



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

7 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome you to the St Nicholas family. After many weeks of waiting, your child's first day at St Nicholas finally arrived on Wednesday and we are glad to say that as the newest members of our community, they have already settled in to their new Form Classes and have made an excellent start to their first year at St Nicholas.

I would like to highlight a number of events for Year 7 students, parents and carers over the coming weeks. The Year 7 Family Quiz will take place on Thursday 27th September and is organised by our superb PTFA here at St Nicholas - it would be wonderful to see as many families as possible coming along to test their knowledge across the different subject rounds.

Our Year 7 Welcome Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 11th of October at 6pm with a warm welcome extended to all family members as the perfect way to begin our school year together as a Catholic community. Our Year 7 Information Evening will take place a few days later on Thursday 18th October with the opportunity for you to meet your child's Form Tutor and also be given further information regarding our Year 7 residential trip. I very much hope you can join us at these events and further details will follow in due course.

We celebrate a summer of significant success and offer congratulations to our Year 11 and 13 students who secured a fantastic set of examination results this summer. The dedication of staff, parents and of course the students themselves has enabled them to progress smoothly on to further and higher education, employment and training. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few of the 'Headline' figures:

- 82% of grades were awarded at grades 9-4 across all subjects compared with 66.9% nationally.
- One in four of all grades awarded at St Nicholas were given at the highest level (9-7) compared to 20.5% nationally
- 88% of students achieved a grade 9-4 in English. 84% of students gained a grade 9-4 in English Literature, compared to the national figure of 73.5%. 81% of students gained a grade 9-4 in English Language, 19% above the national figure of 61.8% - with 26% of students gaining the top 9-7 grades which is 12% above the national figure of 14%.
- 84% of grades in Maths were awarded at grades 9-4, 25% above the national figure of 59.4%

Our A-Level students once again enjoyed many outstanding individual successes alongside another successful year here at St Nicholas. Overall, 44% of all grades awarded at St Nicholas were at the A*





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to B grades with a significant proportion at A and A* - 13% of all our students achieved straight 'A's and A*' grades across all of their subjects. These excellent results are testament to the hard work and dedication of students and staff throughout the last two years and the previous five years of preparation for these crucial examinations. As a fully inclusive Catholic Sixth Form we are very proud of the achievements of our students.

As well as academic success, the summer also saw students from St Nicholas participate in the Shrewsbury Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes offering their services as Brancardiers and Handmaids to the sick pilgrims of our Diocese. Our Sixth Form students took part in the Expedition to Borneo, our Duke of Edinburgh students participated in their Silver Assessment Expedition and our St Nicholas Summer School supported a number of students in their transition from Year 6 to Year 7.

I am delighted to report a number of exciting improvements that have taken place over the summer holidays here at school. Through consultation with our students, improvements have continued to be made to our Sixth Form study areas, the Year 11 'Crypt' area has been renewed and the Dining Room has also been redecorated with new seating planned for next year. Phase 2 of our ICT strategy has begun with improved broadband width, wi-fi provision and laptop availability for students. The school has also been allocated £80,000 by the Diocese for the sole purpose of refurbishing the Crypt toilets. We hoped that this would have been completed over the summer, but will now take place late in the Advent Term.

Following discussion and consultation with the School Council last academic year, we have begun the term with a renewed focus on the high standards and positive attitudes that are expected from all students here at school by launching the '**4 Rs**': **R**espect for yourself, **R**espect for others, **R**espect for the School and **R**eady to learn. This affirming and positive approach to life here at St Nicholas underlines the continued responsibility that all members of our community have in supporting the spiritual, moral and academic development of themselves and fellow members of the St Nicholas community. Further details can be found within your child's School Diary and our School Behaviour Policy.

Our new school website will be going 'live' next Friday 14th September and I hope you find it to be a great improvement and a helpful tool for ongoing communication and information. We would welcome any comments or further suggestions for improvement via the following email address website@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

As always, attendance at school is clearly one of the most important factors in ensuring that students excel academically, socially and spiritually. I would once again like to remind you of our





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policy surrounding term time absences, and ask that medical & dental appointments are taken outside of school hours where possible.

As we continue our school improvement journey together, I am very interested to hear the views of students, parents and carers on all aspects of school life here at St Nicholas and I am planning to hold another 'Meet the Headteacher' discussion on Thursday 4th October at 6pm. This will be an opportunity for me to share with you our school improvement journey to date, alongside future plans and a 'Q and A' session. If you wish to attend please email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk to facilitate housekeeping arrangements.

The partnership between school and home is so important and building upon the success of our Parent Focus Groups last year, our first discussion this year will focus on 'Reports' and will take place on Wednesday 24th October at 6pm. Please 'save the date' and I will write to you with more details at a later date.

We look forward to another successful year ahead, and I thank you as always for the support you offer to the St Nicholas community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

