



9 September 2022

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers

Firstly, I 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 Monday and we are glad to say that as the newest members of our community, they have already settled into 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 – further information will be sent to you with details of each event individually.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

Our wonderful welcome Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 5th 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.

Year 7 Information Evening

This will take place on Wednesday 19th October at 6pm with the opportunity for you to meet your child's Form Tutor and also be given further information regarding our Year 7 residential trip.

Key Stage 3 Information Evening

There is also a Key Stage 3 Information Evening on Wednesday 12th October which will outline some key information for the year ahead including details of the school's Assessment Policy for Key Stage 3.

I very much hope you can join us at these events and further details will follow in due course.

Following the unprecedented events of the last two years, St Nicholas celebrated a summer of significant success with some of the best academic results ever achieved at the school. 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. At GCSE, whilst the national trend saw results suppressed from teacher assessed grades over the last two years, here at St Nicholas, student performance improved even further. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few of the 'Headline' figures:



- 31% of all grades awarded at St Nicholas were given at the highest level (9-7) compared to 26% nationally
- 83% of grades were awarded at 9-4 across all subjects compared with 73% nationally
- 67% of grades were awarded at 9-5 across all subjects compared with 58% nationally
- 92% of students achieved a grade 9-4 in English compared with the national figures of 69% for English Language and 77.5% for English Literature
- 84% of grades in Maths were awarded at grades 9-4, almost 20% above the national figure of 64.9%

Our A Level students once again enjoyed many outstanding individual successes with 37% of all grades awarded at St Nicholas at the A* to B grades and a significant proportion at A and A*. This resulted in 97% of our Year 13 students pursuing a place at university securing their place, with 89% of them acquiring their first choice. 31% of our students were successful in being offered a place by one of the 'Russell Group' of Universities, which once again demonstrates how St Nicholas continues to support its students' next steps into education at the most competitive courses at the most competitive universities.

We are delighted to report a number of improvements that have taken place over the summer holidays and are continuing this coming term. 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, our new Prayer Garden is now available for use and the far area of the school yard has been re-landscaped with additional seating being installed next week. The school has also been allocated funding by the Diocese for the sole purpose of providing a brand new Library and Learning Resource Centre. We had hoped this would have been completed over the summer, but due to unforeseen delays, works will commence next week and the new 'LRC' will be open for the October Half Term.

As always, positive attendance at school is clearly one of the most important factors in ensuring that pupils excel academically, socially and spiritually. I would once again like to remind you of our policy surrounding term time absences and ask that medical & dental appointments are taken outside of school hours where possible.

The partnership between school and home is so important, and building upon the success of our Parent Focus Groups over the years, our first discussion this year will focus on 'School Uniform' and will take place on Wednesday 16th November at 6pm. We would welcome your views on any aspect of our school Uniform Policy, so please 'save the date' and I will write to you with more details at a later date.



We would also welcome your views on the format of Parent and Carer consultation evenings for the year ahead. For the past two years we have conducted these important conversations virtually via our Parents' Evening App, and we would welcome your feedback on the benefits and draw backs of the virtual and face to face experiences. Please take a moment to complete a short survey via the link [here](#) before Friday 16th September - we will then inform you of the format for these events before the end of September.

Finally, if there are any questions or concerns as we begin another new term together, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate member of staff at school. 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

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