



9 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As another Advent Term begins, there is once again much to celebrate and much to look forward to in the year ahead.

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 at one of the 'Russell Group' of universities, which once again demonstrates how St Nicholas' continues to support our students' next steps in education at the most competitive courses at the most competitive universities.

We are delighted to report several 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.

We of course welcome our Year 7 students to the St Nicholas family. After many weeks of waiting, their first day at St Nicholas finally arrived earlier this week and I am glad to say that the newest members of our community have already settled into their new Form Classes and have made an excellent start to their first year at the school.

Once again, we will be holding our annual Information Evenings for parents, carers and students this half term. The Year 10 Information Evening will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September and the Year 8 & 9 Information Evening will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Both events begin at 6pm in the school hall and will provide details of the academic and pastoral curriculum provision for the year ahead. There will be information provided by key members of staff on how home and school can continue to work together and support your child this year to give of their best, achieve their best and become their best. Further details will be sent to you soon by your child's Year Leader.

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> September - we will then inform you of the format for these events before the end of September.



# ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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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

