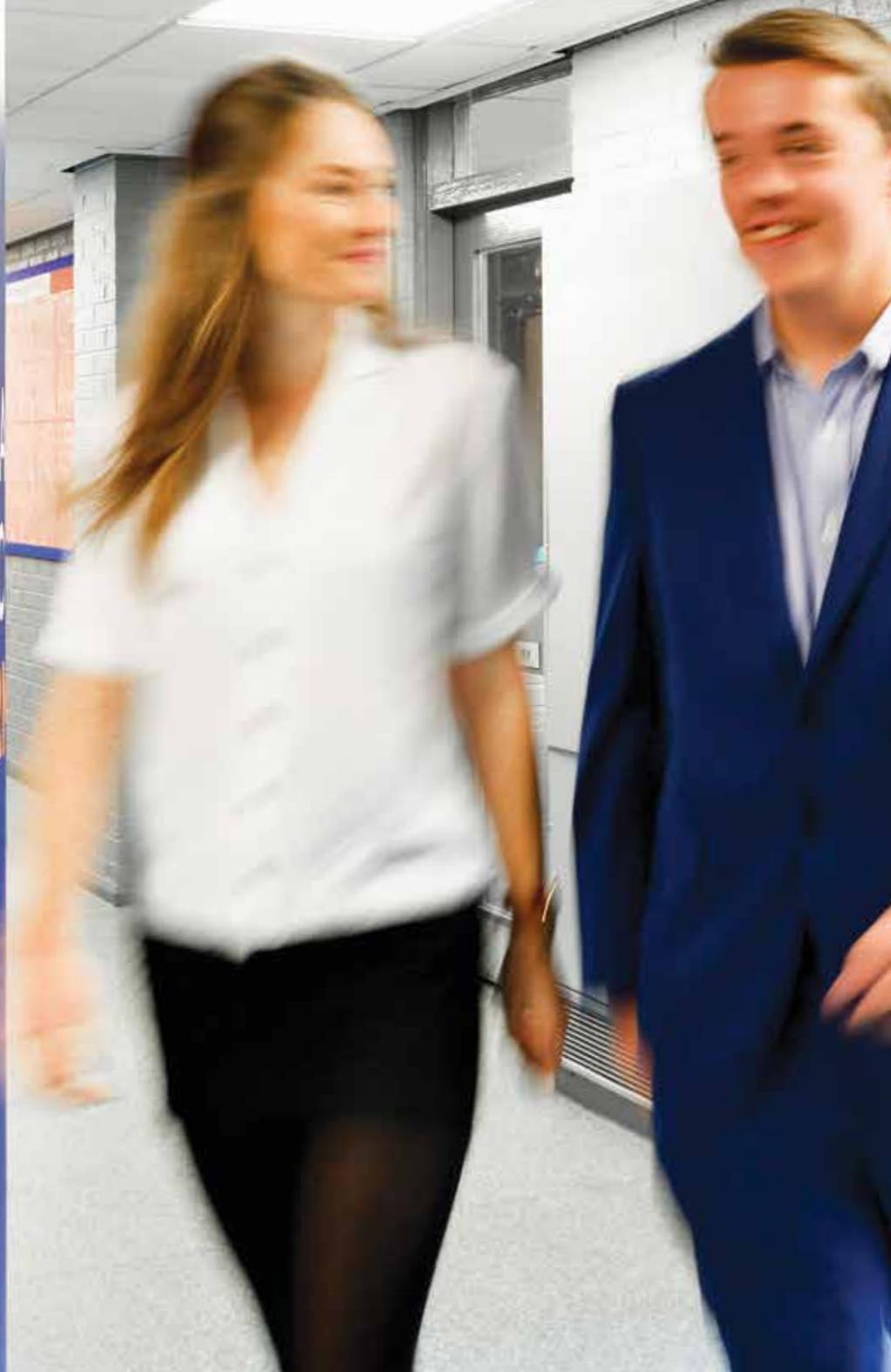




**ST NICHOLAS
CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM**

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CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM**



2019 ENTRY



WELCOME

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY WELCOME AND
THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING ST NICHOLAS
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM.**

On behalf of staff, students and governors, I offer you a warm welcome to
St Nicholas Sixth Form.

Here at St Nicholas we offer a Sixth Form experience rooted in academic excellence,
unrivalled pastoral support and a strong community spirit alongside fantastic enrichment
opportunities for each and every student - our progression rates to Russell Group
Universities and Oxbridge remain the best across the local area.

