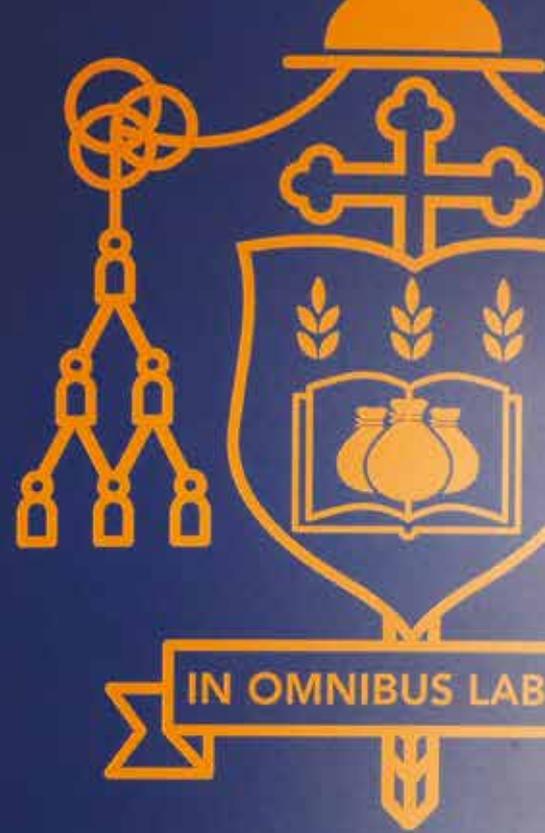




**ST NICHOLAS
CATHOLIC
SIXTH FORM**



**ST NICH
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SIXTH F**





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'**.

Rich Woods
Mr. Woods - Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

At St Nicholas, the Sixth Form strives for students to achieve academically whilst also guiding us into well rounded, independent characters, ready for life. For me, the sense of community at St Nicholas sets it apart from other colleges; the support and pastoral care is in abundance and a priority for all staff. Here, the teachers provide support for everyone during the transition to their next step in life, whether that be university, apprenticeships or jobs. For example, I am applying to study Medicine and I have received endless support from teachers, who have been more than willing to help with my personal statement, arrange mock interviews, and prepare me for the entry exams. The close community, between staff and students, creates a personal and friendly environment – which I have found invaluable when approaching staff with queries and questions.

There are many extra opportunities for the students at Sixth form. Connections with Years 7-11 has offered numerous volunteering options, from mentoring students to assisting teachers in lessons. More than this however, it has allowed me to engage in unique experiences which has enriched my application to university. Sixth Form has also given me the incredible chance to go on an expedition to Nicaragua next summer – this will strength my skill set and prepare me for independence, when I am no longer in the reassuring environment of Sixth form.

Victoria Fletcher – Head Girl 2017/18

I chose to continue at St Nicholas' for Sixth Form because of my positive experience here as a secondary school student. I felt that because I knew all of the teachers and most of the students, I would settle in well which would enable me to thrive academically as well as socially. In addition, the small class sizes were a major attraction and I knew that the teachers here were very supportive and would be willing to give up their time at lunchtime or after school for students. As soon as I started Sixth Form the chilled atmosphere within the common room made me immediately relish being a Sixth Form student at St Nicks! Furthermore, there have recently been some exciting developments to our Sixth Form here, including: Wi-Fi in the common room, a careers adviser and sports teams. I have the freedom to leave school when I am not in lessons and I also have plenty of place where I can work.

Ronan Eves – Head Boy 2017/18



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
Kevin Smith
Assistant Headteacher

Tom Bradley
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.



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.



