

YOUR FUTURE FIRST



A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR PREFECTS

When faced with the important decision as where to study A Levels, we both considered the options and knew without doubt that staying at St Nicholas was the right choice.
There were a number of reasons why.

Firstly, we had both developed strong relationships with the teaching staff and know that they care about every student's best interests. Student welfare is important and there is always someone to talk to, such as your Form Tutor or a member of the Learning Mentor Team.

There are many benefits of being part of a smaller Sixth Form – smaller class sizes allow for faster development in lessons, and it allows the building of relationships with othe students and teachers, providing a friendlier more caring atmosphere.

It is clear that the staff at St Nicholas value more than just academic success. There is a constant network of support from Learning Mentors, Form Tutors and Subject Teachers who are all available to answer questions or give advice. This support continues beyond academics – there is always guidance if there are any non-academic concerns, and encouragement when looking at our next steps after A Levels. The Sixth Form allows students to be fully prepared for the next chapter of their lives, whatever that may be

The school offers a wide range of subjects and co-curricular opportunities including sports, music, drama, the Duke of Edinburgh award and of course, a week of work experience. These are all activities valued by universities. We have both taken an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in an area not covered by our A Levels and the Enrichment programme once a week has been a great time to start the EPQ

Finally, the common room space is a great area to develop friendships, to work in small groups and to use the quiet study space for independent learning, or the laptop room. St Nicholas Sixth Form is an extremely supportive environment which allows students to be fully prepared for the next chapter of their lives, whatever that may be.

Livvy Black and Poppy Johnson -Head Prefects 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. We aim to put the future of our students first in everything we do.

At St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form 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, placing them best 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.

Tom Bradley
Director of Sixth Form

WHY CHOOSE OUR SIXTH FORM?

ACCESS TO A LEVEL

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 standard 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.



"I DECIDED TO COME BACK FOR SIXTH FORM BECAUSE IT'S LIKE A FAMILY AND EVERYONE IS SO WELCOMING. THE TEACHERS ARE ALL WILLING TO HELP YOU WHENEVER YOU NEED IT. I'M REALLY HAPPY I CHOSE TO STAY ON FOR SIXTH FORM." ANNA MULLAN YEAR 12



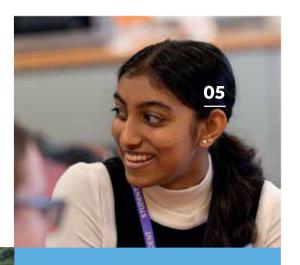
WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There are countless leadership opportunities within the school and our students enjoy engaging with the vounger 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.



GREAT FACILITIES

The Sixth Form Common Room is a fantastic communal area which is the vibrant hub of the Sixth Form community. WiFi enabled, hot drinks and food available there is always someone to talk to and a great space to meet up with



WEARE 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.



WEARE SUCCESSFUL

MORE THAN JUST EDUCATION

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 co-curricular activities. Our Wednesday Afternoon Enrichment programme provides all students with the opportunity [to enable them] to acquire and develop new skills and further qualifications which undoubtedly enhance any future applications.

"SMALLER CLASS SIZES CREATE THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT FOR SUPPORTED STUDY AND COLLABORATION."

LIV BLACK YEAR 13 - HEAD PREFECT

OUR STUDENTS ARE NOT JUST A NUMBER

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.

06

"HAVING SMALLER CLASS SIZES HELPS ME LEARN AT MY OWN PACE AND GAIN MORE IN DEPTH SUPPORT FROM MY TEACHERS WHEN I NEED IT."