We believe that here at St Nicholas we offer a unique, personalised learning environment that
will ensure you are fully prepared for the next steps in your life's journey, safe in the knowledge
that you are part of a community where, **'EVERYONE MATTERS'**.



Mr. Woods - Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PREFECTS

St Nicholas School is home to a flourishing Sixth Form which is undergoing improvements to provide the best possible experience for us as young adults. We chose to continue our studies here for a number of reasons, one being the pre-existing relationships with teachers which we built throughout high school. This meant that we could hit the ground running when combating the challenges that A Levels present, with a personal touch on our academic experience from day one. As younger students, we looked up to sixth formers and always aspired to be a part of the tight-knit community that is apparent even to the lower school. A vibrant common room coupled with a healthy number of students leads to a real sense of belonging which, in turn, creates an enjoyable individual experience. Small classes, designated study areas and a constant stream of strong encouragement to study independently bridges the gap between Sixth Form and university. This year we have new study booths to improve productivity and prepare us for the style of university study.

One of the great things about St Nicholas Sixth Form is the pastoral care offered in abundance so that every need can be catered for. We each belong to a small form which provides us with a personal mentor and a daily check-up point to keep us on track. Pastoral care is always at the forefront of each staff member's mind at St Nicholas. We are currently in the process of applying for universities, a challenge of which we are greatly supported in by being given helpful resources, like Unifrog, personal consultations with our form tutors and UCAS days to help give us the best foundation for our futures.

Having a Sixth Form here provides a unique opportunity for younger years to interact with more mature students and, on the flip side, us as Sixth Formers can work closely with lower students, be it through mentoring or tutoring. These links also come in the form of collaborative projects with both lower and upper school, such as the Bar Mock Trial and our school choir. Both groups can benefit from these interactions as valuable skills can be gained for all.

St Nicholas Sixth Form is an incredible place not just to learn but to thrive socially and we can truly say that we thoroughly enjoy coming into Sixth Form every day.

Robert Morrissey and Emma Robinson
Senior Prefects

We are sure that in choosing to study with us you are making the right choice.

Existing students and parents will know that as well as providing a successful academic environment, the school will continue to provide the very high level of support and guidance for which it is well known.

At St Nicholas we have a curriculum which is A Level focused and we offer a wide range of subjects necessary for Higher Education. St Nicholas is an excellent stepping stone towards university or employment as we give our students a high degree of independence whilst at the same time providing individual support and guidance. We know our students well and Form Tutors meet with students on a daily basis, putting them best placed to provide references and to offer individual guidance. Our students also benefit from average class sizes which are smaller than other colleges in the area and there are clear benefits from being taught by staff who already know their continuing students well.

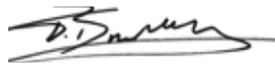
Our Sixth Form also offers the uniqueness of Catholic education and we consider our students' spiritual development to be an important part of their education. In particular the gospel value of 'service to

others' is both encouraged and expected. Our students' respond very willingly to the challenge and make a great contribution to the school and the wider community. Our school would be the poorer without their example and leadership.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us. We wish you every success this year and we look forward to your application and becoming part of your future success.



Kevin Smith
Assistant Headteacher



Tom Bradley
Year 12 and 13 Leader

WHY CHOOSE OUR SIXTH FORM

OUR STUDENTS ARE NOT JUST A NUMBER

WE WANT TO ENRICH YOU

Our Sixth Form involves a lot of hard work and our students cope well with their workload. They have lots of fun and enjoy themselves, not least through a range of extra-curricular activities. The new Wednesday Afternoon Enrichment is a major investment in our students. The opportunities available will provide you with new experiences and will enhance any future applications.



Students are always full of praise for the high level of care and guidance they are given, not only by the teachers who know them but by a range of support staff. We already know our continuing students well and teachers look to build on the strong relationships that they already have. We are committed to ensuring that every student receives the best possible education and secures the best outcomes.

WE ARE SUCCESSFUL

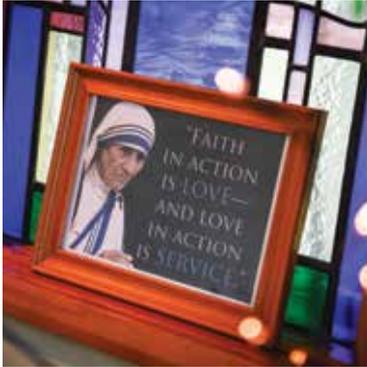
Our Sixth Form results and progression rates are amongst the best in the area due to the hard work our students and staff put in. Outstanding results matter because it makes progression on to the next stage of your career much easier.



