courses or Apprenticeships: what's the difference?

At Xaverian, you can choose from A Levels, V Levels or Applied Courses. Here's how all five pathways compare, so you can see the full picture before deciding.

A Levels are seen as the most academic route. You're assessed mainly through exams at the end of two years.

Applied Courses, such as BTECs and Cambridge Technicals, focus on building practical skills and experience in a specific area. You will be assessed through a mix of coursework and exams.

V Levels are brand new qualifications. From September 2027, these Level 3 qualifications combine applied learning across a broad range of employment areas, and do not require a mandatory work placement. You will be assessed through a mix of coursework and exams.

T Levels work like Applied Courses, they are built around high-level skills and a substantial work placement, around 45 days, and geared towards a specific career. T Levels aren't part of what we offer at Xaverian, but you'll find them at some further education colleges.

Apprenticeships let you earn while you learn. Instead of studying full time, you split your week between paid work and training towards a qualification, usually with a specific employer and career path in mind from the start. Apprenticeships aren't something we offer at Xaverian, but they're a genuine alternative worth knowing about.

Finding the right fit for you

There's no single formula for this. You could choose subjects you're interested in, ones that build on what you already know, or ones that open up an area you've never studied before. You might pick based on what you'll need for a specific university course or career, or what fits an Apprenticeship you have in mind. You could choose to specialise in a certain area by choosing complementary subjects, such as History, Politics and English Literature. Universities sometimes like to see that students have a broad range of interests by mixing art and STEM subjects like French, Mathematics and Art. Whatever you choose, it's worth revisiting your plan as your circumstances and interests change, and we will work with you to do this.

Will Anyon — High School: Altrincham College

A Levels in English Literature and Film Studies, and BTEC in Music Technology.

“Music Technology has been such a unique experience of working with talented people, exploring interesting elements of music and using high-end, industry-level technology. My favourite memory was the Orchestra's performance at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Music For Youth Proms. It was the opportunity of a lifetime to be able to perform at such an event.”

— Will Anyon

Next step: Degree in Music Technology

Find your Course

With over 40 subjects to choose from, you've got plenty to explore.

Every course at Xaverian has its own entry requirements, so you know exactly where you stand before you apply. The general rule: you'll need six good GCSE passes, including a minimum of two at Grade 6 and four at Grade 5, plus the respective individual course requirements listed below.

A Levels

Subject	Entry requirement(s)
Accounting	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in Mathematics
Ancient History	Grade 5 in English Language
Biology	Grade 6, 6 and 6 across two sciences and Mathematics. One Grade 6 must be in Biology if you are taking separate sciences. If you're applying for two A Level sciences, you'll need Grades 6, 6 and 7 across the two sciences and Mathematics
Business	Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics
Chemistry	Grade 6, 6 and 6 across two sciences and Mathematics. One Grade 6 must be in Chemistry if you are taking separate sciences. If you're applying for two A Level sciences, you'll need Grades 6, 6 and 7 across the two sciences and Mathematics
Classical Civilisation	Grade 5 in English Language
Computer Science	Grade 6 in Mathematics and Grade 5 in a science. If you've studied Computer Science at GCSE, you'll also need a Grade 5
Drama & Theatre	Grade 5 in English Language
Economics	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in Mathematics

Subject	Entry requirement(s)
English Language	Grade 5 in English Language
English Language & Literature	Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature
English Literature	Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature
Film Studies	Grade 5 in English Language
Fine Art	Grade 5 in Art, or a Merit or above if you've taken an art-related BTEC. If you haven't studied a related course, we'll ask you to submit a portfolio of work for consideration
French	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in French
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in Mathematics and be taking Mathematics A Level
Geography	Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics. If you've studied Geography at GCSE, you'll also need a Grade 5 in the subject
German	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in German
Graphic Communication	Grade 5 in Art or Graphic Design/Communication, or a Merit or above if you've taken an art-related BTEC. If you haven't studied a related course, we'll ask you to submit a portfolio of work for consideration
History	Grade 5 in English Language. If you've studied History at GCSE, you'll also need a Grade 5
Law	Grade 5 in English Language
Mathematics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
Media Studies	Grade 5 in English Language
Music	Grade 5 in English Language, plus a Merit in BTEC Music or Grade 5 in GCSE Music. You'll also need at least Grade 5 in voice or an instrument, and the ability to read and write music
Philosophy, Ethics & Theology	Grade 5 in English Language
Photography	Grade 5 in Art or Photography, or a Merit or above if you've taken an art-related BTEC. If you haven't studied a related course, we'll ask you to submit a portfolio of work for consideration
Physics	Grade 6 and 6 across two sciences and Grade 7 in Mathematics. One Grade 6 must be in Physics if you are taking separate sciences. You must also take Mathematics A Level as one of your subject choices
Politics	Grade 5 in English Language
Psychology	Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language and Mathematics
Spanish	Grade 5 in English Language and Grade 6 in Spanish

Subject	Entry requirement(s)
Textiles	Grade 5 in Art or Textiles, or a Merit or above if you've taken an art-related BTEC. If you haven't studied a related course, we'll ask you to submit a portfolio of work for consideration

Applied Courses

Course	Entry requirement(s)
BTEC Applied Science (Single or Double)	Grade 4 in English Language, and Grade 5 in Mathematics and Grade 55 from Science
BTEC Business (Single or Double)	Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics
Applied Diploma in Criminology (Single)	Grade 4 in English Language
V Level Digital Systems & Data (Single)	Grade 4 in English Language
V Level Education (Single)	Grade 4 in English Language
Cambridge National Health & Social Care (Single or Triple)	Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 from Science
BTEC Music Technology (Single)	Grade 4 in English Language, Mathematics and Music, or a Pass from BTEC Music
BTEC Sport (Single or Triple)	Grade 4 in English Language and Grade 4 from Science

Nils Bilde — High School: Burnage Academy for Boys

BTEC Business Triple.