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

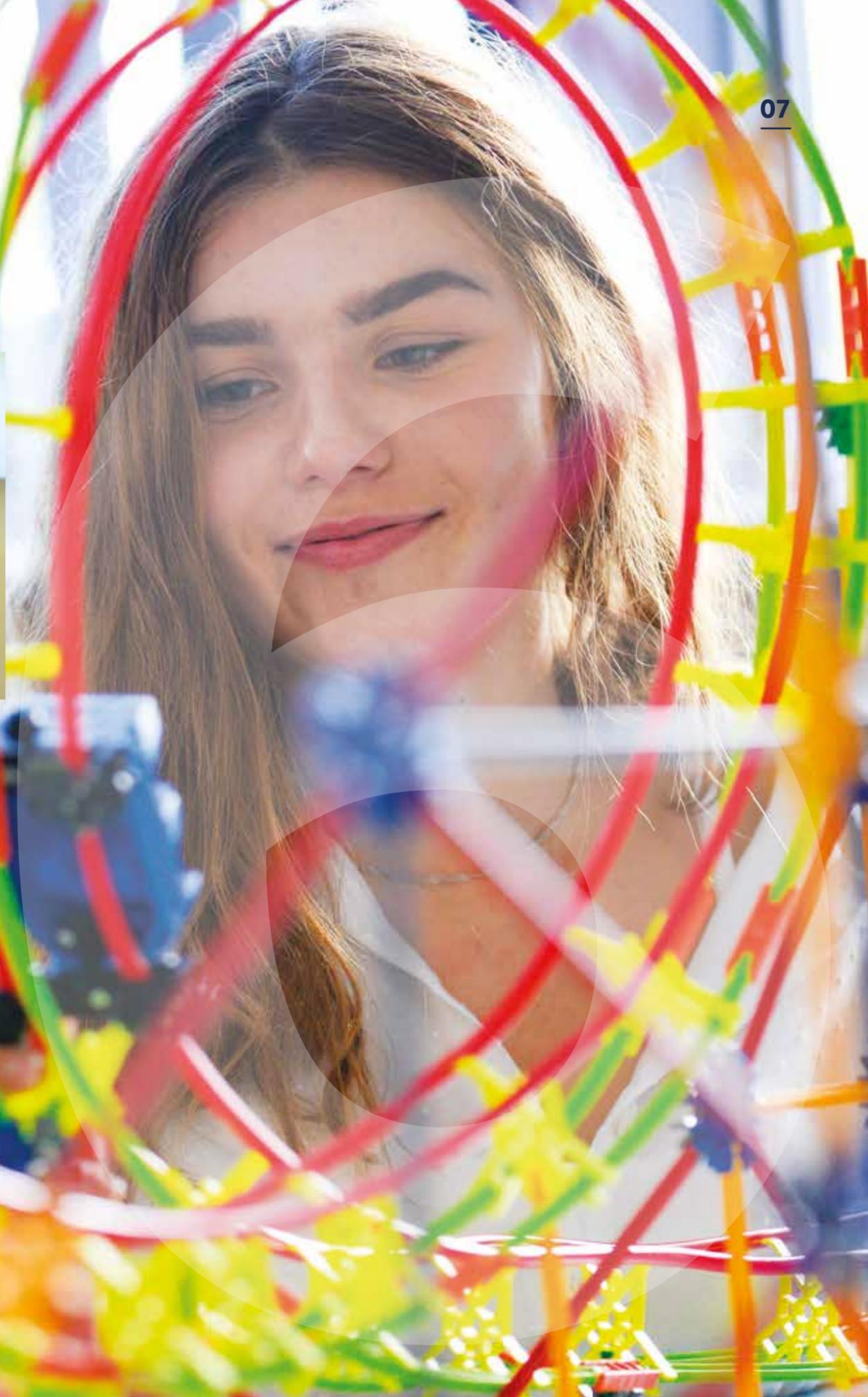
There are countless leadership opportunities within the school and our students enjoy engaging with the younger students. Our students regularly provide one to one support to younger students and they are key role models for the school. We regularly support others from organising charity collections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

“I JOINED ST NICHOLAS’ BECAUSE THE SIXTH FORM OFFERED THE FREEDOM OF A COLLEGE AND THE SUPPORT OF A HIGH SCHOOL”

TRINA YEAR 13



ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM



“THE SENSE OF
COMMUNITY THAT WE
HAVE IN SIXTH FORM
CAN’T BE MATCHED. IT
DEFINITELY LEADS TO A
PRODUCTIVE, FIRM AND
ENGAGING LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT”

AIMEE – YEAR 13

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.

“TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP AND PROVIDE TAILORED INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY GOALS”

SOPHIE YEAR 13

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 HAS TAUGHT ME TO THINK CRITICALLY & NOT TO ACCEPT WHAT I AM TOLD WITHOUT FORMING MY OWN OPINION”

LUCY, YEAR 13



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.



SUPPORTED STUDY

Supported Study is timetabled in order for year 13 students to have periods of time when they are studying in a supervised environment. The work which they do is logged and should help students track their workload.

Year 12 students are also directed to support study as an intervention.



“I WANTED THE STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT IN LESSONS TO GET THE BEST RESULTS. I KNEW ST NICHOLAS’ SIXTH FORM WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH THIS”

AIMEE – YEAR 13

FAITH LIFE

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.

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.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

SIXTH FORM EXPEDITIONS

Every two years we offer our students the chance to take part in an expedition. In 2016 we visited Botswana and Namibia and we are currently planning Nicaragua for 2018. These expeditions allow our students to gain valuable life experience. They are their Expeditions in which the students have ownership of many aspects including itinerary content, budgeting and group goal setting. It truly is an 'Expedition' and not a holiday.

AN ACCOUNT FROM BOTSWANA/ZAMBIA – EMILY CLAYTON

During the Summer Holidays members of the Sixth Form set out on a 16-day expedition to Botswana and Zambia. The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and certainly lived up to expectations! Each night was spent camping under the stars which, although was a little chilly, was outstanding non-the-less. Each group shared responsibilities on the trip including: cooking for themselves, gathering supplies, arranging transport and organising the rest of the team. We all efficiently worked together and ultimately became a lot closer, making friendships that will last forever.

Our first stop was charity project work at Khama Rhino Sanctuary where we camped for 5 nights and worked on the reserve. We completed labouring tasks such as making a firebreak along the roads by hacking down trees, collecting firewood, re-constructing a learning space for the local children and cleaning out rhino's pens.

Of course all of this hard work had its rewards as we were taken on a game drive in the park where we came face to face with a multitude of wildlife, such as the reserves infamous black and white rhino, zebra, giraffes, wildebeest and warthogs.

Continuing our expedition, we travelled to the Makgadikgadi Pans where we stayed on Lekubu Island. Here we accomplished a 10 mile trek across the vast salt pans and took some amazing photos in the process! At night the sky came alive as we were surrounded by the Milky Way.

From here we travelled to Chobe National Park where we went on a game drive and a river safari, witnessing all of the wildlife Botswana had to offer- from lions and elephants amongst the grassland to hippos and crocodiles in the Zambezi River.

Arriving in Zambia we visited one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls. Stretching across the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe we were able to walk alongside the falls immersing ourselves in the spray, an impressive sight to behold.

Everyone found the trip to be a remarkable and unforgettable experience, where we gained key life skills and built many relationships along the way. Thank you to the teachers and the Expedition Leaders who accompanied the students and contributed to their adventure allowing them to make memories that will last a lifetime.



“THE ATMOSPHERE
HERE IS CALM AND
RELAXED BUT AT
THE SAME TIME WE
ARE MOTIVATED
TO ACHIEVE OUR
VERY BEST”

ROBERT YEAR 12

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.

“WHEN I WAS APPLYING TO OXFORD, THE TEACHERS AT ST NICHOLAS WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND HELPING ME WRITE MY PERSONAL STATEMENT, PREPARING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS, AND PRACTISING INTERVIEWS, ENSURING I WAS AS PREPARED AS I COULD BE FOR THE 4-DAY INTERVIEW PERIOD. THERE IS NO WAY I'D BE HERE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED AT ST NICHOLAS SIXTH FORM”

AMY BARKER - 3RD YEAR STUDENT OF HISTORY
JESUS COLLEGE - OXFORD



**“ST NICHOLAS’ HAS
GIVEN ME A GREATER
CONFIDENCE
AND TAUGHT
ME LEADERSHIP
SKILLS WHICH WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY STAND
ME IN GOOD STEAD
FOR THE FUTURE”**



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