



St Nicholas Catholic High School

A Business and Enterprise College

Headteacher: Mr R. Woods, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Under the Trusteeship of the
R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury

Greenbank Lane • Hartford • Northwich • Cheshire CW8 1JW
Tel (01606) 706000 • Fax (01606) 784586 • www.st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As another academic year at St Nicholas draws to a close there is much to reflect upon and much to celebrate.

Our senior students are now enjoying their well-earned summer holiday following an intensive few months of study, revision and of course external examinations. We offer them every good wish and blessing for their forthcoming results days when the fruits of their labours will be revealed.

The summer term has been another exceptionally busy time for staff, students and I'm sure parents alike! Our Annual Prize Night saw us welcome to Sir Peter Fahy as our guest of honour. Sir Peter was Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and also served as a governor here at St Nicholas for many years. During the evening he presented over 250 awards to many deserving students in the school hall and we were treated throughout the evening to numerous musical items from both students and staff.

Our Sports Presentation Evening was also a resounding success. Hockey Olympic gold medal winner Helen Richardson-Walsh presented awards and medals to students for both individual and team successes throughout the year. Students from each year group provided a review of the 2016-17 academic year and a packed sports hall gathered to acknowledge the superb achievements throughout the St Nicholas community.

Alongside our academic studies in the classroom, the term has continued to see enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities flourish. As I write this letter, over thirty students are taking part in the Opal Coast trip to France and a further thirty are set to visit Berlin in the next few days. Year 10 students have taken part in our two residential retreats to Savio House in Bollington and Soli Retreat Centre near Alton. There have been residential trips to both Oxford and Cambridge universities, A Level History and English students have visited Manchester University, the 'Mathemagic' trip visited the University of Liverpool, and last Wednesday a group of students joined Bishop Mark and representatives from other secondary schools across the Diocese for a celebratory Mass at Shrewsbury Cathedral.

Our new Year 7 pupils for September have recently taken part in their transition days here at school and are now well on the way to becoming fully fledged members of the St Nicholas community – they participated in a variety of lessons, met their Form Tutors and many of them came to the Year 6 Disco supported by the St Nicholas PTFA. We look forward to welcoming them in September.





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As the end of the term draws near, there are many exciting things planned for the summer and for the year ahead. There will be a number of works taking place over the holidays, with both the boys and girls changing rooms being totally refurbished, and with the help of students, the Sixth Form Common room has been completely re-designed and will be fitted with new furniture, ICT facilities and Wi-Fi access for Sixth Form students to enjoy from September.

Following the success of our first 'Parent Focus Group' in June, we now plan to run these as termly events. Our first evening focused upon sixth form provision here at St Nicholas and provided an excellent forum for staff and parent discussion, the outcomes of which have informed our strategic plan for future development and improvement together. The topic of our next evening will be 'Assessment' with further details including dates available early in the Advent term.

Other planned developments for the next academic year include a weekly newsletter home, a newly designed school website and an e-reporting system to replace paper-based reports. Discussions for all of these initiatives have involved feedback from parents and students from the School Council and other focus groups, with final developments set for early September. September will also see the evaporation of 'St Nicholas time' with the school aligning itself with GMT. There are no changes to the start or end of the school day which will *still* finish at 3.15pm and lesson time will be as follows:

8.45am	Warning Bell
8.50 - 9.15	Morning Registration
9.15 - 10.15	Lesson 1
10.15 - 11.15	Lesson 2
11.15 – 11.35	Break
11.35 – 12.35	Lesson 3
12.35 – 1.15	Lunch
1.15 – 2.15	Lesson 4 (including afternoon registration mark)
2.15 – 3.15	Lesson 5
3.15	End of day
3.15 – 4.15	Homework Clubs

For your information, there will be no changes to either school uniform or P.E. kit next year and the same high standards of appearance will be expected. However, I would also like you to note that **from September, 'Hoodies' will no longer be allowed to be worn at any time** – students should not attend school in these items. Students should attend school in a coat as required.





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St Nicholas will close for pupils at 2pm on Tuesday 25th July and will re-open for the 2017-18 academic year on Wednesday 6th September, when the usual exemplary standards of uniform are expected.

In closing, I would like to thank you on behalf of the governors and all the staff here at school for the continued support you offer to the St Nicholas community. It has been an absolute pleasure to join St Nicholas as Headteacher this term and I wish you all a restful and relaxing summer holiday amongst the company of family and friends.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