"Being a part of the DEIB group has been a great experience for me, which has been about making new friends and working on shared projects to increase inclusion and the sense of community at Xaverian. A big focus of the group this year has been bringing the Xaverian community together with gardening initiatives around the College. We also raised awareness of and celebrated different cultures, such as the 'Break the Fast' event to mark the end of fasting for Ramadan, making Chinese dragons and placing them around the College to celebrate the Chinese New Year, and taking part in Community Culture Day, which was an amazing end to Year 12."

— Nils Bilde

Next step: Degree Apprenticeship

From first look to first day

Choosing a college is a big decision, and you don't have to rush it. Here's what your journey to Xaverian could look like, from your first visit to your first day as a student.

Open Days

Come and see Xaverian for yourself. Meet our students and Teachers, explore the subjects on offer and get a feel for what makes us different.

Taster Day

Try before you apply. Spend a day studying subjects you're interested in. Places are limited, so register early, and priority goes to students who've already been to an Open Day.

We come to you

Throughout the year, we visit schools across the area for assemblies, careers events and parents' evenings. Look out for us and say "hello".

Year 10? Get a head start

Our Year 10 Taster Days give you a first go at College life, with real lessons in subjects you might want to study. They're by invitation, offered to students at selected partner schools. If yours isn't one, you'll get other chances to visit.

Induction and your first week

This is where your journey really begins. Induction and your first week is about settling in. You'll meet your Teachers, get your timetable and start to understand how your subjects are taught here. You can sign up for Xtras, our enrichment programme, and find something new to try. And you'll meet the people you'll be spending the next two years with. By the end of the week, you'll be familiar with the Xaverian way.

Application deadline

Decided Xaverian is right for you? Complete your online application by the deadline of 18th December 2026 at 9am.

Behind the scenes

While you wait to hear from us, your school confirms your predicted grades directly with us. There's nothing you need to do.

Course Consultation Interviews

We'll call you to discuss your course choices, answer your questions and make sure you're on the right path.

Conditional offers

If your interview goes well, we'll send you an offer of a place that is conditional on your final GCSE results.

Welcome Days

After your exams, come and get to know Xaverian properly. Try your subjects and meet your future classmates.

Enrolment Interview

Once your results are in, confirm your place and your subjects ready for September.

Ready to apply?

Applying to Xaverian is simple. It's all done online, in one place, and you can save your progress and come back whenever you like.

Three steps to get started

- Apply online — Head to our website and click apply. This takes you straight to CEDAR, our online application portal.

- Tell us about you — Fill in your details, the qualifications you're working towards and the subjects you want to study. Choose whatever combination of subjects suits you. We'll talk it through properly at your Course Consultation Interview.
- Hit submit — Check everything over, then send it off. You'll get a confirmation email straight away.

Applications close 18th December 2026 at 9am.

Before you start, have your personal details, a parent or carer's contact details, and your predicted grades to hand. It makes the form quicker to fill in.

Got questions? Our Admissions Team is here to help.

Email: admissions@xaverian.ac.uk. Call: 0161 249 2145.

How to write something worth reading

[Photo: a member of staff sitting with two students at a table, going through a personal statement together.]

It's 9pm. You've opened a blank document twelve times. You've written "I have always been passionate about..." and deleted it twice. The cursor just blinks back at you.

Every student applying to Xaverian hits this moment. The good news? The blank page is the hardest part. Once you get past it, the rest gets easier.

Here's what our Admissions Team wants you to know before you start.

A quick word on AI: It's fine for structure, not for substance. We want your voice, not a smoothed-over version of it. We can usually tell the difference.

- Make it personal. A statement is the first chance a college gets to know you, so let your enthusiasm show. Rebecca's opening does this well: a school trip to Madrid, a subject that stuck, an Open Day that changed her mind. Small, real moments beat grand claims.
- Say why Xaverian, specifically. Anyone can say they love a subject. Tell us why you love it here, an Open Day conversation, a Taster Day session, something about how we teach it.
- Be specific, not generic. "I want to study English Literature because I like reading" could be anyone. Say what you've actually read, thought about, or argued over.
- Link back to the question. Every point you make should answer what's actually been asked, not just describe an achievement in isolation.
- Use examples from inside and outside school. Head Girl, Captain of the netball team, a Saturday job at a charity shop, all of it's interesting to us. We want the full picture, not just the school one.
- Proofread properly. Typos happen to everyone. Ask a Teacher, a Careers Advisor or a parent/carer to read it before you send it.
- Tell us what's next. You don't need a five-year plan, but a sense of direction, university, Apprenticeships, something else entirely, helps us support you properly. Don't worry if you don't know yet, lots of students don't.

Rebecca's Personal Statement — annotated example

Why do you want to study your choice of subjects?

I would like to study French, Spanish and History A Level. [Good personal example and enthusiasm] My love for languages began when I went on a school trip to Madrid in Year 9, and I found it exciting to have conversations in Spanish and immerse myself in the culture.

I have really enjoyed these subjects at high school and, when I met the languages Teachers at the Xaverian Open Day, I thought they were really friendly and inspiring. [Specific to the college] I think I want to study

French and Spanish at university, so I would like to make sure that I am prepared for the next steps. [Thinking about the future] I would also like to study History because it is my favourite subject. The topics we have covered in school have fascinated me and I love doing independent research around the subject to learn more. My favourite books are historical fiction, particularly by Philippa Gregory who writes books about Tudor women. [Great level of detail] I really enjoyed the history lesson that I did on Taster Day, and I got to meet other people who were just as passionate as me. [Specific to the college]

How has your time at school helped you to prepare for Xaverian College?

I have really enjoyed my time at high school, and it has allowed me to try lots of different subjects and discover what I am good at. [Good personal example and enthusiasm] Studying my GCSEs has helped me to become more organised with my work, to make sure I meet deadlines and have a good balance across all my subjects. Since Year 7, I have been making revision timetables for my end of year exams. It helps me to visualise what needs to be done and when, and I think this will help me in my independent study at college. [Links back to the question] Throughout high school, I have been a member of the school council, which has allowed me to work with other year groups, and develop my interpersonal skills and confidence. [Skills gained through experiences] It has been really interesting to receive feedback from the school and work together to try and make positive changes. [Too generic — what feedback, what changes?]

What else would you like us to know about you?

One of the things we were able to do was organise a bake sale to raise money for our Year 11 Prom. This year, I became Head Girl, and I am proud to represent my school. Being Head Girl isn't just about holding a title, it is about being a role model in every way, and supporting my wider school community.

I love sports. I have been in lots of teams both inside and outside of school. I love being part of a team and getting to know new people in this way. This year I was made Captain of the netball team, which has given me more responsibility and help me to develop leadership and communication skills. [A common trait of AI] Being a dedicated sports person also means that I manage my time wisely, to make sure I have a good balance between my studies and social life. [Skills gained through experiences] I am also passionate about helping my local community. This year, I have been volunteering at my local charity shop, Oxfam, on a Saturday. [Great example from outside school] I have learnt how the organisation runs and developed good customer service skills. In Year 10 I did a week's work experience in a law firm. [Check your spelling and grammar] I have always been interested in becoming a lawyer, and this showed me what daily tasks lawyers do, and how to conduct myself in a professional environment.

Section 03: Life at Xaverian

Ask ten students what their day at Xaverian looks like and you'll get ten different answers. Here are just a few.

A day in the life

Inside and outside of lessons, there's always something to do.

Lola — High School: Manchester Communication Academy

A Levels in English Literature, History and Psychology.

"My Psychology Teacher takes the subject beyond the textbook. I find myself learning more about myself and those around me, every day."

— Lola

Florence — High School: Flixton Girls School

A Levels in Film Studies and Law, and Applied Diploma in Criminology.

"Film Studies helped me see what I could achieve when I was genuinely invested in the work. My Wednesday double lesson is the thing I look forward to most every week."

— Florence

Laramie — High School: Longdendale High School

A Levels in Ancient History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics.

"Problem-solving Club on Monday lunchtimes is a very fun session, full of interesting problems to tackle."

— Laramie

Christina — High School: Manchester Communication Academy

A Level in Psychology, BTEC in Applied Science and Health & Social Care Cambridge National.

Crafty Corner has become a lunchtime highlight of her week. A relaxed space to be creative with friends, from crocheting to making bracelets.

Anushka — High School: Trinity Church of England High School

A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology.

The Chaplaincy is her go-to spot. A calm place to step away from the noise and talk to someone. Before exams, she works through content and past papers, two to three hours a day. The Pavilion for focused revision, Manchester Central Library or a nearby café for a change of scene.

Harry — High School: Chorlton High School

A Levels in Classical Civilisation, English Language and History.

Big Band and Jazz Band give structure and ambition to his week.

Your Xaverian timetable

Core RE

What you think is what matters, and you will be encouraged to share your views about the world and the people within it.

These sessions are genuinely for everyone, whether you have religious beliefs or not. It is a space where you can speak honestly, disagree respectfully, and build on what you've explored together over time.

Students who complete their Core RE lessons receive an NOCN Religious Studies Level 2 qualification, a nationally-recognised award that reflects genuine engagement with some of the biggest questions in human life.

Pastoral Lessons

At Xaverian, we believe every student deserves to feel supported in every part of their life, not just in the classroom. That belief shapes everything about the way we care for our students.

Every student has a dedicated pastoral team around them from day one. Whatever is going on, there is always someone you can talk to.

Some tutorials focus on your progress and wellbeing, giving you the chance to talk about how things are going academically and personally. Others involve group activities and personal development, topics like study skills, next steps after College, or broader conversations about life at Xaverian.

Over time, your Tutor gets to know you well. That relationship is at the heart of pastoral care at Xaverian.

You're in control of your studies

Your timetable is based around your core subjects and each subject occupies four blocks on your timetable during the week. Core RE and Pastoral sessions are an hour each week and the rest of your timetable could comprise lunch breaks, Xtras enrichment or independent study.

You are expected to attend all your timetabled sessions, however if you have a study period you don't need to come into College, although most students do.

Example timetable

Time block	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Subject 1	Subject 2	Study time	Study time	Study time
2	Subject 1	Subject 2	Tutorial	Study time	EPQ
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Core RE	Lunch	Lunch
3	Netball	Subject 3	Lunch	Enrichment: Drama	Subject 3
4	Study time	Study time	Subject 3	Subject 1	Subject 2
5	Study time	Study time	Subject 3	Subject 1	Subject 2

This is an illustrative example only. Individual timetables vary depending on subject choices.

We've got you

College is a big step up. New subjects, new people, more independence than you've had before. Most of it you'll take in your stride. And when something doesn't go to plan, you won't be figuring it out on your own.

Every student at Xaverian has people around them whose job it is to notice when something is wrong and to help put it right.

Someone in your corner

From day one, you have a Pastoral Tutor. You meet with them every week, in a protected slot on your timetable. It's a time to check in on how things are going, academically and personally. Over the year, they get to know you properly. If something needs more than your Pastoral Tutor can offer, your Pastoral Manager and Head of Year are there too.

Your subject Teachers are looking out for you as well. They'll usually spot it before you say anything, and they're easy to reach out of lessons, via email or MS Teams.

Someone to talk to, in confidence

Counselling is free, confidential, and open to everyone. You don't need to wait until things feel unmanageable. Counsellors are on site every weekday during term time. Speak to your Pastoral Tutor first if that's easier, or book directly.

Help with the practical costs

Full-time study can incur costs, and that shouldn't get in the way. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to get a bursary for everyday costs, free College meals or travel support if you live further away.

Keeping you safe

Everyone here has the right to feel safe. If you're worried about yourself or someone else, you don't need to be certain something's wrong to speak up, our Designated Safeguarding Lead is always contactable, and you can walk into the Pastoral Office at any time.