WE ARE FRIENDLY

Our students are very welcoming and students who come to study at the Sixth Form from other schools are made to feel at home very quickly. We typically have 100 students in each year group and this creates a real sense of community. Our students know and support each other well and this all culminates in a fantastic Leavers Ball at the end of Year 13.





INCLUSIVE

It is part of our ethos to be inclusive and this is reflected in our entrance criteria. We know that students who achieve seven or more higher grade passes at GCSE have the ability to achieve at A Level.

We are keen to provide the A-Level route to as many students as possible and this is something we are proud of.



WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are countless leadership opportunities within the school and our students enjoy engaging with the younger students. Our students regularly provide one to one support to younger students and they are key role models for the school. We regularly support others from organising charity collections to providing hampers at Christmas.

“TEACHERS KNOW MY STRENGTHS AND HELP ME TO ACHIEVE THE BEST OF MY ABILITY”

ELENA YEAR 12



GREAT FACILITIES

A new look common room with fresh decor and Wi-Fi is a great place to study and meet up with friends. Food is available throughout the morning and there are always enough computers available.

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM



“ACADEMIC SUPPORT IS AMAZING; AS SOON AS THE TEACHER NOTICES YOU FALLING BEHIND THEY WILL SIT DOWN AND GO THROUGH WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.”

WILLIAM YEAR 13





FAITH LIFE



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Shrewsbury takes a pilgrimage group to Lourdes at the end of the summer term each year. It comprises parishes and schools and individual pilgrims. Usually around 750 pilgrims travel from Shrewsbury each year though it can be over 1000.

Students from Year 11 and Sixth Form at St Nicholas form part of the volunteer youth groups who take care of the social and spiritual needs of pilgrims who need medical or physical attention and support. Students work with other young people from across the diocese, working in teams throughout the day and night. During their shift, they may help to push wheelchairs or pull the local voitures, they may help with souvenir shopping or have a chat in a local café, or they may work in the hospital supporting the pilgrims in their care. Both in their work and social time, students mix with other young people to share and reflect on their experiences. The gospel message that we are to be of service to others is realised in very practical and moving ways through the work that they do. The students experience a very full and fulfilling week and often return as helpers after university and beyond.

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

All Sixth Form students actively participate in the faith life of the school, including times of collective or whole school worship. At St Nicholas Sixth Form we celebrate Mass to mark the auspicious times of the school year, including our own feast day and celebration of the Church seasons as well as important milestones in the academic year. Students are encouraged to participate as musicians, singers and readers and to recognise this unique expression of our school faith community. Through this commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school, the students are seen as positive and supportive role models.

Collective worship takes place during assemblies and within form groups. This invites students to be mindful of what is happening in the world. It also encourages students to feel part of a school 'family' where they can share their personal joys and concerns. Students are also encouraged to actively communicate their faith and understanding through a variety of creative media.

The school has a lay chaplain who supports the students in their faith journey throughout the year. The School Chapel is regularly used for services as well as personal time for reflection. This year we are looking to renew our links with Lourdes through the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

SPIRITUAL & MORAL EDUCATION

Spiritual and Moral Education is a core course in the Sixth Form and is a key part of the distinctive Sixth Form experience. The course aims to help students to develop positive personal values and attitudes in the context of Christian teaching.

Students in Year 12 are expected to complete an hour of Community Service a week. This is a very valuable personal experience for the Year 12 students and often benefits our school community as students often choose to support school during this time. Both Year 12 and Year 13 are involved in fundraising activities throughout the year.



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FUTURE LEARN TO FUTURE LEAN

We are proud of the opportunities that are available to our students. We encourage all students to broaden their horizons through involvement in enrichment activities.

A strong enrichment portfolio not only demonstrates personal development but can also support applications to university, jobs and apprenticeships. Future employers seek individuals with these skills. Participation in extra-curricular activity and the development of leadership skills and positivity linked to securing prestigious positions.

"Writing a clear and compelling Personal Statement" is an essential part of your application to university. With many highly qualified students applying to University, the Personal Statement is crucial in helping us identify students with the greatest merit and aptitude for our courses".

