

Aquinas College Prospectus 2025

(accessible version)



Our Principal

Danny Pearson

Welcome! In our prospectus, we give you a flavour of the type of college Aquinas is and all the wonderful opportunities we have for you.

Of course, all we can do here is offer a snapshot of life at Aquinas and we have tried to capture something of this in the following pages.

Becoming an Aquinas student is much more than simply choosing your next educational establishment. It is about becoming a member of our wider Catholic community and, as with most things in life, the more you put in the more you get out. Use this prospectus, together with our website, to find out more about Aquinas.

As a college, we are committed to caring for each and every individual student. You will find Aquinas both a highly supportive and challenging environment.

We have the highest expectations of all who study and work here. We set rigorous standards of work and aim for outstanding achievement. We believe that each student deserves the very best possible support to reach their full potential. Our primary aim is to care for students; that excellent exam results follow is no surprise.

You are probably facing some challenging decisions about what and where to study. If you are prepared to work hard, aim high and aspire to 'Be More' then Aquinas is the place for you.

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Aquinas College strives to be a Catholic college for the whole community. Christ is at the very heart of our philosophy. This is expressed in our commitment to the Gospel values of freedom, justice and love.

We affirm and value each member of our community, recognising the dignity and unique nature of each individual. In this way the presence of Christ is celebrated. We share in each other's strengths, support each other in our weaknesses and strive for the highest standards of achievement in all we do. We also encourage a questioning stance towards the values of our increasingly secular society.

In short, we aim to provide reasons for living and hoping.

*"I have come so that they may have life and
have it to the full."*

John 10:10

Our History

Our college started life officially in 1980 after the Diocese of Shrewsbury agreed to redevelop the old St Michael's Catholic Secondary school to satisfy the expected need for more sixth form education. After new building work was completed in 1982, it opened with a grand total of 154 students. Over the next few years, numbers increased to 350 in 1986 and then continued to grow, so that by 1990 the student population was around 1000.

Aquinas College is named after St Thomas Aquinas, the Dominican friar and Catholic priest who was an early philosopher and theologian from the Lazio area of Italy.

The College has always been renowned locally for a focus on individual pastoral care as well as achieving consistently high results for our students.

*"A strong ethos of mutual respect is evident across the
college in lessons and communal areas".*

OFSTED

Our Mission & Core Values

At Aquinas, we believe an outstanding education goes beyond academic achievements. In line with our Catholic mission, we focus on helping our students to thrive in every aspect of their lives. Through our core curriculum and enrichment programme, we help students to develop virtues and skills that will enable them to be successful individuals and lead good lives. We prioritise meeting students where they are at and helping them to realise their full potential.

Personal development is central to our mission and students will be supported throughout their journey with us. Our focus is always on solutions and supporting students to develop the skills, knowledge and approaches needed to achieve their aspirations. We are a college that values every member of our community and we work hard to ensure that individuals feel a strong sense of belonging.

Understanding and sharing our values means you will thrive at Aquinas.

How to Thrive at Aquinas

- Remember that 'excellence is a habit'.
- Punctual attendance with the correct equipment at lessons, meetings or events must be matched by students prioritising their learning and personal development.
- take pride in all that they do and all work that is completed.
- Be responsive to feedback from tutors and actively seek opportunities to improve.
- Take part in enrichment activities to enhance your college experience and help you to develop virtues and confidence.
- Take responsibility for your own education and personal development, be resilient and don't give up when facing challenges.
- Ask for help when you are not thriving.

Why Choose Aquinas?

During your time at Aquinas, as well as developing knowledge and skills in each of the subjects you study, you will explore the most effective ways to learn. Opportunities to develop effective academic study skills and behaviours for learning, both in curriculum lessons and through the Core Programme, will help you to build on the experience you have gained from school and support your next steps into Higher Education or employment.

You are supported to take responsibility for your own progress as a reflective learner and, over the course of your two-year programme, to become independent learners through effective time-management and self-regulation. Learning, Teaching and Assessment here at Aquinas aims to help you to engage fully and respond effectively to feedback for continuous improvement.

Our aim is to create a learning culture across the college which encourages you to strive for excellence; developing academically, socially and ethically through an understanding of our mission and ethos. We also have an emphasis on maths and english skills, digital literacy and employability across your programme of study.

All Aquinas students are encouraged to mature academically, to fine-tune their interpersonal skills and to grow in confidence and motivation. In short, we provide guidance to our students about how to 'Be More'. Our expectations are high; we want you to be the best you can be.

Eight Reasons to Choose Us

Results

Our results are consistently strong with students making good progress from their starting points. High grades, value-added and achievement rates are high

Careers

Aquinas College has been awarded the Matrix Standard which is a unique quality standard. Our team are dedicated to supporting students in taking their next steps after Aquinas.

Course Variety

We offer courses in over 50 subject areas which are taught by well qualified specialists within high quality, purpose-built classrooms.

Employer Links

The college has an extensive range of partnerships to enhance the employer engagement activities across the College.

Facilities

We have three floors of outstanding facilities available to you before, during and after the College day.

Pastoral Care

At Aquinas, we pride ourselves on the excellent care, support and guidance that we offer all of our students.

Enrichment

We run a full programme of activities which offer students diverse, relevant and exciting opportunities which support students' personal development, well-being and career aspirations throughout their time at college.

Support

We work with students in a wide range of ways to enable them to achieve their potential and 'Be More'.

Our Building

The College had totally outgrown the original buildings and this led to a successful £40m bid for the current state-of-the-art college which was completed in 2010.

We are currently in the construction phase of our new 12 classroom teaching block that is due for completion in October 2024.

At Aquinas College, every student has access to all of our excellent facilities. We are very proud of our outstanding building.

The Learning Centre

Three floors of specialist resources and books.

IT Facilities

IT Suites to support your studies through coursework, essays, projects or research.

Chaplaincy

A space for all religions to pray, relax and reflect.

Sport Facilities

A Sports Hub with gym and astro turf pitches for all sporting needs.

Canteen & Coffee Shop

Grab a bite to eat and catch up on the latest news.

Specialist Suites

Workshops, rehearsal rooms and studio spaces available for students.

Study Programmes

At Aquinas College, we want to ensure that you fulfil your aspirations and gain the qualifications and skills you need to support your next steps, whether that be further education at university, an apprenticeship or employment. Through Interview, taster days and enrolment, we support each student, individually, to secure the most appropriate course combination and programme of study. We will help you to consider where your strengths and interests lie, which subjects complement each other and whether certain subjects are needed for your intended next steps. Students can choose programmes of study that best support their preferred means of assessment, by prioritising examination subjects or subjects that are more coursework and assignment based

Two-year Courses

Our A-Levels and BTECs are Level 3, two year courses. You will receive regular updates on your academic progress.

We offer a small range of one year, Level 2 qualifications including GCSE English and maths. We provide a Level 2 pathway for students who are seeking to improve their academic profile before either progressing to our Level 3 curriculum or pursuing other options.

Compulsory Core Studies

On a weekly basis, students engage with Core Studies; a programme that complements your chosen subjects and provides a broader education linked to personal development, study skills and careers. Our core studies programme exists to help students thrive, not just during their time at college but as they move onto higher education and employment. The programme includes weekly Core Religious Education lessons to help students better understand the Catholic teaching that underpins our mission, their own faith position, and their place in the world.

Students will be expected to engage with all aspects of the core curriculum which will involve a combination of teacher led sessions, assemblies and remote tasks. Students will also attend regular meetings with a personal development tutor who will provide timely advice and guidance to support them in thriving at Aquinas.

Expectations around attendance and engagement are the same in Core Studies as they are in any of our elective subjects.

Enrichment

At Aquinas, we are proud to offer a full programme of activities that offer you exciting and diverse experiences. These range from short six-week courses to full-year activities.

The Pathways Curriculum

The Pathways Department at Aquinas College offers a two-year programme providing specialist educational opportunities for students working towards Entry Level and Level 1 qualifications. We focus on developing independence in order to prepare our students for life after college.

Making the Right Choice

Which Combination of courses is right for me?

Entry Requirements

Do you have the entry requirements for the subject?

Skills combination

Is this subject suited to your skills and combination of subjects?

Career

Are there certain subjects in particular combinations you will need to pursue a particular career?

Interest

Do you have an interest in or passion for the subjects you are choosing to study?

Research and Ask the Right Questions

Careful research and consideration of your likes, dislikes and abilities, along with your long-term career aims will enable you to make informed decisions about:

- Which individual subjects to study
- The best combination of subjects to study

You will need to look beyond the surface content of a course to fully understand if it is the right one for you. Asking questions about how a course is assessed and what balance of exam and coursework components you will be doing across the two years will help you to make good choices about your combination of subjects.

Our staff have extensive experience in advising students to choose the best courses and study programmes. Come and talk to us at our Open Events so that we can support you in exploring your options in selecting the best programme of study for you.

Life at Aquinas

How will you spend your time with us?

While your academic success is paramount, we also want you to have a great experience on a day-to-day basis.

We want to ensure that we answer all of your questions before you enrol to make the transition to Aquinas as easy as possible. Here are some frequently asked questions to help you:

How will I track my progress?

The main platform that you will use to track your progress is 'MyAquinas'. You can use this to do routine things such as checking your timetable and attendance statistics. You'll be able to set yourself regular targets and your Personal Development Tutor will support you with this on a regular basis. You will also have an Aquinas email address where key information will be communicated daily. These are the main ways in which staff will contact you in addition to Google Classroom.

How many hours of independent study do I need to do?

Your subject tutors will provide you with regular work to complete outside the classroom and we ask that you undertake a minimum of 5 hours of independent study, per subject, per week. Remember, being an Aquinas student is a full-time study commitment and consistent work outside of lessons is a key aspect of success at A Level and Level 3.

Where can I study?

The Thrive Centre is available during your study periods and has all the facilities you need to make effective use of your independent study time. Classrooms will be available, and time will be allocated in your Tutor Group for independent study.

What are 'Study Periods'?

Study periods exist for you to develop and consolidate your learning. In this time you should:

- respond to teacher feedback to improve your knowledge, skills and understanding
- complete any homework you have been given
- write or type-up the rough notes you have taken down in lessons, research any points you have not understood from lessons and study relevant pages from your textbooks

- research your subjects more widely, expanding on what you have learned in class
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Compulsory Core Studies

Core RE Programme

Our Core Religious Education programme promotes the College's Catholic mission, to 'encourage a questioning stance towards the values of our increasingly secular society.' It explores and reflects upon questions which have ultimate meaning and significance. It will also help you to develop skills of critical enquiry and analysis.

The programme focuses on beliefs and values central to the Catholic faith. The course also explores beliefs in other world religions, aspects of philosophy and contemporary issues related to morality and social justice. It is seen as an open-ended search for truth which respects the freedom and dignity of each student. Core RE is compulsory for every Aquinas student and is one of the key elements of the College's curriculum. Not only should the course complement your elective studies, it should aid your development into responsible and mindful adults.

Personal Development Tutor

All Aquinas students will be assigned a Personal Development Tutor who will support their progress throughout their studies, again focusing on helping them to thrive. Personal Development Tutors are an integral part of our pastoral guidance and support system. They will act as a coach and a mentor, monitoring academic progress, engagement with core studies and providing support with applications for university, apprenticeships, and employment. They will be a student's first point of contact for wellbeing issues and will signpost students to the most appropriate avenues of additional support within the college, wherever it is needed.

We believe investing in conversations with students is vital to meeting their individual needs and students may find that they have more frequent meetings with their personal development tutor at various points where they are not thriving, or issues arise.

The Core Studies programme consists of 10:10, Assembly and Core RE. Attendance at and full engagement with Core Studies is mandatory. The information students will receive and the skills developed in Core Studies are as important as those delivered in selected subjects. Core Studies activities will not only help students to succeed at college but will prepare them for later life and the world of work.

Well-being & Support

We take the well-being of our students very seriously and are committed to creating an inclusive environment that offers equal opportunities for all.

There are many people and services at Aquinas who will support you. Students are encouraged to approach a member of staff if difficulties or problems arise.

Learning Support

Some students have contact with the Learning Support team before they enrol but students may start working with the team at any stage of their time at Aquinas. Some students have accessed Learning Support at school but many have not.

A team of three specialist learning support teachers and a number of learning support assistants work with students in a wide range of ways to enable them to achieve their potential, including:

- providing important information to subject teachers
- setting up exam access arrangements (such as extra time)
- lending equipment (such as laptops or digital voice recorders)
- carrying out dyslexia assessments
- providing one-to-one support (short-term or long-term)
- providing support in lessons
- reviewing Education Health and Care Plans

Decisions about support are made in discussion with individual students.

The Learning Support Team is based on the first floor of the Thrive Centre and run a drop-in every lunch time. They can be contacted at learningsupport@aquinas.ac.uk

Attendance, Effort and Engagement

At Aquinas, we closely monitor the attendance, effort and engagement of all students as we believe that these are the key elements of success and the foundations from which all students can meet their full potential. Subject Tutors complete weekly engagement tracking reports that departments then use to decide which students would benefit from additional departmental or another form of academic or pastoral support. Students are also able to refer themselves for support through their MyAquinas page. Students and parents can monitor weekly engagement on our MyAquinas portal.

Student Information

Our friendly Student Information team is on hand to help on a daily basis. You will be able to access support and assistance in a wide range of areas from academic procedures and enrolment, ID card replacement, timetables, first aid and everything in between.

If they can't answer your question, they will know who to ask, so they can soon put you in touch with the relevant person within college. They provide a 'one stop' shop for all enquiries -so if you have a problem or a question, please just ask.

Counsellor

If you need to talk about anything that may be affecting your life or studies you can access our college counsellor. We recognise the importance of supporting your mental health and well-being as we can all experience periods of stress or emotional difficulties.

Chaplaincy

We are here to serve those of all faiths and none. Irrespective of your own faith background or tradition, Chaplaincy is at the heart of the College and exists for all staff, students and their families.

As a Catholic College, we believe we aspire to help everyone feel loved, and we believe that love comes from God. We have a beautiful chapel where students and staff can experience some quiet, reflective time.

Chaplaincy strives to support people with anything going on in their lives; the good stuff and the more difficult times, with situations at home, within college or with friends. Our Lay Chaplain is here to provide a listening ear and emotional and spiritual support.

Chaplaincy supports various enrichment groups within Aquinas. These include Christian Union, Global Justice and Peace, Community Ambassadors, SVP and The India Project. We are a Catholic College for the whole community, and particularly through enrichment we are supporting our students in reaching out to local and global communities, helping all to "live life to the full" (John 10:10) which is at the heart of our college mission.

Our beautiful chapel is at the front of the college next to the main entrance. We are served by a team of local parish priests who celebrate Mass regularly and all members of our college community are invited. Visits to the chapel will take place as part of Core RE lessons and all students will receive an introduction to it from our chaplain.

Chaplaincy also offers lots of fun and exciting opportunities; check out the Chaplaincy page of the College website under 'Student Life' for more details on what we've been up to in the last academic year!

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

We are committed to creating an inclusive atmosphere where the unique nature of every student can be celebrated and every student can succeed. The team will ensure that you are supported during your time at Aquinas and We want all students to experience the feeling of community within Aquinas and enjoy a sense of belonging. In line with our mission we strive to ensure all members of the college experience the Gospel values of freedom, justice and love.

Bursary

The College administers a bursary scheme on behalf of the Government to support students from lower income families. This scheme provides a weekly payment into the student's bank account to contribute towards the cost of attending college such as travel or resources that the students need for their courses.

In addition to this, bursary students can receive support for any essential college trips and visits. The bursary is assessed weekly and paid only if the student has 100% attendance for the previous week. Some students who are eligible for bursary may also be eligible for free college meals.

Some students, on higher household income, cannot access the weekly payments but may be able to get support for the trips and visits element.

Initially, college needs to obtain a bursary form and evidence of household income in order to start the payments. This can be submitted before the student starts at college (as soon as the place is accepted) so that payments can begin as early as possible in the Autumn term.

More details are available on the College website.

Careers

Helping you to make the right decisions post-Aquinas is a key focus for college and our approach has received external accreditation. Progression options have become more challenging and as a result, impartial, high quality careers guidance is critical in helping you to make the right choices.

The Aquinas Careers Team assists all students to develop their career management skills to support their career aspirations. Our dedicated careers service is based permanently in college, and the staff are professionally qualified to the highest standard providing impartial information, advice and guidance.

The team organises a broad range of career related activities, for example, specific programmes such as our 'Tomorrow's Teachers' and the 'Employer Mentoring Programme' and we host major careers events including our very popular 'After Aquinas' Event and 'Careers Day'. We also work with Horizons Mentors to support students from widening participation backgrounds to apply to Russell Group universities.

The Learning Centre

The Learning Centre offers a fantastic resource to all of our students to meet their learning and information needs. Qualified and experienced staff are on hand to provide support, information and guidance all within an inspirational and purposeful study environment, set out over three floors.

Learning Centre services include:

- Careers advisors and all the latest career and university information
- Student Information Services for all timetables, bursary requests, travel enquiries and attendance matters
- Study support and Additional Learning Support to meet all study needs
- A large IT drop-in suite with full Wi-Fi coverage throughout for laptop and other digital device access
- Comprehensive Library Services with an excellent range of printed and online resources, including annual textbook loans
- A wide range of study environments: silent, group and quiet study areas to suit all needs
- Audio-visual, music and assistive technology loans
- Printing, scanning and photocopying facilities
- A broad range of stationery for sale

The Learning Centre will be your one-stop information shop and a means of accessing support with your learning and academic progress.

Student Council

The Student Council at Aquinas gets bigger and better every year. The Council is made up of students from both year groups. Meetings are held weekly and all students are encouraged to participate.

Our main aim is to represent students and enhance the quality of experience. We try to ensure that students' opinions are considered in the day-to-day administration and future plans of Aquinas. This is achieved through council members representing learner voice in a variety of staff groups such as Equality & Diversity, Mission and Ethos, and Facilities.

The Student President and Vice President are also college governors, working closely with the Principal and Vice Principal. We encourage all students to be able to share in the development of the College and we welcome feedback and ideas about how we can keep improving the learner journey..

The Student Council is integral to charitable initiatives and we take seriously our responsibility to provide peer support.

Opportunities To Be More

As an Aquinas Student, we will support you in your aspirations. We have many programmes that will help you to achieve your goals and give you the skills and experience to 'Be More'. Here is a flavour of the opportunities available to you:

India Project

For over twenty years, we have been raising funds to sponsor the education of underprivileged children in Mumbai. This is through the charity Prem Dan (meaning 'gift of love' in Hindi) which is run by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. Many events such as a fashion show, summer fair, band nights etc, have been organised to raise funds. Meetings are held weekly to plan these activities.

The trip is open to all students and takes place each year.

DofE Gold (Direct)

Do you want to develop new skills and broaden your career prospects, all whilst having fun? Then DofE Direct is for you.

Aquinas has launched a new, direct way for students to achieve their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. You will be able to progress through your DofE activities in your own time with dedicated support from a DofE Leader at Aquinas. This will run for 18 months during your time in both the Lower 6th and Upper 6th years.

Sport

At Aquinas, you can get involved in a number of both recreational sports and competitive sport activities. We have a tradition of successful football, netball and basketball teams who compete at both regional and national level in British College and North West leagues.

If you love sport and physical activity and are keen to play for fun, fitness and make new friends then you can come and sign up for any number of recreational activities. Fun sessions in badminton, trampolining, table tennis, basketball, 5-a-side football and fitness sessions in the gym, can be carried out in your spare time if you wish.

There are other leadership and coaching opportunities if you wish to develop in this area, with the chance to obtain a basketball refereeing qualification, FA Level 1 coaching qualification and a generic level 1 leadership qualification.

All of this would be achieved through the new leadership academy being organised and delivered by our 'College Sport Maker'.

AQ Magazine

AQ Magazine is a student-led publication, supported by our dedicated staff editorial team. It offers contributors a platform to express their ideas and provides an unparalleled glimpse into college life. Open to all students, whether you're interested in journalism, photography, graphics, editing, researching, or teamwork, this magazine will help you develop and refine your skills.

Guest Speakers

We run a comprehensive and inspirational guest speaker programme which in the past has included;

- Mark Carney - Former Governor of The Bank of England.
- Andy Burnham - Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Angela Raynor - Deputy Leader of the Labour Party.
- Danny Brocklehurst - BAFTA and EMMY winning screenwriter.
- Dominic Monaghan - Actor in Lost, Lord of the Rings & Star Wars.
- Tony Lloyd - The former Greater Manchester's Police and Crime Commissioner
- Professor Roger Searle - Durham University (Geophysics)
- Professor Iain Stewart - Director of the Sustainable Earth Institute
- Robert Elstone -Former Chief Executive of Everton Football Club and Non-Executive Chair at Stockport County
- GCHQ - The UK's Intelligence & Cyber Crime Agency

High Achievers Programme

At Aquinas, we support our most able students to achieve their academic ambitions and encourage them to make aspirational choices into Higher Education, Degree Apprenticeship or employment. We have a strong track-record of student progression to Russell Group universities and into other selective fields. Applicants with high prior attainment (HPA) scores at GCSE are offered tailored support, delivered through the Core Studies programme and other bespoke sessions, which will help them progress to selective universities and to gain the skills necessary for a highly successful and rewarding career.

We work closely with students on their applications to competitive university and Degree Apprenticeship courses, providing advice about personal statements, entrance exams and admissions interviews. Students are also offered a range of opportunities to apply for university-hosted academic seminars, summer schools, university Access Programmes and the Cambridge HE+ Scheme.

Students are invited to join our annual visits to Oxford and Cambridge universities where they are able to experience student life and meet with academics in their chosen field.

Super-curricular expertise, going beyond the A Level curriculum by undertaking research and delivering presentations in their chosen subject, is developed across students' two years of study and with individual support from subject teachers and Personal Development Tutors. HPA students typically also complete an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) in their first year at college and some take an additional qualification such as Further Maths.

[High Achievers Programme](#)

Core Maths

What is it?

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification that strengthens your math skills for future studies, employment and daily life.

Who is it for?

If you passed GCSE Maths (grade 4 or higher) but aren't taking A-Level Math or Statistics, and you are considering more than 1 A level with Math content then Core Maths is compulsory for you!

Why take it?

- Develop problem-solving skills for real-life situations
- Boost your other A-Levels (e.g., Biology, Economics, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Geography, Geology, Environmental Science, Computer Science, Business Studies)
- Gain recognition from universities and employers (up to 20 UCAS points)

What is covered?

- Analysing data (statistics, diagrams)
- Personal finance
- Estimation techniques
- Spreadsheets

How is it assessed?

The Core Maths qualification is assessed with two, 2-hour exams at the end of the course.

In short, Core Maths bridges the gap between GCSE Maths and university courses, making you more prepared for the future.

Enrichment at Aquinas

At Aquinas we run a full programme of activities which offer students really exciting and diverse experiences. Some are short 6 week courses and others are full year programmes. [Enrichment Programme](#)

Results

For the latest results visit the [results page](#) on the website.

Admissions Criteria

Aquinas College is the partner Sixth Form to:

- Harrytown Catholic High School
- St. Anne's RC Voluntary Academy
- St. James' Catholic High School
- St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy Buxton

Students attending these schools have priority of admission. Priority will also be given to Cared for Children in the care of a Local Authority or children who were looked after by the Local Authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order.

Applications are also welcome from Catholic students not currently attending one of the partner schools, as well as from non-Catholic students who wish to continue their education in a Christian environment.

The Governors are committed to maintaining the College's open access admissions policy. Applications will therefore be considered in the following order of priority:

Category 1A

- Catholic applicants from the College's Catholic partner schools
- Children in public care (Cared for Children) or previously looked after.

Category 1B

- Catholic applicants from other schools. (Applicants will be asked to upload proof of baptism.)

Category 1C

- Non-Catholic applicants from Catholic schools.

Category 1D

- Brothers and sisters of present students of the College or former students attending within the last six years, and children of current staff and Governors of the College.
- The relationship of stepbrother or stepsister is not an automatic qualification for category 1D and such applications will be considered on an individual basis.

Category 2

- Other applicants.

Applicants will need to be studying at GCSE or equivalent level, or already have GCSEs or equivalent qualifications, at the time of application.

All students with an EHCP will be offered an interview to discuss their ability, aptitude, and special educational needs, we will then liaise with the Local Authority. Based on this information, we can determine if our program and available resources align well with what the student needs to succeed.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a diagnosed learning difficulty who receive an offer may be required to attend a pre-enrolment meeting to discuss individual needs and ensure a smooth transition to the college environment.

Overseas applicants

As a state funded Sixth Form College, Aquinas College is not a licensed student sponsor. Consequently, in order to qualify for admission to our college, students must already have a legal right of residence in the UK before the start of their study programme and we will require evidence of this.

If these students have not been living in the UK for three years prior to the start of the course they may have to pay tuition fees.

When assessing any application we consider several key factors:

- Commitment to study at Aquinas
- Appreciation of and commitment to the College's distinctive ethos
- Wider interests and the contribution the applicant might make to the college community
- Whether the applicant currently attends a school located in Stockport

Whether the applicant currently attends a school located in Stockport

- An ability to benefit from an available programme of study
- A commitment to work
- A commitment to the College ethos and community

- Acceptance of the Student/College Agreement
- School Reference

Courses followed by students depend on what has already been achieved at GCSE and on the student's future plans. Each case is considered individually. The study of some advanced courses may require a particular level of achievement at GCSE.

If you have any questions about admissions, please do not hesitate to contact admissions@aquinas.ac.uk. We are always happy to help.

Application Process

1. Application

Come to one of our Open Events; see which courses we have on offer; visit departments and talk to us! We welcome applications from students at local secondary schools or further afield, whether Catholic or non-Catholic. We are always prepared to give special consideration to students with particular needs. This includes Cared for Children who will also be given priority.

If you think Aquinas is the place for you, apply online via our [website](#)

It is important that the application form is fully completed and includes as much detail as possible as it is used in our admissions process.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to disclose any disability, learning or health need. Any such disclosure will be treated in strict confidence.

Applications must be received by our deadline of midnight on the 30 November 2024 to be considered. Applications in all categories submitted after this date will be treated as late and are not guaranteed further consideration.

2 Interviews and Offers

Category 1 applicants will have a telephone interview following application and offers will be confirmed just before Christmas.

Category 2 applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application just before Christmas. Category 2 applicants selected for interview will have a telephone interview in January.

A recent progress report or predicted grades will be required for the interview.

The purpose of the interview is to learn a little about the applicant and we will ask a number of questions. We will give advice and guidance on their course choices ensuring they are making an informed choice about their programme of study and are aware of the required course entry criteria.

There will be opportunity for applicants to ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have. They will also be encouraged to share any disability, learning or health need if they have not already done so.

Final offers will be made just before February half term.

Offers to applications with an EHCP may be slightly delayed allowing for thorough communication between the College, student and the local authority throughout the process. We may not be able to make an offer until we have assessed all the relevant information. This ensures we can provide the best possible support for individuals.

Aquinas College is heavily oversubscribed and we have many more applications each year than we can offer places.

Applicants can accept their offer through the admissions portal via our website.

We offer a place to each student as an individual and this is not subject to certain GCSE results. However, each subject at Aquinas College has entry criteria. These are available on our website and should be checked when considering subject choices. A firm decision on a Programme of Study will not be agreed until enrolment.

3. After Offer

Prospective students will be invited to attend one of our Welcome Days at the end of June or beginning of July.

Enrolment for the new academic year will be by phone at the end of August. Lessons will start in September, all dates to be confirmed.

Course Directory

The following links take you to the relevant pages on the college website.

Art and Design

- [3D Design](#)
- [Art, Craft & Design](#)
- [Graphic Design](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [Textile Design](#)

Business and Finance

- [Accounting](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Business \(Applied\)](#)
- [Business CTEC](#)
- [Economics](#)

Earth Sciences

- [Geography](#)
- [Geology](#)

English

- [English Language](#)
- [English Language \(GCSE\)](#)
- [English Language and Literature](#)
- [English Literature](#)

History

- [History](#)

Computing and IT

- [Computer Science](#)
- [IT BTEC](#)

Law

- [Criminology](#)
- [Law](#)
- [Applied Law BTEC](#)

Maths

- [Mathematics](#)
- [Further Mathematics](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Core Maths](#)
- [Mathematics GCSE](#)

Media and Film

- [Creative Media Practice BTEC](#)
- [Media Studies](#)
- [Film Studies](#)

Languages

- [German](#)
- [French](#)
- [Japanese GCSE](#)
- [Spanish](#)

Performing Arts

- [Drama and Theatre](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Music Performance](#)
- [Music Technology](#)
- [Performing Arts: Dance BTEC](#)

Religious Studies

- [Theology \(Philosophy, Ethics & Religion\)](#)

Science

- [Applied Science BTEC](#)
- [Biology](#)
- [Chemistry](#)
- [Environmental Science](#)
- [Physics](#)

Social Sciences

- [Health and Social Care BTEC](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Sociology](#)

Sport and PE

- [Physical Education](#)
- [Sport \(Single\): CTEC](#)
- [Sport \(Double\): CTEC](#)
- [Public Services BTEC](#)

EPQ

- [Extended Project](#)

Pathways

- [Pathways: SEND](#)

Evening Courses for Adults at Aquinas College

Apply Now

Have you been thinking about degree level study but need to top up your qualifications? Maybe you've been out of education for a while or thinking of upskilling?

Access to Higher Education Qualifications

At Aquinas College we offer one year Access courses in two different pathways:

Health Professions

Nursing, Midwifery and related health professions

Psychology & Criminology

Social Work, Police, Probation Service, Psychology & Counselling

We also offer:

- GCSEs in English, Maths and Science
- AAT courses in Accounting & Bookkeeping
- ESOL
- Essential Digital Skills

We also run many leisure courses

[Adult Education Course Directory](#)

[Adult Education Prospectus](#)

email: adulteducation@aquinas.ac.uk

website: adulteducation.aquinas.ac.uk

Telephone: 0161 419 3620

- Face to face teaching
- Free parking
- Friendly staff
- Modern facilities
- Careers advice
- Evening classes



Evening Courses for Adults

Starting September

We offer leisure, general interest & fitness courses:

Monday:

- Ceramics
- Creative Stitches
- Floral Design
- Painting & Drawing
- Painting for Pleasure
- Pilates
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish

Tuesday:

- Baking
- Ceramics
- Creative Writing
- Crochet
- Dressmaking
- Floral Design
- Painting & Drawing
- Watercolours
- Yoga
- French
- German
- Italian
- Spanish

Apply via our [website](#) from 1st august 2024 or contact us for more information

(Reduced rates available)

Telephone: 0161 419 3620 Email: adulteducation@aquinas.ac.uk

website: <https://www.aquinas.ac.uk>

Open Events

The open events will give you the opportunity to visit the departments and talk to subject teachers. There is also a brief formal address and an opportunity to see a short promotional video about Aquinas.

General advice and information about the College will be available from staff throughout the building. Student volunteer guides will also be available to provide an additional source of information. We are very proud of our fantastic building and unrivalled facilities in all curriculum areas. Please try to visit all areas to get a feel for our college.

SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Contact Details

- Phone: 0161 483 3237
- Fax: 0161 487 4072
- E-mail: enquires@aquinas.ac.uk
- Website: <https://www.aquinas.ac.uk>
- Facebook: Facebook/AquinasCollegeUK
- X (Twitter): Twitter/AquinasUK
- Student Information Services: 0161 419 3624
- Chaplaincy: 0161 483 3237
- General Enquires: 0161 419 3605
- Adult Education Centre: 0161 419 3620
- Learning Support: learning.support@aquinas.ac.uk