We keep an eye out

Good attendance makes the biggest difference to how well you do. If you're not in, we notice and we follow up, and parents/carers are sent messages the same day. If coming in is hard for any reason, your Pastoral Tutor is who to talk to.

Support that adjusts to you

We're in touch with you, your family and your school before you even arrive, so we understand what you need from day one. Once you're here, our Additional Learning Support Team can put support in place: help with organising your workload, exam access arrangements, or support with confidence and communication. If you have an EHCP, your support is planned around your goals before enrolment.

"Xaverian has made sure from the day I started that I had the support I needed... They are always there to help or even just to chat."

— Eva

The Xtras Programme

What do you actually do outside your subjects? That's a fair question to ask before you commit to two years' study. At Xaverian, the answer is: quite a lot.

Xaverian Xtras is our enrichment programme. It runs alongside your studies, is timetabled around your lessons, so it's never a scramble to fit in. Try something new, get better at something you already love, or

just take a proper break with people who are into the same things you are. Whatever you're after, there's a way in.

It's not just a nice-to-have. Enrichment activity is linked to better wellbeing, stronger confidence, and skills that carry over into your studies. It also gives you something real to talk about on a UCAS application, an Apprenticeship application, or in a job interview.

Three places to start

- Music — A dedicated music space, a state-of-the-art recording studio, three live rooms. An orchestra of 110, a choir of over 100, and 38 ensembles covering everything from jazz to rock. You don't need to study Music A Level to join in. Just bring enthusiasm.
- Drama — Act or help behind the scenes alongside A Level Drama & Theatre students in drama and musical theatre shows, even if you don't study the subject yourself. It's creative, it's social, and the end-of-year production is one of the highlights of the Xaverian year.
- Sport — Basketball, football, netball, badminton, table tennis, rugby, and a full programme of classes and team sessions. Competitive or just want to move more? There's a place for you.

And there's more: Book Club. Chess Club. Crafty Corner. Creative Writing. Debate Club. Model UN. Expressive Painting. Fantasy Football. Gardening Club. Latin. Running Club. 'Xavazine' student magazine. Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, a serious 18-month commitment that stays on your CV long after you leave.

Want to know more? Email: xtras@xaverian.ac.uk

Ask the Ambassadors

Every year, students step forward to represent Xaverian in two ways. College Ambassadors show prospective students and parents round on Open Days, answering the questions that matter and making a first visit feel less daunting.

Marketing Ambassadors create the content, from Instagram captions to blog posts, that tells the wider story of College life, in their own words, not ours.

Both roles build real skills. Both look good on a personal statement or CV. And both are a genuine way to give something back to the community you're a part of.

College Ambassador: Testimony Okafor — Parrenthorn High School

Xaverian subjects: A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

Testimony put herself forward because she remembered what it felt like to be new. "I wanted to help new students navigate from high school to college by sharing my own positive experiences," she says. It's also, she admits, done wonders for her confidence. "I've significantly improved my public speaking skills, and helping prospective students find their way around has helped my leadership skills too."

What's surprised her most isn't a visitor's question. It's herself. "I'm amazed at my own dedication to being a College Ambassador. Every conversation you have, every piece of insight you share, can actively influence someone's future. That's what makes the role feel like more than a duty," she says.

Being an Ambassador has changed how she talks about Xaverian too. "I've come to appreciate the behind-the-scenes effort our staff put in. I speak to friends from other schools with genuine confidence about the diverse community Xaverian has."

Her advice to anyone who isn't sure they're 'the right type' to apply: "Never look down on yourself. There is no right type. The Ambassador Team thrives because we're all different. Whether you're an introvert or an extrovert, your uniqueness is what someone needs to hear."

Marketing Ambassador: Daniel Obe — Co-op Academy North Manchester

Xaverian subjects: A Levels in Business, English Language and Geography.

Daniel is one of ten students on the Marketing Ambassador Team, with five focused on media, five on writing, all learning from each other. He's written blog posts for every major College event and the captions behind the @xavsunlocked Instagram account.

What makes his approach different from how Xaverian's been marketed before? "I have a unique student voice," he says. "Teachers don't have a full grasp on what the younger generation want, need or are interested in. I focus on writing blogs that capture, not just the event itself, but the deeper pattern of how young people think."

He believes that's exactly why students listen. "We're going through the same experiences and obstacles as them. Social media has changed the attitudes of young people in a way we know like the back of our hand."

"I didn't want to just volunteer and go through the motions. I wanted to improve my skills, show the College to as wide an audience as possible, and leave an impact."

Next up for the team: a podcast featuring key staff, giving longer-form space for discussion beyond Instagram, and a digital skills course, covering visual communication, digital storytelling and building a website from scratch, alongside shadowing a professional videographer.

The biggest skill he's taken from the role isn't creative, it's collaborative. "Creative work is rarely done alone. If you can't communicate your ideas and take criticism, you'll never make it in the industry. I've learned to get my ideas across while still being co-operative with others."

His advice to anyone unsure about applying: "You don't need to be a certain type of person. Xaverian welcomes everyone. So book a place on an Open Day and come and see for yourself."

It's a slam dunk — How basketball became a part of who we are

"Xaverian has shown me what it means to be a family."

— Jayden Evora Gomes

Jayden Evora Gomes did not arrive at Xaverian expecting to remember it the way he does. He came for the basketball and the A Levels. He stayed for something harder to name.

"The support from the Coach and the Teachers made it a great experience," he says. "It was an amazing experience that I'll always remember, and one that I'd recommend to anyone."

Jayden studied Economics, Psychology and BTEC Sport at Xaverian, balancing his academic workload with a full season in the Elite Basketball Academy. In his first year, the men's team finished second in the league and reached the CBL semi-finals. In his second, they won the league and made the final. By the time he left, the team had earned promotion to the EABL, the highest college basketball league in England.

His next steps? A USA Prep School or European Under-19 Academy, with ambitions to play Pro Basketball at a high level. Not bad for someone who walked in through our doors at age 16.

How it started

The Elite Basketball Academy launched in 2021. In the years since, it has grown into one of the most competitive college basketball programmes in the country, competing in the EABL and WEABL, the top tier of college basketball in England.

Basketball at Xaverian exists at every level. There are students who have played competitively for years. There are students who pick up the sport here for the first time. What ties all of them together is a shared understanding that this is a place where the sport is taken seriously.

The Record

The titles tell you something about the culture.

The men's Academy has won the CBL 1 North League Championship in both 2025 and 2026. They finished third nationally in the CBL Playoffs in 2025 and second in 2026. In 2026, they won the Dynamik U17 National Cup and the AoC National Championship. The 2025-26 season also brought promotion to the EABL, the highest college league in the country.

The women's programme has matched them stride for stride. The women's team were AoC National Champions in 2025. In 2026, they added the Dynamik U17 National Cup to their record.

Every competitive match is recorded, with full data and video analysis produced after each game, including highlight reels and detailed statistics. You can see, precisely, where you are improving and where the work still needs to be done.

The programme also includes strength and conditioning sessions and access to physiotherapy at reduced rates. These are not afterthoughts. They are part of what it means to train at an elite level, and they are built into the programme from day one.

Your timetable is built around your Academy commitments. You never have to choose between a training session and a lesson. We recommend taking at least one block of BTEC Sport alongside two A Levels, or equivalent Applied Courses. The BTEC Sport is available as a one-block or three-block option, which means you can tailor the balance to what works for your academic goals.

Jayden's combination of Economics, Psychology and BTEC Sport is one example of how students make it work. Others find their own solution. What we've learned, over four years of running the programme, is that the students who commit to both the Academy and their studies tend to do well in both.

"The team has consistently improved throughout the two years. And so did I."

— Jayden Evora Gomes

Athens and beyond — Why we take you out into the world

Learning at Xaverian does not stop at the classroom door. From the very first term, students across every subject are offered opportunities to take their studies further, whether that means visiting a gallery, attending a lecture at a leading university, watching a live performance, competing in a national competition or travelling abroad. These are not add-ons. They are part of how we teach.

Where the ancient world comes alive

Nowhere is this more visible than in the Ancient World department, where Ancient History and Classical Civilisation students take part in an annual trip to Greece that has become one of the highlights of the Xaverian calendar.

Each year, the group spends five days travelling through the heart of the ancient world, visiting the sites, theatres, sanctuaries and museums that form the backbone of what they study. The itinerary changes slightly year on year, but the journey typically takes in the Acropolis and its iconic monuments, the Theatre of Dionysus, the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion, the sanctuary at Delphi, the birthplace of the Olympic Games at Olympia, the ancient citadel at Mycenae, and the theatre at Epidaurus, whose acoustics have to be heard to be believed.

For most students, the experience is genuinely transformative.

"Seeing the sites and museums will really help with visualising texts and connecting with them in class. The Delphi archaeological site in particular, with its vast contributions from so many parts of the ancient world, gave a mesmerising insight into objects of the past."

— A Xaverian student

"I really enjoyed Delphi. I wasn't quite expecting the awe that would come with the views. I expected such amazing views from the Acropolis, but Delphi was a truly hidden gem. Packed with history, it also

offered a great image of where the Greeks would have gone whenever Delphi is mentioned on the course."

— A Xaverian student

The social dimension matters too. Students consistently return, not only with a deeper understanding of their subject, but with new friendships formed across courses and year groups. "It was also a very socially fulfilling trip," noted one student. "We got to meet students from other subjects." Another put it simply: "I was in genuine awe the whole time, and I made so many new friendships."

The Greece trip is the centrepiece of the Classics calendar, but it sits within a much broader programme of enrichment throughout the year. Students visit the British Museum for a dedicated study day. They attend the Warwick Ancient Drama Festival at the University of Warwick, one of the country's biggest university outreach events for students of the ancient world. They watch live performances of plays first staged over two thousand years ago, from Aeschylus and Aristophanes, at venues ranging from university theatres to local schools. And they take part in national essay competitions, with students regularly receiving recognition from some of the country's most prestigious academic institutions.

That track record has a real impact. Ancient World students at Xaverian have gone on to study at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as leading universities across the UK. Some have returned to the sites they first visited as Xaverian students, now pursuing postgraduate research in Egyptology, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. The academic journey starts here, but it goes a long way.

"We believe the best learning happens when you are a little bit out of your comfort zone, standing somewhere new, asking questions you did not know you had. That is what we are trying to create, and it starts long before you ever leave Manchester."

Life in Manchester

Choosing where to study isn't just about the college. It's about the city around it.

Xaverian sits just a couple of miles from the city centre, with transport links that make everything easy to reach. Gigs, galleries, football and food. It's all on your doorstep.

What is there?

Category	What's on offer
Arts and culture	The Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery are world-class, and free. For history and science, the Museum of Science and Industry and Manchester Museum are right on your doorstep too.
Live music and theatre	Co-op Live and the AO Arena bring the biggest names. For something more intimate, try Band on the Wall or the Royal Exchange.
Sport	Home to two of the biggest football clubs in the world, plus Old Trafford Cricket Ground, the Velodrome and the Manchester Aquatics Centre.
Shopping	The Arndale and Trafford Centre for the essentials. Afflecks and Barton Arcade for something different.
Food	Ask any student what they love most about Xaverian's location and food comes up first. Every cuisine, every budget, right outside the door.

Community

Manchester's future matters to us too, and giving back is part of everyday life at Xaverian.

Staff and students recently joined in 'Our Nature' to rewild Park Crescent in Rusholme, planting fruit trees, berry bushes and wildflowers to bring nature back to the area. It's part of a wider push to help Manchester become a greener, more connected city.

Students also donate food each autumn for Cornerstone Day Centre in Moss Side, which supports hundreds of people locally with meals, clothing and more. At Christmas, the College's Toy Appeal, running for over 50 years, makes sure local children have a gift to open, and College Ambassadors collect donations for Burnage Foodbank every festive season too. And every year, students and staff spend a night sleeping outdoors on the College grounds for the 'Big Sleep Out', raising money and awareness for homelessness charities across Manchester.

It's not all fundraising. Twice a year, students spend an afternoon with local senior citizens, serving food, calling bingo and putting on a show.

Whether it's planting trees, packing food parcels or just showing up, there's always a way to get stuck in.

Our Campus: then vs. now

Some things change. The buildings on this page aren't the ones our first students walked into over 160 years ago. But walk around Xaverian today and you'll find the same thing that's always been here: a place built around its students, not just its subjects. Here's how it's grown.

Building	Then	Now
Firwood	Bought in 1905 as 'Blagden' and renamed Firwood on the move to Victoria Park. Designed by Alfred Waterhouse, the architect behind Manchester Town Hall. It's Grade II listed, and the only surviving domestic building designed by Waterhouse.	The social heart of campus. Home to the Student Common Room, a coffee shop, and where students catch up between lessons.
Chapel	Part of the original Firwood building.	Home to Chaplaincy. Whether you're Catholic or not, it's a space for reflection or a conversation, whenever you want it.
Classroom	One of the original classrooms inside Firwood.	One of the many classrooms across campus today.
Main Drive	The original entrance archway to the campus.	Every Xaverian has walked this way for the first time. Some come back thirty years later and it still feels like coming home.
Maryland	Bought as Regent House and renamed 'Marylands' and, more recently, 'Maryland'. Former home of Sir Henry Roscoe, Professor of Chemistry and uncle of Beatrix Potter, who studied under Professor Bunsen and brought some of the original interior decoration back from Germany himself.	Home to our English subjects and the EPQ. The original grounds are now the lawns students use to relax between lessons.
Ward Hall	Bought from Manchester philanthropist William Gaddum as 'Stoneywood'. Adapted and opened in 1951 as the College's first dining hall and student accommodation.	Home to arts and humanities, including History, Media Studies and Film Studies.
Sunbury	Bought as 'Vermont'. Used first as a prep school, then the College's first sixth form	Rebuilt for Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with industry-standard labs.

Building	Then	Now
	block, then RE classrooms, before being demolished in 2024.	

Firwood, Ward Hall, Maryland and Sunbury are only part of the story. Birtles, Teresa Quinn, Mayfield, Ryken, The Pavilion and St Edward's Presbytery all play their part too, and the campus hasn't stopped growing. New buildings arrive, old ones find new purposes.

The campus keeps changing. What we're here for doesn't.

Sustainability — what we're doing about it

Solar panels have been installed on the roof. Water fountains are being introduced across the campus to phase out single-use plastic bottles entirely. We have set up bird boxes across the College to encourage nesting. Sustainability at Xaverian isn't a policy in a drawer. It's part of how the College runs day-to-day.

Where we're heading

We're committed to net zero carbon by 2035, fifteen years ahead of the government's own target. We are converting all our lighting to energy-saving LED bulbs. We cut gas use by 10% and electricity by 4% last year, and we publish the figures every year so you can see the progress for yourself.

On campus

Plastic cutlery is gone from the canteen. Electric vehicle charging points are in. Cycle here and lock your bike up securely. Recycling rates are well above 90%, tracked and displayed on screens around the College.

What's on your plate

Our catering partner, Harrisons, sources food that's fully traceable, from free range eggs to fish from sustainable stocks, all in compostable packaging. Waste cooking oil gets converted into biodiesel, saving around 84 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. We're working towards sourcing three-quarters of our food from within the UK.

Green space, right here

A range of birds, including parakeets and robins, already call the grounds home. A wildflower garden, bug hotels and more planters are on the way, bringing in bees, butterflies and more of the wildlife that makes a campus feel alive.

Trips and travel

Going further afield? A small 1.5% carbon offset surcharge on overseas trips goes straight into reforestation and carbon reduction projects. Where a UK trip delivers the same academic value, that's the one we'll book first.

You're part of it

The Student Council helps shape what happens next, with ideas that get acted on, not just noted down. If you've got views on how the College should run more sustainably, there's a seat at the table for you.

Double take — two parents, two points of view

What was your reaction when your child said they wanted to come to Xaverian?

"I was so relieved and excited. Being an ex-student myself, this meant so much to me."

"I was thrilled. Xaverian was, and still is, our absolute first choice."

Were there any other options you seriously considered, and what made Xaverian stand out?

"Yes, but Xaverian stood out for its reputation, supportive atmosphere and opportunities beyond the classroom."

"It was an easy decision. The results speak for themselves, but the leadership is what really sets it apart. The talks from the Principal were clear, direct and told me everything about how the College is run."

Did you visit the College together? What were your first impressions?

"We visited as a family, first with my son, then my daughter four years later. The Open Day felt welcoming, and the buzz around campus made it clear this would be their first choice."

"I visited twice, and by the second time I was genuinely looking forward to going back."

Was there anything you were unsure about, and did that change once they started?

"I wasn't sure about my daughter's choice of the Applied Science BTEC course or where this would lead to, but once she started she loved it. The College supported her all the way to a Psychology Degree."

"Everything was explained clearly from the start. Once they began, the Pastoral Team's focus on the whole student stood out immediately."

How well supported have you and your child felt at Xaverian?

"Very well supported. Teachers gave real encouragement alongside clear feedback on reaching target grades."

"Pastoral Tutors were approachable but held high standards. When my daughter drifted off target, staff flagged it immediately and helped her get back on track."

What difference has Xaverian made to your child so far?

"My daughter's confidence grew and she found a friendship circle she really connected with. My son always knew what he wanted to do, but was still very well supported."

"My daughter is thriving in her Mechanical Engineering degree. My son represented Greater Manchester in athletics, winning medals nationally while studying three A Levels."

"There's a Greek saying: 'To our parents we owe our living, but to our teachers we owe our well-being.' Watching my children grow up here, that's exactly how it felt."

"It felt like a place where students would be challenged, supported and encouraged to grow."

Did the ethos or values of the College matter to you when making your decision?

"Definitely. As a practising Muslim, Xaverian allowed my children to practise their faith and helped them integrate and grow within the community."

"Enormously. As an Orthodox Christian family, values like compassion and trust are core to how we raise our children too, and seeing them lived out gave me complete confidence."

What would you say to a parent who is weighing up whether Xaverian is the right choice for their child?

"If you want your child to be all-rounded, grounded and to genuinely enjoy college, Xaverian is for them."

"It's about finding the right bridge between school and the adult world. Xaverian gives students the freedom they want at 16, alongside the structure they still need."

Section 04: Where it leads

Your time at Xaverian leads somewhere. For most students, that's university. For others, it's an Apprenticeship, a job, or time to decide what comes next. We don't rank one above another. Every destination counts, and we track all of them.

Where our students go

Statistic	Figure
Students who go on to university, an Apprenticeship or take a gap year	90%
Students who progress to their first-choice university	72%
Students who go onto a Russell Group University	39%

Numbers like these come from somewhere. They're made possible by Teachers who know their subjects inside out, a fully-qualified Careers Team who start talking to you about your future before you've even enrolled, and events like Pathways Day, where you'll meet over 120 employers and universities face to face. It's a college that takes every route seriously, not just the traditional one.

Every direction is a possibility

Ask our students what they want to do next and you get every kind of answer.

- “My plans are to study Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at university.” — Brooke
- “I am planning on moving onto university, studying Economics & Finance or Social & International Policy with Economics.” — Kiedi
- “I don't really have any set plans for a future career, of course it'll be related to Mathematics, but I'm hoping to get a good idea during uni.” — Charlie
- “After Xaverian, I plan to go to the Royal Northern College of Music. I'm really excited to take this next step and explore new opportunities.” — Khristyna
- “After Xaverian, I plan to take a gap year to give myself time to explore different opportunities and figure out my next steps.” — Angeline

Some know exactly where they're headed. Others are still working it out. Both are normal here.

University isn't the only way forward

If you're not sure university is right for you, you're in good company. Apprenticeships, employment, further training and gap years are all valid options here, not fallback ones. Our Careers Team follows the Careers Development Institute's Code of Ethics, which means they won't push you towards a particular path. They'll help you find your own.

Not sure yet? That's fine too

Plenty of students arrive without a clear plan. You'll have time here to figure it out, and people around you who'll help you do it without rushing you.

Did you know?

Xaverian's alumni network stretches further than you'd expect. It includes:

- Lucy Powell — Politician, Secretary of State for Education

- Anthony Burgess — Writer and composer, best known for 'A Clockwork Orange'
- Wunmi Mosaku — Actress, BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in the film 'Sinners'

Whatever path you're weighing up, you'll be in good company.

Eleanor Hartill — High School: Newall Green High School

Xaverian subjects: A Levels in Accounting, Business and Mathematics. Next step: Apprentice Finance Assistant with Wythenshawe Community Housing Group.

"Xaverian was a great stepping stone for me. It allowed me to consider my options for the future and what I truly enjoyed. Thanks to the support I received, I left a much more confident person with clearer goals and I'm looking forward to see what the future holds!"

— Eleanor Hartill

Nine Lives and Counting — an interview with content creator turned founder, Jasmine Shum

From TikTok to two years at Amazon, to founder of her own marketing agency. When Jasmine Shum started at Xaverian, she'd already built a fashion TikTok account with thousands of followers. What she didn't have yet was a plan for turning that instinct for content and audience into a career.

She knew early on that A Levels weren't the right fit. "I only wanted to study Business, so if I'd chosen A Levels I would have been studying two subjects I was a lot less interested in. The BTEC was equivalent to three A Levels and recognised by universities and employers, so I wasn't disadvantaged in any way. Most of my two years was focused on coursework rather than exams, which suited how I study."

Xaverian subjects: BTEC in Business. Next steps: Higher Apprenticeship at Amazon Prime Video. Now: Founder of Nine Lives Marketing Agency.

"I was only in College three days a week. That gave me the freedom to fit in content creation, extra study and socialising. I'd settle into a routine, working from the library or a local coffee shop between lessons. The flexible timetable, the support I had, and feeling confident in my studies meant I could be creative alongside my learning."

— Jasmine Shum

She hadn't expected the community either. "Looking from the outside, you can think it's just another college. But the community you become part of is like no other. I made friends quickly and felt so unbelievably supported throughout, something I didn't expect because I thought I was just there to study. There was always someone to turn to, whether it was academic or personal."

By the time she left, the direction was set. "I'd known from an early age I wanted to work in marketing. Content creation sparked my interest in social media marketing, and studying Business at Xaverian made it all click into place."

Jasmine went straight into a Higher Apprenticeship at Amazon, working towards a CIM Certificate in Marketing while managing content strategy on the Prime Video storefront across the UK, Spain and France. Alongside the day job, she found herself on the other side of the apprenticeship story, speaking to over 300 students at the 'Ten Years of Amazon Apprenticeships' event and mentoring pupils from inner-city schools through Amazon's Future Leaders programme. A four-day work trip to Ibiza for a Prime Video global première stands out as a highlight too. But after a few intense years in the corporate world, something shifted.

"I always had a feeling I could do more. I've always had ambitions to set up my own business, but I worried I was too young or didn't have enough experience. After a busy few years, I took a step back, rested, reset, and decided it was time to go out on my own. Amazon was undoubtedly great for the experience, but it's important for me to be challenged, and I felt I'd reached my limit in that role."

Now she runs Nine Lives Marketing, helping brands and founders build social identities that stand out. Growing the business hasn't switched off the doubts. "Despite being a confident person, imposter syndrome never really goes away. I'm constantly playing scenarios in my head. But I've found that if you have the drive, the passion and the proof that you're reliable, you will be successful."

Her proudest moment so far has been building a team. "Hiring my socials assistant is definitely a highlight. We actually met through TikTok. She'd done a law degree, wanted to pivot, and had zero experience, but I felt compelled to take her on and train her up. So many people took a chance on me and opened doors for me. It felt fitting to do the same. Giving that back is something really special."

Her advice for students just starting out is simple. "Revel in the moment. Adults always tell you your college days are the best days of your life, and you never believe them, but it's so true. You've got more freedom, you're developing your independence, but there's still a safety net around you. Have fun, seize every opportunity, and use the time to figure out what you're truly interested in. That's what matters when you're deciding on your next steps."

From the lawn to the lab — an interview with Dr Joe Karran

He spent his days in Chemistry, Mathematics and English Literature lessons and lunchtimes on the Xaverian lawn. Now, Dr Joe Karran is finishing his first year as a Resident Doctor, after studying Medicine at the University of Cambridge.

Joe can still picture the Xaverian campus. Moving between buildings, mixing with students from every course and background, rather than staying with one set group. "It felt like a mini university," he says. "It was a microcosm of Manchester. It was really special to be part of."

Xaverian subjects: A Levels in English Literature, Chemistry, Mathematics. Next steps: Medicine at the University of Cambridge. Now: Foundation Year 1, Resident Doctor.

That sense of independence turned out to matter more than he realised at the time. "It was a big shift from school. It was a lot more self-directed. All the resources were there for you to succeed, but it was about independently using them." The habit stuck. "A lot of people I met at university didn't have any idea how to manage their time. I did, because I learnt it at Xaverian."

He puts a lot of that down to the Teachers. "They treated us like adults, and were experts in what they were teaching us. I was very impressed." Joe worked hard and asked for help often, not because he needed the most support in the room, but because he wanted to keep improving. "They gave me so much time and energy. It was always an open-door policy."

Joe studied three A Levels, Chemistry, Mathematics and English Literature, and was also a part of Xaverian's MDV and Oxbridge programmes. Of the three, English Literature is the one he still thinks about most. "My stand-out moment was getting to study English. I loved the course so much, I still think about it today." It taught him to think in a different way than his other subjects.

At Cambridge, studying Medicine brought a new way of learning. "The biggest change was having supervisions, one-to-one or in small groups with an expert in the field. The intimacy of those sessions teaches you life and practical lessons, as well as subject knowledge." Joe now returns to Cambridge himself, as a tutor, teaching second year medical students.

The most memorable moment of his degree came on placement in Cuba, working in a GP practice alongside his best friend. "We got to see how their medical system worked, what their way of life was like, and how they're constantly trying to improve and evolve." It's this kind of first-hand experience, he says, that makes a subject click. "It's easier to attach a story to a person and learn from that."

Joe is now completing his first year as a Resident Doctor, having rotated through general surgery, acute medicine and respiratory medicine. "I have the best job in the world. I am so happy. It's super interesting and fulfilling. After six years, I'm finally able to fully put my knowledge into practice."

Ahead of him: an A&E placement, a spell in research, a psychiatry rotation, a placement in Peru and likely some time out for personal development and travelling. "I often tell myself the best way to look after my patients is to look after myself. A well-earned break after six years of studying will be needed."

Looking back, Joe is clear about where it started. "I'm still very much at the start of my journey, but I wouldn't have got this far without the foundations that Xaverian gave me. I keep in touch, and it's always a joy to go back."

Find your path, own your future

If you've got the ambition, we'll help you achieve it

Our Careers Team will soon get to know you after you start College and they will tell you the many ways you will be supported on the journey to your perfect career.

Throughout your two years, you can expect lots of input from guest speakers, events, volunteering and work placements, apprenticeship and training opportunities, and practical advice on securing your future career goal.

"The college provides excellent support to their students, they have a real commitment to ensuring that all students achieve the best destination that is appropriate for them."

— The Quality in Careers Standard

We offer more than just careers advice

- Careers talks from industry experts
- Weekly careers newsletter
- Careers Q&As
- Career planning tutorials
- One-to-one advice sessions
- Careers Morning Talks
- CV writing
- Support for Medics, Dentists & Vets (MDV) students
- Pathways Day: an event with universities and employers and a post-18 fair
- University visits
- HE research and finance tutorials
- Online parents' progression and information events
- UCAS support package
- Manchester Access Programme
- First Generation support

University

Most Xaverians go to university, with 72% gaining a place at their first-choice. We can support you with preparing for university, including interviews, admissions tests and selection tasks.

Higher/Degree Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a sensible choice. We can advise on who is recruiting and help you get ready for the various stages of the selection process.

Employment

We can support with CV and interview workshops and signpost you to employers who have current vacancies.

Further Training

There are many opportunities for further study, such as training programmes offered by specific employers, government training initiatives and opportunities for training and graduate training programmes following university.

Gap Year/Volunteering

Students take a gap year to gain new skills and experiences, earn money, or spend time deciding what to do in the future. We can advise on what's out there and how taking a gap year can enhance your long-term plans.

Jersey Tambue — High School: The Derby High School

Xaverian subjects: A Levels in Classical Civilisation, English Language and History. Next step: Solicitor Degree Apprenticeship.

“The staff at Xaverian, particularly the Careers Team, were extremely supportive and really helped me prepare for interviews and encouraged me to pursue apprenticeships, even though it is an incredibly daunting career path to undergo at such a young age.”

— Jersey Tambue

Got a question?

Contact us and we'd be happy to help and talk you through the application process and any other questions you have about becoming a Xaverian student.

Xaverian College, Lower Park Road, Manchester, M14 5RB

Call: 0161 249 2145

Email: admissions@xaverian.ac.uk

Website: xaverian.ac.uk

All information in this prospectus is believed to be correct at the time of publication, but it should not be assumed that arrangements or conditions will not be modified if the need arises.