BEN WORTHINGTON YEAR 13



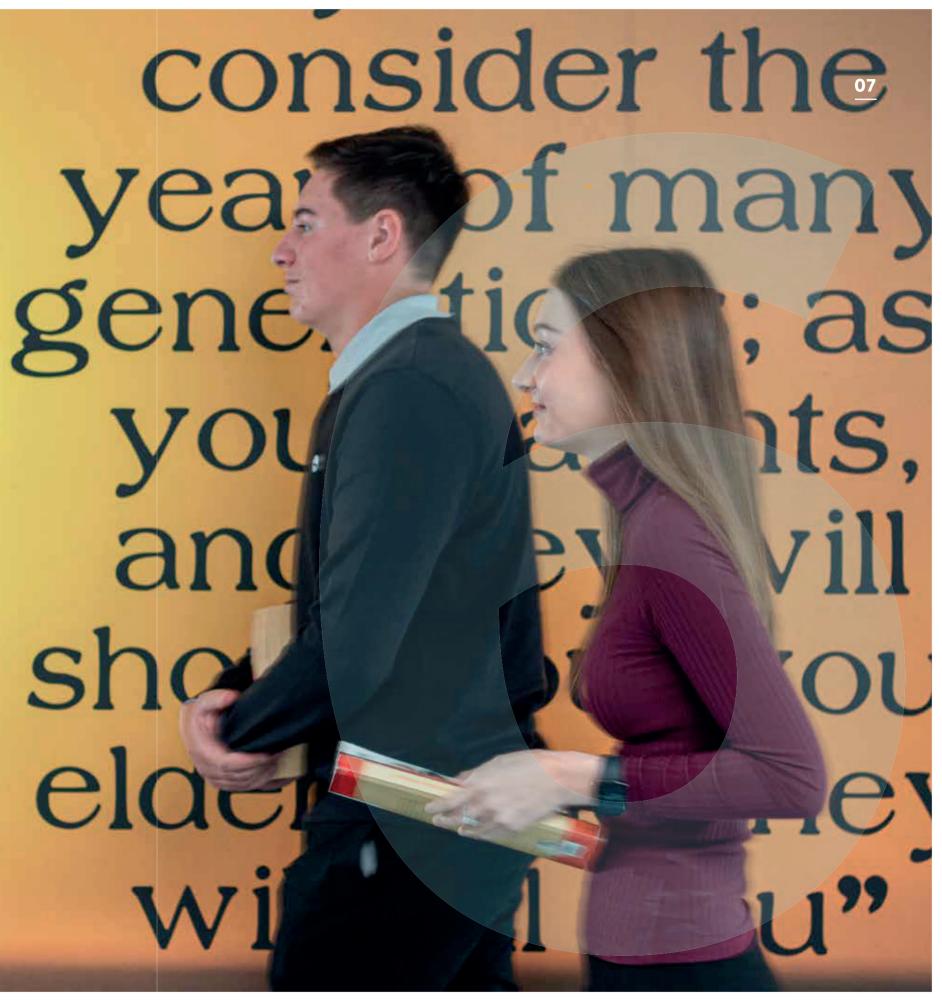


"STUDENTS MAKE A VERY GOOD CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND DEVELOP A WIDE RANGE OF EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS. THEY ADOPT LEADERSHIP ROLES, BECOME SENIOR PREFECTS, LEAD AND SUPPORT ASSEMBLIES AND CHARITY WORK, SUPPORT AND MENTOR YOUNGER PUPILS WITH THEIR LEARNING, TAKE PART IN OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS AND PARTICIPATE IN A VALUABLE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME."

OFSTED

"I CHOSE ST NICHOLAS SIXTH FORM FOR THE SUPPORT I WILL RECEIVE FROM THE TEACHERS."

HOLLY MIDDLETON YEAR 13



FAITH LIFE

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Shrewsbury takes a pilgrimage group to Lourdes at the end of the summer term each year. It comprises parishes and schools and individual pilgrims. Usually around 750 pilgrims travel from Shrewsbury each year though it can be over 1000.

Students from Year 11 and Sixth Form at St Nicholas form part of the volunteer youth groups who take care of the social and spiritual needs of pilgrims who need medical or physical attention and support. Students work with other young people from across the diocese, working in teams throughout the day and night. During their shift, they may help to push wheelchairs or pull the local voitures, they may help with souvenir shopping or have a chat in a local café, or they may work in the hospital supporting the pilgrims in their care. Both in their work and social time, students mix with other young people to share and reflect on their experiences. The gospel message that we are to be of service to others is realised in very practical and moving ways through the work that they do. The students experience a very full and fulfilling week and often return as helpers after university and beyond.



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 Catholic 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.

Prayer 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.

All of our students are expected to complete an hour of Community
Enrichment a week. This is a very valuable and personal experience for our students and often benefits the rest of the school community, as well as providing an opportunity for our students to acquire and develop a number of desirable skills.

AQA French

DRIVING YOUR OWN DESTINATION

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 co-curricular activity and the development of leadership skills are positively 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

We believe that here at St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form we offer a unique, personal learning environment that will ensure our students are fully prepared for the next steps in their life's journey, safe in the knowledge that they are part of a community where 'EVERYONE MATTERS'.

ENRICHMENT ELECTIVES:

Every student will have approximately 2 hours of Enrichment every week. This is broken down into one hour of 'Personal Enrichment' and one hour of 'Community Enrichment'.

Personal Enrichment:

All Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to access an Enrichment Programme that suits their own individual needs and aspirations. Students will choose

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

an onsite elective, ensuring that they are fully prepared for life after Sixth Form wherever that may be.

Community Enrichment:

Community Enrichment is all about acquiring and developing skills whilst at the same time giving something back to the St Nicholas community. This will be in the form of an hour either; volunteering in lessons, student mentoring, subject mentoring, classroom assistant work, paired reading, helping departments with various tasks and activities and even the opportunity to teach elements of their specialism.

The interpersonal skills and qualities our Sixth Form students can gain from this are immeasurable, as is the positive impact they will be having on younger students lower down the school by being positive role models.

Personal Enrichment Electives:

1. Physical Activity – Joining the Physical Education department for an hour of physical activity in a sport of your choice. Also representing school in both friendly and competitive fixtures in a range of different activities.

2. Mindfulness and Mental Health First Aid

- A unique opportunity to work with one of our Learning Mentors on this supportive course which offers strategies and help with exam anxiety, stresses of A-Level life and how to cope with the challenges of being a teenager.

3. EPQ (2.5 term elective) – With the help of our experienced EPQ co-ordinator you can take control of your own university style piece of work. This also carries UCAS points and is highly valued by both university admissions tutors and employers.

- **4. MOOCS** As part of our Unifrog guidance and support you can complete a number of online courses that will expand your knowledge and expertise in any chosen area.
- **5. Debating Society** An opportunity to discuss ideas about relevant topics with an open and balanced agenda. Developing linguistic skills as well as listening skills are essential lifelong skills.



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.



PASTORAL CARE

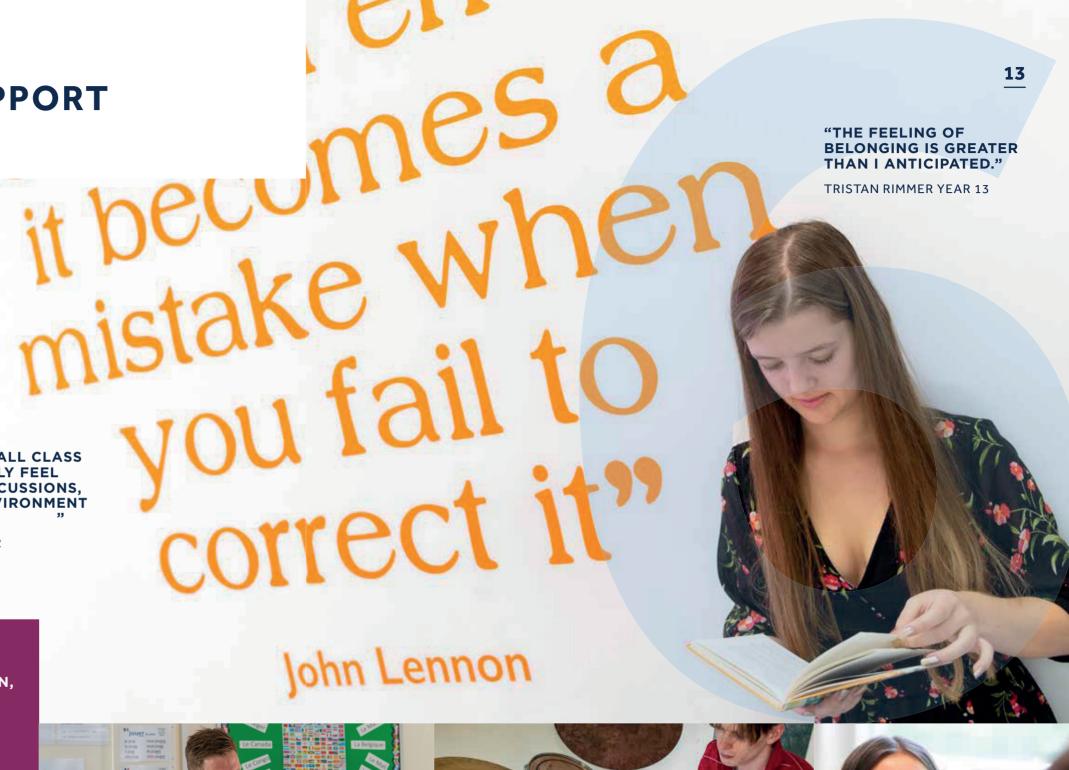
"I ENJOY THE SMALL CLASS SIZES, YOU REALLY FEEL

INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS, IT'S A GREAT ENVIRONMENT TO BE IN."

EMILY WHITE YEAR 12

"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."

OFSTED





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) **ECONOMICS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENGLISH LITERATURE** FRENCH **GEOGRAPHY HISTORY** LAW MATHEMATICS (WITH AN **OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY FURTHER MATHEMATICS)** MUSIC PHYSICAL EDUCATION PHYSICS **PSYCHOLOGY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

SPANISH

HELPING YOU THROUGH THAT TRANSITION FROM GCSE TO A **LEVEL STUDENT**

As Senior Tutors, I work alongside the Head of Sixth Form to offer pastoral and academic However, what is most enjoyable is seeing support to all Sixth Form students. I am dedicated to helping students achieve their personal and career aspirations, and the enrichment workshops that we deliver help students grow as independent learners. During the significant time I have been at the school, it has been a privilege to help students transition from GSCE to A Level study and to gain the skills and confidence to Sixth Form Senior Tutor Karen Crowe take the next step on their academic journey.

I recognise that the step up from GCSE to A Level is significant and we support our students every step of the way; through the Pastoral Curriculum with their Form Tutor, in class support via their Teachers and pastoral support through the Sixth Form Leadership

A large number of our students go on to study at Russell Group universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Manchester, and many get accepted on to competitive Degree Level 4 apprenticeships. students develop into well-rounded adults during their Sixth Form experience. The unique community spirit of St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form creates a happy and enjoyable environment for all students, and we look forward to welcoming you in

ST NICHOLAS SIXTH FORM **ENTRANCE CRITERIA**

Students will need to achieve the equivalent of seven standard 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, we offer the opportunity to resit during Year 12 through timetabled lessons.* Further details on our admissions policy can be found in the whole school prospectus.*

St Nicholas Catholic 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.

PATHWAYS & OPTIONS

UNIVERSITY

- Year 13 Form Tutors oversee a student's application to UCAS, Along with the Senior Tutor and Director of Sixth Form.
- A reference in support of each application is approved by the Sixth Form Team.
- For our students who are looking to apply for the most competitive courses (Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science) or who are applying to Oxbridge, we offer our Gateway Programme; a bespoke programme of support, to help guide and challenge them every step of the way.

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.
- 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 Catholic Sixth Form prepares students for this route by:

- Making contacts with employers to discuss apprenticeships.
- Forming relationships with businesses 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

"TEACHERS **HAVE STRONG SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE.**"

OFSTED







Upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu, we were tasked with planning our own transport between locations and given control of group spending. After a couple of days of orientation, we moved to the second phase of the expedition – where the adventure Malaysian jungle, with unforgettable views of we had several opportunities to swim in Mount Kinabalu, and the unforgiving terrain that came with it, the team spent three days one of the groups favourite activities. trekking between camps and practising traditional jungle skills such as blow dart practice and building shelter. Whilst the treks were indeed challenging, the scenery, interaction with our local guides and general sense of achievement ultimately proved

The trek continued through into the more inhabited parts of the mountains, where we were able to stay and interact with a different stayed with, be it through eating together

community each night. Some of us played football with the children, or taught them how to make friendship bracelets. On one occasion, we invited ourselves to a local wedding party, where we were made very welcome and our karaoke 'skills' were much appreciated. Over the course of both treks some stunning rivers. This quickly became

Then, we were transported to the remote Sayap village, where we stayed in the homes of two families. This was our project phase which lasted five days. Our time here was spent brick-laying, plastering, and constructing what will eventually be a village community centre. Free time in the afternoon was spent playing sports with locals, or bonding with the families we

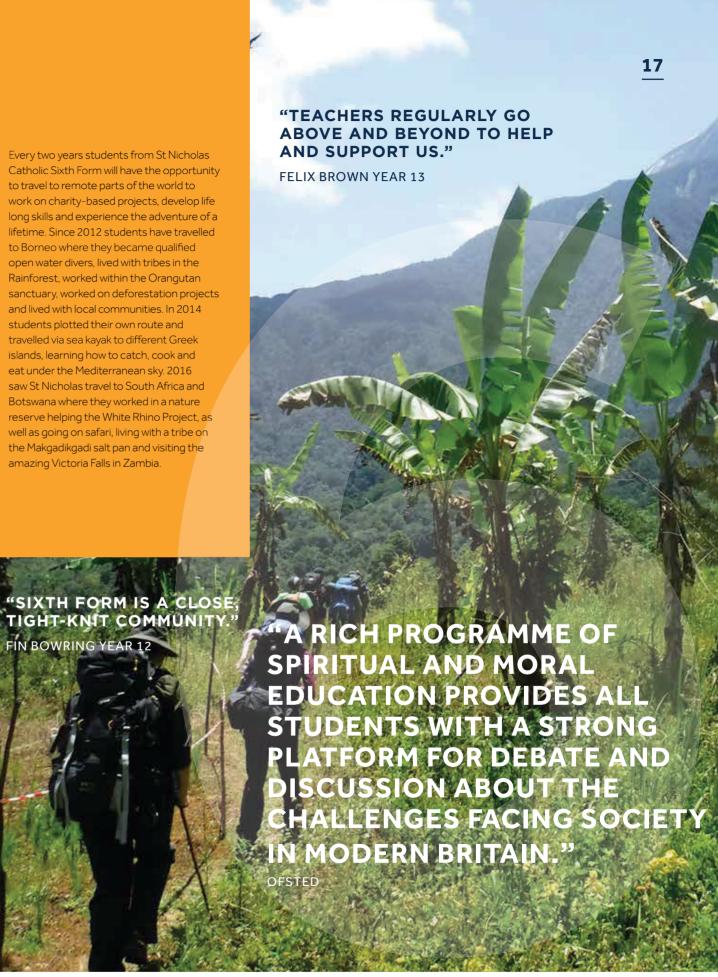
or even singing karaoke (which was now a somewhat recurring theme of the trip). We were also able to work with children at the village school, teaching about life in England, painting classroom walls and more. Leaving this phase was particularly difficult for some as we had made genuine bonds with the members of the community; children and adults alike.

Finally, the group travelled back to Kota Kinabalu, where we spent our final days snorkelling on a paradise island just a short boat journey away, and of course a final, farewell karaoke session on our last night.

Overall, it was an incredibly challenging experience, but the pay-offs were immense.

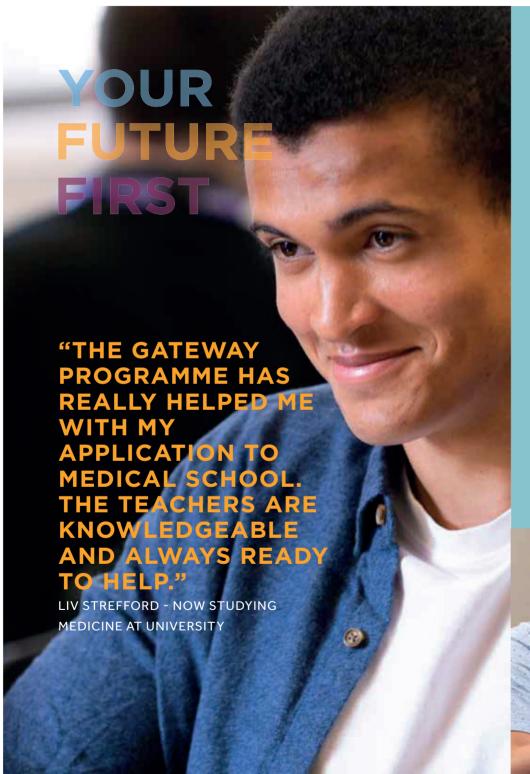
By Mia Hendley

Every two years students from St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form will have the opportunity to travel to remote parts of the world to work on charity-based projects, develop life long skills and experience the adventure of a lifetime. Since 2012 students have travelled to Borneo where they became qualified open water divers, lived with tribes in the Rainforest, worked within the Orangutan sanctuary, worked on deforestation projects and lived with local communities. In 2014 students plotted their own route and travelled via sea kayak to different Greek islands, learning how to catch, cook and eat under the Mediterranean sky. 2016 saw St Nicholas travel to South Africa and Botswana where they worked in a nature reserve helping the White Rhino Project, as well as going on safari, living with a tribe on the Makgadikgadi salt pan and visiting the amazing Victoria Falls in Zambia.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DESTINATIONS



OPPORTUNITIES

SENIOR PREFECTS

There is an expectation that students apply for the role of senior 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 staff vote for two Head Prefects who are invaluable to the school

BURSARY FUND FOR 16-19 YEAR OLDS

The BURSARY FUND is a government funded scheme which provides financial support to help students aged 16-19 to overcome specific financial barriers to participation that they may face so they can remain in education.

Applications are made through the school in September. There are two types of bursaries available: vulnerable and discretionary, each is allocated based on students meeting the eligibility criteria and an individual assessment of financial need. Please refer to the 16-19 bursary statement on the school website, sixth form section for further details.





St Nicholas continues to see an increasing amount of students being highly successful in securing places at the most competitive universities, and for the most competitive courses. A high proportion of our students go on to University with success rates regularly far exceeding the national average of successful applications to Russell Group Universities. All of our students are supported on their chosen pathway whether it's University, Apprenticeship or Career.

The personal support all of our students receive from day one in St Nicholas Catholic Sixth Form without doubt makes an enormous impact on their futures.

"WHERE NECESSARY, TIMELY AND BESPOKE SUPPORT IS OFFERED TO STUDENTS WHO ARE IN NEED OF EXTRA SUPPORT."

OFSTED

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 there are 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.





Greenbank Lane, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1JW T: 01606 706000 E: admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk