

The journey to unlocking your child's excellence begins at Sion



Welcome to Sion School

What is it that makes Sion School so memorable, unique, and extraordinary?

Sion School is founded on love, kindness and an authentic welcome for all. That spirit can be felt as soon as you come through the front door.

Our motto, 'Consideration Always' encapsulates our ethos and values in those two words. In every moment, if we are considering others, we are offering the very best of ourselves.

It is expected that our motto spins with great energy. Sion students and staff work hard to actively care for others as we work together in this special community.



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Our Ethos

Here at Sion, we ignite a passion for learning that sparks a genuine curiosity about the world and our place within it. We encourage each child to positively impact our planet and communities by sharing their unique skills, talents, and care.

Inspired by our Founders' mission, we equip every child with the tools to thrive in a rapidly changing world, becoming thoughtful, informed, and engaged individuals. Our goal is to prepare children not just for academic success, but for meaningful lives that shape society through their unique and wholesome contributions.

All schools have values which underpin their culture - ours is one of kindness and care. Although our school has a Catholic foundation, its core mission is to welcome people from all religions, and those who don't follow a faith. What we do have is an authentic connection between teacher and child - from the very youngest in our Nursery, through to the young adults in our Sixth Form Vision Centre.

Uncovering and discovering astonishing aptitudes and inspiring a quest for knowledge can only be achieved when there is a profound knowledge of each individual child.

Ever mindful of our foundation, our community works together to ensure that each individual child is aware of the significance of their own distinctive qualities and how discovering our own selves is an essential part in making a difference through service.

Sion Education promises...

- ♦ Small class sizes, with big expectations
- ♦ Challenge for all and further 'Challenge+ programmes' which shape self-belief to unlock every child's unique potential
- ♦ A 'love to learn' culture that inspires best outcomes
- ♦ Authentic connection and care

"Leaders promote consideration, understanding and respect for others, which helps pupils learn to appreciate differences and accept everyone for who they are. As a result, relationships within the school thrive."

Independent Schools Inspectorate
November 2023

Headspace

My name is Steven Jeffery. I am the headteacher of Our Lady of Sion School - the best job in the world, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Our Lady of Sion School, a school that I absolutely love.

For me, moral principles only hold value when they are authentically lived out by every member of the community - adult and child. I am proud of the culture here. For me, the true test of a positive school culture is in the individual's intrinsic desire to align with the ethos and values of a place. Choice is the key, and I am proud of the choices that our young people make here.

"No one gets lost here. Everyone is seen and heard."

Sion education is about unlocking potential and about each child achieving significant outcomes, both academically and personally, which is something that can only come when we really know the children. It's vital that we know how every child thinks and how they learn from Nursery right through to Sixth Form.

No one gets lost here. Everyone is seen and heard. If we know one another well and these children know that they're loved, cared for and nurtured, their energy is maintained.



Sion Education is all about unlocking that glorious energy that every child brings to our community. When a young person feels encouraged and inspired, the outcomes will be extraordinary.

Critical and divergent thinking are crucial to the development of these contemporary minds and how they are going to interact and react to an ever-changing world now, and in their futures as adults. All these experiences make up for an exciting educational exploration. For this reason, school must never be mediocre or run of the mill. To be bored at school is a serious failing.

"Our students are hugely succesful..."

A teacher must develop the art of adaptation. A teacher must always be reading the room - responding and reacting, encouraging, and inspiring. I visit classes every day and I observe those supreme qualities.

It must be that way. This is the way of Sion.

Our students are hugely successful; they achieve impressive outcomes because of their dedication and commitment to personal success and because they belong to a school which has developed a culture that is contributing to that triumph.

Children want to learn at Sion. Children want to achieve their best. They want their friends to achieve their best too, and I love that.

Our academic results speak for themselves and for us, it's about effort, it's about progress and celebrating that hard work, that focus from each child - not necessarily the end grade, although that matters. It's the journey toward that attainment that matters most.

Looking after the whole child is our determined mission. Our care is dependable and unpretentious and that is why our young people talk to us, share with us, and reach out for help. We certainly love teaching them and watching them fly but we must also not

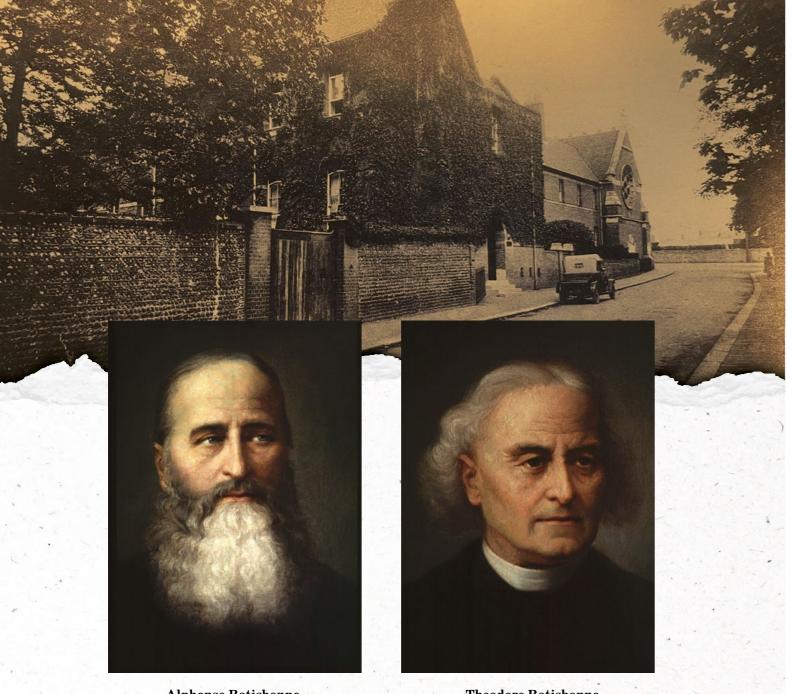
protect our children from failure. This is part of the journey, and an important part. When they fail, we are right there with them. That is when we learn resilience and the mind becomes strong.

A parent's investment in their child's education becomes our sacred responsibility. A child's education is our collective delight and honour.

My hope is that you get a real sense of this place - its spirit and attainment - when you visit us in person. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Steven Jeffery BA (Hons) PGCE





Alphonse Ratisbonne

Theodore Ratisbonne

Our History

Sion's Beginnings

Sion's founders, Theodore and Alphonse Ratisbonne, were born into a well-educated Jewish family in Strasbourg, France.

Theodore's mentor, Louise Humann, inspired him to centre his life on the Word of God. Theodore immersed himself in Scripture study and Catholic teachings and was baptised into the Church.

To this day, Theodore's mentor Louise remains an inspiration for Sion students as a woman of deep faith, great intelligence and positive influence.

Following his Baptism, Theodore was ordained a priest in 1830. Alphonse also embraced the Catholic church and followed a calling to become a priest after experiencing a vision of Mary on January 20, 1842, at St. Andrea Delle Fratte Church in Rome.

This vision had a profound influence on both of the Ratisbonne brothers as they set out on a mission to open the world's eyes to God's faithful love of the Jewish people.

Theodore and Alphonse founded the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion, named after The Blessed Mother, in 1843. By the turn of the last century, several Sion schools and orphanages had been established as communities that embrace and welcome all faiths.

Sion Schools Around The World

Our Lady of Sion School UK (Notre Dame de Sion) belongs to a consortium of 22 Sion schools worldwide, as envisioned by the Ratisbonne brothers and sustained by the Charism of the Sisters of Sion.

Each school leads its respective community with the mission and vision passed down from the Congregation of Sion.

All Sion schools maintain their deep commitment to the inclusion of all faiths and cultures, and to encouraging every student to realise unique gifts in a nurturing atmosphere of love and respect.

Faithful to the values supported by the Ratisbonne brothers, Sion schools regard themselves as "spaces of dialogue".

"Theodore insisted on religious freedom in relation to the children who came into his care."

Life at Sion

Balance

The school day starts at 8.40am with tutor time. Growing and learning is exhausting, and we recognise that there is more to a young life than just school. We wholly believe in our students developing a healthy school and social life balance.

After the last class of the day ends, it's important that students have the opportunity to enjoy the clubs, events, and activities that take place both within the school's co-curricular activities programme and externally. This is why, for us, school finishes at 3.40pm.

Togetherness

The very nature of our school means that students are part of a thriving community and an active social setting. They soak in knowledge, experiences, and ideas from one another, and develop long-lasting friendships and connections.

Freedom

In Years 10 & 11 students are given new opportunities and freedom to make their own responsible choices and begin to learn to manage their own time.

There is plenty of delicious food on offer at Sion, with lots of menu options to choose from via PBSK (Plant Based School Kitchens) our on-site caterers.

However, we allow students in older year groups to walk into the town during lunch times to explore other options, while back on the school campus they gain use of exclusive common rooms.

Exploration

During their time at Sion, students will be offered numerous opportunities to travel far and wide, from local trips and experiences for our youngest pupils, to expeditions around the world for our older students.

These day and overnight trips underline the school's belief that relevant and enriching trips complement and benefit classroom learning.

Some Sion excursions are directly linked to the course of study - whilst others enable our pupils to put classroom language learning into practice in France or Spain.

Some of our trips are linked to examination preparation, for example a day trip to Salters Festival of Chemistry, whilst others are designed to inspire creativity and facilitate bonding between students.



"Pupils are aware of their social responsibilities.
They have a strong sense of how they can contribute positively to the school community and beyond."

Independent Schools Inspectorate November 2023







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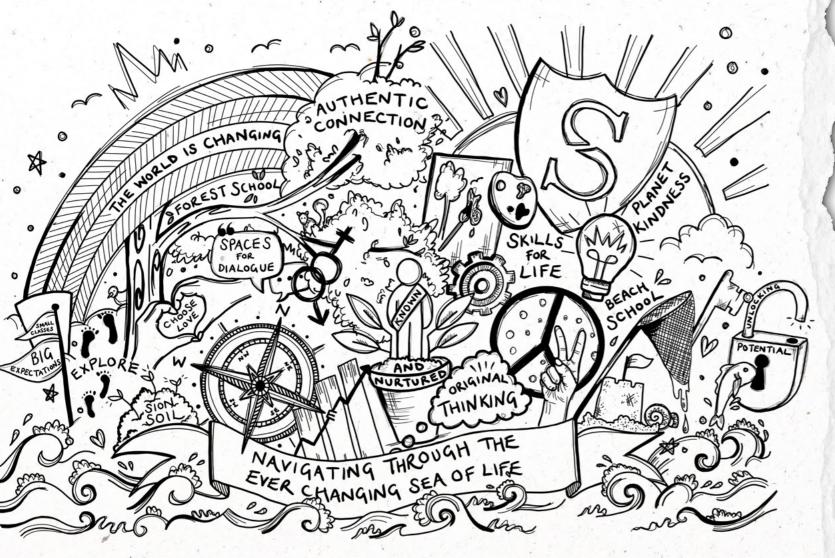
Multi Sport

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"News, advertisements, dramas, influencers... we are bombarded with strap lines and headlines, real life, and fake life - truth, lies and somewhere in between. It is becoming more difficult to filter this extreme level of information and endeavour to find the kernel of truth within the heap of bulletins."

Steven Jeffery Headteacher of Our Lady of Sion

The World is changing & so must we...

When educating young people here at Sion, we facilitate the development of those skills which enable young minds to analyse information critically and solve problems creatively.

Teaching children to think independently, with energetic encouragement from all of us to question assumptions and interrogate information has never been more important.

We must prepare this generation to analytically navigate through the everchanging sea of material, which is being downloaded onto phones, laptops and into brains.

Critical thinking helps us carefully identify, analyse, and judge claims made in arguments. It gives us the skills to think for ourselves and present our thoughts clearly to others.

Learning how to really think should be woven into the educational experience of every child, from Early Years through to A Level.

We unreservedly believe that the human mind will forever remain essential to the ongoing development of humanity and global advancement.

The curriculum must prepare our students for a globalised and interconnected world, including an appreciation of diverse cultures, perspectives, and global issues including environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

At Sion, we encourage our young people to explore and discuss the real issues relating to sustainability, positive world-stewardship, and planet-kindness.

Through our "Skills for Life" programme, "Sion Soil" opportunities and our "Beach/ Forest School" experiences, our children are connecting with the natural world whilst also avidly engaging with ongoing dialogue between our planet and humankind.

By integrating these elements into education, young people develop the skills and mindset required to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to their society.

We require continuous collaboration between educators, policymakers, and industry leaders as we adapt educational systems to an ever-changing world. Sion Education recognises these vital partnerships.



impresSION

Our impresSION Nursery experience is all about the excitement of discovery. Those first impressions of the world around us really matter.

Our youngest children are new explorers. They are on a mission of adventure. This is their starting point and there's a huge world to discover.

Our Nursery teachers are their guides, and this partnership really matters. Through their knowledge of each child, they will provide opportunities to capture the imaginations and inspire an energetic and reflective love for learning.

Capturing imaginations now is vital.

Ensuring that the experience of learning equates to a wonderful sense of fun, fulfilment and joy will mean that a love for education is established even now.

Our team of Nursery practitioners ensure that every child is offered an extraordinary first impression into the vibrant world of education.



We recognise that there is unfathomable potential spinning within each child. Unlocking that through a loving, caring and encouraging Home/Nursery relationship is at the heart of all that impresSION provides.

We know that effective teaching and learning are experienced through playing, exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically. Our learning experience fully engages with those vital areas of learning:



Communication & Language



Personal, Social, Emotional & **Physical Development**

Aa Bb Literacy

/+2=3 Mathematics



Understanding the World



Expressive Arts and Design

Small 'class' sizes. **BIG** expectations.

We may be a small nursery, but our adventures are epic! We want our children to be amazed, mesmerised and full of wonder when we explore new learning. Sion Education strives to maintain that energy throughout the child's educational journey.

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Session Times

The nursery is open five days a week and is a term-time only childcare setting, following the same terms as our main schools.

Our nursery sessions are split as follows:

Morning Session: 8:00am - 12:30pm Afternoon Session: 12:30pm - 17:00pm

All Day: 8:00am - 17:00pm

Free Entitlement scheme (also known as Free Childcare), Tax-Free Childcare, and Childcare Vouchers accepted

70

impresSION

Our Facilities

The moment you step foot into our bright, airy, and stimulating Nursery School building - you will experience the warmth, security, and family environment that our children and parents love.

Our purpose built nursery has a sizeable open-plan classroom with free-flow access to our covered outdoor learning area.

A Typical Nursery Day

Each day is carefully planned to inspire your child to become an enthusiastic explorer of our planet.

While we follow themes throughout the year, children's interests remain at the forefront of our planning.

We provide a well balanced timetable of adult-led and child-led activities and are adaptive to the different developmental stages of each individual child moving with them as they grow - encouraging new skills and challenging them to go further.

In fact, here begins the start of our Challenge+ programme. There is no glass ceiling or limitations because of age.
Advanced maths at three years old?

...We'd never say never!

"Initial encounters should engage, inspire, ignite & encourage a vibrant curiosity..."

Outside time

We consider outdoor play to be an essential part of children's learning and development. We regularly offer opportunities for learning outdoors - giving children the freedom to explore and be physically active.



Our Nutrition

Our food is prepared freshly daily by our award-winning catering team 'Plant-based School Kitchens'. We offer a wide selection of plant-based meals to choose from throughout each term.

Why plant-based?

Eating a plant-based diet offers benefits for both physical and mental health as well as being a better choice for our planet. By eliminating all major allergens we can also easily cater for all intolerances and dietary requirements.

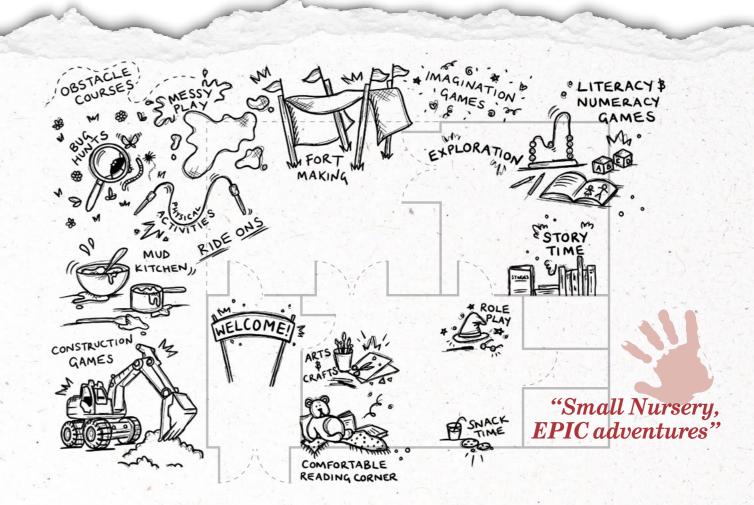
Peace of Mind

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe, and secure. They thrive when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.

A positive Home/Nursery relationship helps us get to know the whole child, not just the one we see at school. To help share your child's development and to make communicating with home informative we use an App called Tapestry.

This helps us to share golden moments across the day, like painting or exploring their environment and learning through play - and includes written observations, photos and videos.





SION Junior School

Life in our Junior School is vibrant, colourful, and energetic.

Learning together in our spacious and light Victorian house creates a lovely family atmosphere, which sets the scene each day for oodles of ambitious and effervescent learning.

Sion Juniors have high aspirations. They are encouraged and encourage each other to be curious, creative, and critical thinkers.

Nurtured in small classes by devoted teachers and support staff, our young people feel safe and secure to throw themselves into new learning, never afraid of failing, but recognising that this is just another step towards personal achievement and ultimate success.

Children are supported and challenged at every stage of their learning journey. A genuine love for learning is fostered through higher-order questions, enticing challenges and wholehearted encouragement to explore







and discover more and more about who we are, as well as learning about the world around us. Our curriculum is full and varied.

We benefit from using facilities in the Senior School such as the state-of-the-art Science Laboratories. However, 'classrooms' do not require walls or desks, and our Forest and Beach School curriculums emphasise this.

These excursions provide natural backdrops for awakened curiosity, questions, exploration, and discovery. Learning in natural environments is good for the expansion of knowledge and for the health of our minds.

We recognise this.

For our youngest children, learning through play remains a focus. Our classrooms and covered outdoor learning areas encourage exploration, camaraderie and inspire developing imaginations. The wooden climbing frames, sand pits, and mud kitchen provide the setting for vibrant and inventive play.

Day trips to places of interest, which bring learning to life, are weaved into our curriculum design. As the children get older, we offer residential holidays where personal development, self-reflection, leadership, and collaboration skills are natural outcomes of the whole experience.

We believe that children should be full of news when they return home from school. They should be bursting with stories from the day, and we facilitate those experiences which lead to those vivacious narratives. The hubbub of active learning makes us smile too.

Assemblies, special events, sports days, and family learning workshops bring the whole Junior School together. This is when the sense of family is experienced so strongly. Older children look after the younger children and young children are inspired and encouraged by the older ones. Names are known. In fact, we all know each other well.

This is central to our ethos and values - authentic connection through really getting to know one another.



SION Junior School

Academic progress is assessed continuously and regularly. A child's ongoing development will be closely monitored by the Class Teacher, Key Stage Coordinator, and the Deputy Headteacher.

Weekly meetings around individual attainment and personal development/pastoral needs enable focused tailoring of support and intervention which is carefully designed to support and encourage with kindness and care.

Our Learning Support team will be involved where required, along with the pastoral team where necessary. Successful academic and pastoral structures provide proactive systems of nurture and assistance.

"Critical and divergent thinking are both crucial to the development of these extraordinary minds"

Our culture of kindness and mutual respect ensures that children readily engage with our supportive approaches, recognising and understanding that we are always there to help. Our "Challenge for All" and "Challenge+" programmes ensure that every child enjoys the experience of challenge, the depth and breadth of new discovery and that glorious feeling of personal achievement which emerges out of a growth mindset.









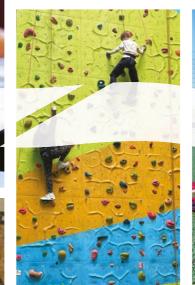
































SION Senior School

Our Senior School educational programme serves as an essential period for academic, personal, and social development.

Our team of highly qualified educators feel privileged to equip our young people with key knowledge and skills, preparing them for higher education, vocational training, or the world of work. In the here and now, we want our youngsters to simply love learning.

"The ongoing development of knowledge through exploration and discovery, will continue to energise every child."

That daily encounter with new information, along with the ongoing development of knowledge through exploration and discovery, will continue to energise every child.

There should always be an excitement about coming to school. That excitement will endure when there is an authentic connection with each child and a genuine knowledge of how the child sees the world and how they individually engage with the learning experience.

Our curriculum design fosters critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities through a diverse programme that includes the core subjects of mathematics, science, and English, as well as the performing arts, physical education, humanities, computer science and food and nutrition.

Our school promotes social cohesion by bringing together students from diverse backgrounds, encouraging mutual respect, and understanding.

It also supports the holistic development of young individuals by offering various extracurricular activities, which enhance leadership skills, teamwork, and selfdiscipline.

At Sion, our young people are encouraged and inspired. Sion Education is about connecting with the child. This matters and we believe it is essential to unlocking every young person's true potential.





SION Senior School

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

By Key Stage 3 students are laying firm foundations for their GCSE subjects. They study the core options of English, Maths and the three Sciences. All students are taught two languages in Year 7, French and Spanish.

They also study Physical Education, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Design Technology, Information Technology, Food and Nutrition, Art, Drama, Music and Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEE).

In Year 9, students will make their GCSE options to carry forward with guidance from teaching staff.

Sion Education aims to provide each student with an academic programme that isn't just about meeting curricular benchmarks.

Most students will study nine subjects for GCSE which includes core subjects of:

- ♦ English Language
- ♦ English Literature
- **♦** Mathematics
- **♦** Science

Students will then choose further options from a wide range of additional science, humanities, languages, creative, practical and expressive subjects.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

As students enter Key Stage 4, the focus of their study turns more to preparation for the GCSE programme.

Core subjects continue as normal but students begin to follow personalised timetables dependent on the subjects they have chosen to pursue, giving these subjects more teaching time and thus preparing pupils more effectively for their GCSE qualifications.

Not only does this provide a curriculum that they can enjoy and will feel motivated by, but it also results in smaller teaching groups allowing for increased individual participation and a tailored approach to teaching.

Studying for GCSEs ultimately helps to prepare pupils for the greater challenges of studying A-Levels in the Sixth Form.



Academic Success Our Results

As a result of the dedication of pupils and staff, exam results at Our Lady of Sion are always strong.

Scan the QR code for our latest results:



VISION Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form centre is more than just a place to learn; it is a place to excel, to innovate, and to prepare for a bright future.

At VISION, you will discover the path to success and be part of a community that values excellence in every aspect of education.

The strong relationships between teachers and students are crucial to ensuring impressive progress and outstanding academic results.

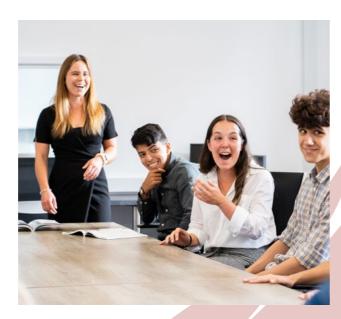
The shift from Key Stage 4 into Key Stage 5 is significant. Although these years are all about growth and moving into a more independent study experience, our students appreciate the continued nurturing and mentoring which is at the very heart of all aspects of Sion Education.

Our highly-qualified subject specialists recognise the importance of our students becoming independent learners, whilst at the same time, understanding that for many students, there is still a desire for the safetynet of being within a school environment.

Students will experience 'guided independence' and leave VISION with the confidence, maturity and skill set which will open doors into the next exciting and rewarding stage of life.

Our Sixth Form programme encourages academic rigour with opportunities for personal development, helping students transition smoothly to the next stage of their lives.

By focusing on both academic excellence and personal growth, VISION produces well-rounded, capable young people who are ready and equipped to face the challenges of the future.



VISION



VISION Sixth Form

A-LEVELS (Advanced Level Qualifications)

A Levels are subject based qualifications that can lead to university, further training, a job or an apprenticeship.

The majority of students in our Sixth Form will complete three A Levels and an Extended Project Qualification.

Students wishing to study four A levels will be supported and encouraged, but will require the approval of the Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form based on previous academic success. Subjects we have offered here, have included:

- ♦ Art
- ♦ Biology
- ♦ Business Studies
- ♦ Chemistry
- ♦ Design & Technology (3-D Product Design)
- ♦ Economics
- ♦ English Literature
- ♦ Environmental Science
- ♦ Geography
- ♦ History
- ♦ Law
- ♦ Mathematics | Further Maths
- ♦ Modern Languages (French & Spanish)
- **♦** Philosophy
- ♦ Physical Education
- **♦** Physics
- ♦ Psychology

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

EPQ stands for 'Extended Project Qualification' and it is an accredited Level 3 qualification that we offer at Sion School.

The EPQ is a standalone qualification designed to extend and develop students' skills in independent research and project management.

The EPQ can be taken alongside A levels and is assessed at the same level as an A level, graded $A^* - E$. It is equivalent to half a full A level and is recognised by universities and employers with some leading universities making alternative offers to students undertaking an EPQ.

It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career.

Having the EPQ enhances a CV and provides excellent material for the UCAS application personal statement and reference.

It is an excellent way for students to demonstrate their interest and ability in a particular field of study.



Leavers Destination's

While Sixth Form marks the end of school life, it also brings about exciting time of change and new beginnings. As you will see from the map, most VISION students go on to study at university, often getting their first and prestigious choices. Some choose to join apprenticeship programmes, and others go directly into the world of work.

Our aim is to ensure that our pupils receive the support and guidance they need, to choose the path that is right for them.

Wellbeing

Pastoral care and safeguarding are central to life at Sion.

We know our children well and notice when something appears to be concerning a child.

Our staff members share those concerns with our pastoral team, who in turn respond with appropriate actions, advice, and follow-up.

Our Senior Leadership Team includes one member whose sole role is to manage and coordinate bespoke pastoral care across a variety of needs.

Our Form Tutors and Class Teachers provide daily support and care, whilst our Mental Health First Aiders offer more intensive support through their daily clinics.

In the Junior School, we provide a "Known and Nurtured" teaching assistant.

They manage the Known and Nurtured room which offers a variety of sessions throughout the day, supporting children who require mental health support or general care.

Our care is dependable and that is why our young people share with us and reach out for help.

Working with the family is an important part of supporting a child.

The home/school partnership is nearly always an essential part of successful pastoral care.

Our extra-curricular programme is central to our wellbeing provision, offering a wealth of activities which promote physical and mental health.

We regularly review our Personal Development programme so that our young people engage with lessons which help them to remain healthy and equipped for life in the real world.

Our Student Council and What Matters programme provide insight into the minds and experiences of our young people.

These platforms enable us to hear directly from the children, placing their voices at the forefront of school development and review.

We engage with many external partnerships as part of our safeguarding duty.

We value how they join with us in educating our young people on important topics such as online safety, drugs and alcohol and exploitation.

At Sion Education, pastoral care is at the heart of our ethos and values, shaping everything we do to support the holistic development of each student.

"Pupils feel safe.
They understand
that they have a
variety of people to
whom they can turn
to for support"

Independent Schools Inspectorate November 2023

We believe that education goes beyond academic achievement - it's about nurturing the emotional, social, and spiritual wellbeing of every child.

By fostering strong relationships, providing personalised guidance, and creating a compassionate environment, we empower students to flourish in all aspects of life.

Fees - Funding Options

Our Bursaries scheme provides opportunities for children to achieve their full potential, by offering eligible parents/guardians means - tested financial support with the payment of school fees and is reviewed annually.

Each application is considered on its own merits and the level of support may vary according to parental need. Please see our website for further information or contact our Bursar.



Scholarships:

The accolade of 'Scholar' is a noteworthy title. Scholarships are highly sought after and only a small number of scholarship applications are successful.

At Sion, scholarships (in general) do not hold a monetary value. However, there are some exceptions to this rule. In these cases, the monetary value is between 5%-10% of the school fee for that academic year.

Scholarships are reviewed each year and will be re-awarded if the young person has met the criteria of the scholarship expectations and upheld the values and ethos of the school.









How to Apply

The application process is a simple one.

Visit

The best way to appreciate our school, is to come and visit. We are an inclusive school, and always welcome prospective parents whether during normal school hours — when you can get a feel for how the school operates on a daily basis — or during one of our Open Days.

Taster Days

Prospective pupils are invited to spend two days with us, to introduce them to the daily routine and ensure a secure and confident start in their new school.

Assessment (For children in Year 3 upwards)
Each applicant will sit an entrance examination to determine their current academic level, and identify their potential. The format of this examination will depend on the age/stage of the applicant. Taster days can also be incorporated.

Offer of Place

The offer of a place is at the discretion of the Headteacher following the child's introductory visit and an interview with their parents. For children in Years 7 and up, entry may also depend upon satisfactory references from previous schools.

Start your application process now



Scan the QR code above to fill in our application form.

Or you can email our admissions coordinator on admissions@sionschool.org.uk who can guide you through the application process.



