



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
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18 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to share with you the very positive report from our recent Ofsted Inspection on the 26th and 27th February.

I am pleased to inform you that Ofsted Inspectors agreed with and confirmed the school's own self-evaluation against the new Inspection framework that St Nicholas is a Good school, with significant areas of strength across all key areas inspected.

St Nicholas was last inspected by Ofsted in 2011, with the following eight years seeing a significant strengthening to the Inspection Framework. This, combined with the more robust and challenging GCSE and A-Level specifications, means that all members of our school can be rightly proud of Ofsted's judgement.

Since I joined the school in 2017, the whole school community, including students, parents, teachers and leaders at all levels, have engaged in a comprehensive review of our strengths and areas for further development. To this end, it is pleasing to recognise Ofsted's confirmation that our current *evaluations link precisely to school improvement priorities* and that our *school improvement planning is sharply focused on the key actions that will further improve the school*.

Significantly, Ofsted recognised that all necessary next steps for the future had already been identified in our own self-evaluation. The Inspection Team endorsed the effectiveness of the leadership and management of school, most notably through *a continual emphasis on improving the quality of teaching and learning* and possessing *the right skills to improve the school further*.

There are many, many areas for celebration within the report, which affirms what we know to be true: that the students at St Nicholas are courteous, engaged in their learning and positive role models for each other.

Some key pupil observations from the inspection team include:

- *Pupils' attainment across many subjects is high. The proportion of pupils who achieve a standard pass, or a strong pass, in English and Mathematics is well above the national average*
- *Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a key strength*
- *Pupils feel safe in the school and they care for the environment*
- *Pastoral support is a key strength*
- *Pupils embrace the school's mission statement which states that 'Everyone Matters'*
- *Pupils are proud of the '4Rs' which encourage them to respect themselves, respect each other, respect the school and to be ready to learn*
- *Pupils wear their uniform with pride and their conduct around the site during breaktime, lunchtime and between lessons is good*

Additionally, we are delighted that Ofsted has clearly recognised the uncompromising rigour we have invested in the development of the teaching and learning experience delivered daily at St Nicholas. Such development, described by Ofsted as *high quality*, is central to our unwavering commitment that every student in our care fulfils their God-given potential to live life and live it to the full.





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Of course, we recognise at St Nicholas that the vast majority of our students continue their journey with us into Sixth Form. Again, we were delighted that Ofsted highlighted the sheer strength and future capacity of our Sixth-Form provision, including:

- *Students in the sixth form make good progress from their starting points. This is because of good-quality teaching, effective leadership and good standards of behaviour and attendance*
- *Teachers have strong subject knowledge. They prepare engaging lessons that challenge students to make consistently good progress in most subjects*
- *Students enjoy their lessons and they participate well... timely and bespoke support is offered to students who are in need of extra support*
- *Excellent careers education, information, advice and guidance ensure that progression from the sixth form to higher education, further education, employment or apprenticeships is a key strength of the school*

A distinctive characteristic of our school is the commitment to a continuous journey of improvement. Although we are pleased that Ofsted has highlighted the many significant strengths of St Nicholas Catholic High School, we remain non-complacent and will continue to work hard in partnership with parents and carers as we journey forward together to ensure the best possible education for every student in our care.

To this end, I will be focusing one of my regular 'Meet the Headteacher' events to the findings of the Ofsted report on Wednesday 17th April at 6pm for any parents and carers who wish to discuss any aspects of the report in more detail. If you would like to attend, please email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk to confirm.

There is no doubt that such a favourable Ofsted report would not have been possible without the dedication of all members of the school community. Therefore, in closing, I would like to thank all students, teachers, staff, parents, carers and Governors who all combine to make St Nicholas such a unique and special community.

Yours sincerely

Mr Richard Woods
Headteacher