Bernard Strut -
Head of UK/EU Student Recruitment

The Wednesday Afternoon Enrichment Programme focuses around three core areas: Physical Enrichment, Academic Enrichment and Community Enrichment. Throughout your time at St Nicholas Sixth Form if you can gain experience from all three categories then you will without doubt acquire and develop skills which are highly desirable for Universities and Employers alike.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

PHYSICAL

Physical Recreation
Netball Team
Football Team
Health and Fitness at a local gym
Duke of Edinburgh Award (GOLD)

ACADEMIC

Extended Project Qualification
Twilight Independent Study
Work Experience
Future Lean Online Course

COMMUNITY

Student Mentoring
Voluntary Work in and around School
Duke of Edinburgh Award (GOLD)
Charity Work

Careers Advice -Dedicated Careers Officer available for both 1-to-1 and group support.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

This is a national programme allowing students in Year 12 to form their own private limited companies, from October to May. The programme culminates in a series of area, regional and national competitions.

In 2017 our students progressed to the North West Finals.



PERFORMING ARTS

The annual school production is a superb showcase of students' creative talent. School productions not only advance students as performers but also develop their enterprise and transferable skills such as creativity and teamwork which they can use across the curriculum. We also offer Musical Theatre sessions for those interested in working in either the Performing Arts Industry or those who are working on something separate from their studies.

Each year we have the honour of hiring The Grange Theatre to hold our annual BTEC Performing Arts Showcase. Any other Sixth Form students who show commitment and talent in the arts are also invited to perform on this evening.



**“ENRICHMENT
ALLOW ME TO
OWN PERSON
QUALITIES SUCH
AS LEADERSHIP,
TEAMWORK AND
COMMUNICATION.**

WILLIAM YEAR 13



OPPORTUNITIES DEVELOP MY AL



PASTORAL SUPPORT

PASTORAL CARE

Form tutors are a key strength of the Sixth Form. Ofsted commented that: 'relationships between teachers and students are very positive', and that 'the form tutor programme is outstanding and contributes significantly to students' personal development'.

- Invaluable contact time with Form Tutor you form tutor every day;
 - Facilitates academic progress
 - Facilitates social and emotional well being
 - Tailor made UCAS support and reference
- Close links between pastoral and academic links to ensure all students strive to achieve potential.
- Year Leader and Assistant Head teacher are in close proximity to the common room and are easily available to help with any matters which arise.
- Regular meetings to discuss progress and future career plans including one to one guidance on Career or University pathways
- Regular one to one meetings between the student and their Form Tutor to discuss progress
- Learning Mentors are available to help students who need extra support.
- Students with Special Educational Needs are supported through the work of our SENCo
- Chaplain is available to provide guidance to our students.
- Students take part in a range of activities across the year on dedicated days. Current examples include Drive Survive and Restart a Heart Day.



Opportunities are provided for parents to meet with tutors during the first half term to discuss any concerns they may have.



**“I FEEL SECURE AT ST NICHOLAS AS I HAVE
ACADEMIC PLANS WITH MY TUTOR TWICE
EVERY HALF TERM”**

BELLA YEAR 12



PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

Students are expected to choose three A Level subjects which they will study over two years. The recent change to A Level examinations has meant that students are required to undertake a greater depth of study.

Choosing the right courses from the start is very important and you can seek help and advice at Open Evening and Welcome Day events. We offer a wide range of A Level subjects as indicated below.

ART AND DESIGN
BIOLOGY
BUSINESS STUDIES
CHEMISTRY
COMPUTER SCIENCE
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN)
DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES
ECONOMICS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ENGLISH LITERATURE
FRENCH
GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
LAW
MATHEMATICS (WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS)
MEDIA STUDIES
MUSIC
PHOTOGRAPHY
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
PHYSICS
PSYCHOLOGY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SPANISH

We understand that some students will be looking to study Mathematics at university and we are always mindful of future university entrance requirements. To enable our students to progress we have made AS.

Further Mathematics available to those who achieve a GCSE Mathematics Grade 8 or 9. This will be a student's fourth subject and they have the option to complete the full A Level in Year 13. A student must also be studying A-Level Mathematics. We also offer the opportunity to study the Extended Project Qualification as part of our enrichment programme.

ALTERNATIVE COURSES TO A LEVELS

APPLIED SCIENCE (AQA LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE)
 EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (LEVEL 3)

ST NICHOLAS SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE CRITERIA

Students will need to achieve the equivalent of seven higher grade passes at GCSE. (Grades A*-C or Grades 9-4) Students need to achieve a Grade 4 or higher in English Language and Mathematics*.

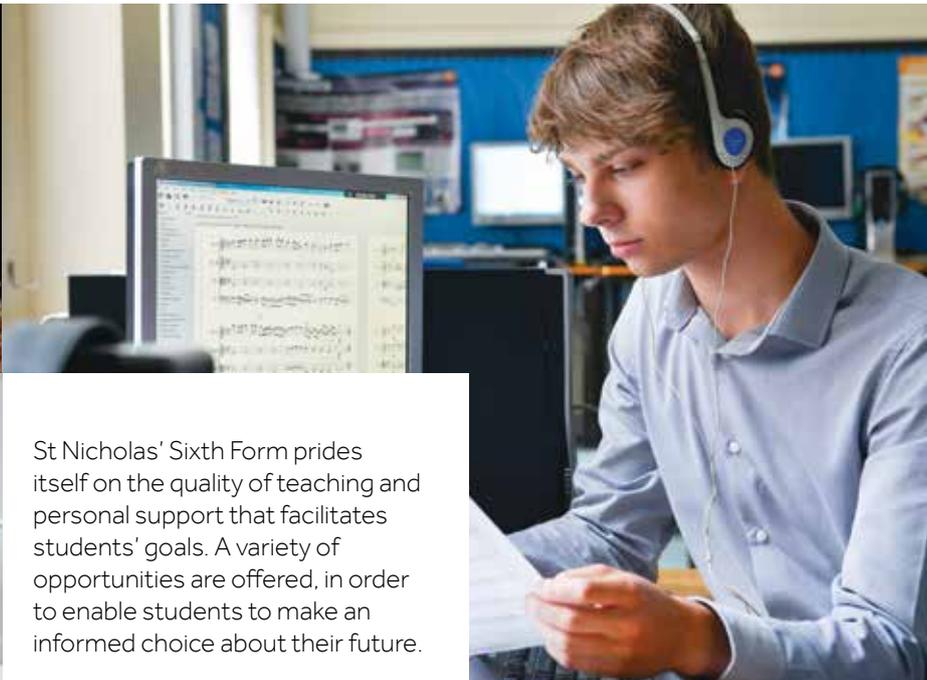
*If a student misses out on a Grade 4 in just one of these subjects then we offer the opportunity to resit during Year 12 through timetabled lessons.



“MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CREATING A SMALL BUT CLOSE COMMUNITY.”

RACHEL YEAR 12

PATHWAYS & OPTIONS



St Nicholas' Sixth Form prides itself on the quality of teaching and personal support that facilitates students' goals. A variety of opportunities are offered, in order to enable students to make an informed choice about their future.



UNIVERSITY

- Year 13 Form Tutors oversee a student's application to UCAS
- A reference in support of each application is approved by the Sixth Form Team

The UCAS process involves preparing students to enable them to:

- Search for courses, including Degrees, Foundation Degrees and Higher National Diplomas
- Understand entry requirements and the UCAS tariff
- In Year 12, go on a school visit to the UCAS Higher Education Convention at Etihad Campus Manchester
- Complete the application form
- Apply to Oxford or Cambridge University, or for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine or science courses
- Respond to decisions from universities
- If necessary, understand 'UCAS Extra' for applicants without offers
- If necessary, understand UCAS Clearing on results day
- Understand student finance
- Be prepared for interviews

APPRENTICESHIP/ EMPLOYMENT AND GAP YEAR

Similarly to UCAS, St Nicholas' Sixth Form prepares students for this route by:

- Making contacts with employers to discuss apprenticeships
- Forming relationships with business in order to discuss an employment pathway
- Sourcing information from the Armed Forces
- Offering talks, presentations and conventions for Gap Year students
- Offering workshops with employers
- Giving advice on writing CVs
- Teaching interview techniques
- Supporting work experience opportunities
- Careers Wednesday

SIXTH FORM EXPEDITIONS

BORNEO 2018

In July of 2018, a small group of our Sixth Form students took part in an 18-day expedition to Borneo, Malaysia. Despite the last minute change in destination, the team had an incredible time as expected. It was an amazing experience from the outset and throughout. For the full year before departure many members developed organisational skills in arranging fundraising events to cover the expenses of the trip, whilst others earned their funds through consistent part-time work. The trip developed our teamwork as well as independence, whether it be through planning our own itinerary, coping with injury, or supporting each other when the going got tough.

Upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu, we were tasked with planning our own transport between locations and given control of group spending. After a couple of days of orientation, we moved to the second phase of the expedition – where the adventure really kicked off. In the depths of the Malaysian jungle, with unforgettable views of Mount Kinabalu, and the unforgiving terrain that came with it, the team spent three days trekking between camps and practising traditional jungle skills such as blow dart practice and building shelter. Whilst the treks were indeed challenging, the scenery, interaction with our local guides and general sense of achievement ultimately proved worthwhile.

The trek continued through into the more inhabited parts of the mountains, where we were able to stay and interact with a different

community each night. Some of us played football with the children, or taught them how to make friendship bracelets. On one occasion, we invited ourselves to a local wedding party, where we were made very welcome and our karaoke 'skills' were much appreciated. Over the course of both treks we had several opportunities to swim in some stunning rivers, this quickly became one of the groups favourite activities.

Then, we were transported to the remote Sayap village, where we stayed in the homes of two families. This was our project phase which lasted five days. Our time here was spent brick-laying, plastering, and constructing what will eventually be a village community centre. Free time in the afternoon was spent playing sports with locals, or bonding with the families we stayed with, be it through eating together

or even singing karaoke (which was now a somewhat recurring theme of the trip). We were also able to work with children at the village school, teaching about life in England, painting classroom walls and more. Leaving this phase was particularly difficult for some as we had made genuine bonds with the members of the community; children and adults alike.

Finally, the group travelled back to Kota Kinabalu, where we spent our final days snorkelling on a paradise island just a short boat journey away, and of course a final, farewell karaoke session on our last night.

Overall, it was an incredibly challenging experience, but the pay-offs were immense.

By Mia Hendley Year 13





“THIS WAS A TRIP OF A LIFETIME AND A TRIP IN WHICH LIFETIME MEMORIES WERE CREATED AS WERE MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED. FROM TEACHING YOUNG KIDS TO BEING IMMERSED INTO THE MALAYSIAN CULTURE, IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE I WILL NEVER FORGET AND FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL.”

JESS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OPPORTUNITIES

PREFECTS

There is an expectation that students apply for the role of prefect during the first term of Year 12. Universities and employers expect students to have shown initiative and responsibility while at school and the prefect role demands these qualities from students. In June students vote for two Head Prefects who are invaluable to the school.

BURSARY FUND FOR 16-19 YEAR OLDS

This is a government fund to help 16-19 year olds who may struggle financially. Applications are made through the school in September. The fund is awarded to students in the following priority order:

PRIORITY 1

Students who are in care, in receipt of income support, a care leaver, in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

PRIORITY 2

Students in receipt of free school meals.

PRIORITY 3

Students of families in receipt of tax credits, with an annual household income of up to £20,817.

FACILITIES

STUDY AREAS

The Common Room is a study area and social space for students. It is open for use throughout the day and it is ideal for group work. There is also a Higher Education Library available to students.

Students are also provided with study areas which offer a quiet learning space for developing the skills of independent study. All rooms are open to students before and immediately after the school day.

Networked computers and printers are provided for students' study needs and the new Wi-Fi connections allow students to use their own phones and devices.

Hot food is available throughout the morning from the canteen and a variety of vending machines.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC)

The LRC holds over 24,000 resources, electronic and in hard-copy, to facilitate the school's curriculum. A qualified librarian runs the LRC and is on-hand to advise students on study and research skills. The LRC also houses university prospectuses, careers information and access to A Level journals.



DESTINATIONS



More St Nicholas students gained a place at a Russell Group University than any other Cheshire West and Chester school or college according to the most recent government data. 38% of students progressed compared to an average of 14% across Cheshire West and Chester. St Nicholas students receive outstanding support throughout the application process and are actively encouraged and supported to pursue the very best universities. The enormous support students receive at St Nicholas makes an enormous impact on their futures.

**“THE PASTORAL
SUPPORT IS EXCELLENT
AND EVERY TUTOR IS
APPROACHABLE”**

LOUIS YEAR 13

“LOVING GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE EXAMPLE OF ST NICHOLAS, WHO FED THE HUNGRY, BROUGHT HOPE TO THE IMPRISONED, GAVE COMFORT TO THE LOST AND TAUGHT THE TRUTH TO ALL. MAY WE STRIVE TO IMITATE HIM BY PUTTING YOU FIRST IN ALL WE DO. GIVE US THE COURAGE, LOVE AND STRENGTH OF ST NICHOLAS, SO THAT, LIKE HIM, WE MAY SERVE YOU THROUGH LOVING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS”

AMEN.



**ST NICHOLAS
CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM**

Greenbank Lane, Hartford, Northwich,
Cheshire CW8 1JW
T: 01606 706000
E: admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk
W: www.st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk