



# ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM



**SIXTH FORM 2020 ENTRY  
COURSE INFORMATION**



## **ART & DESIGN**

### **A- Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Art Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1 - AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE**

Students are introduced to research skills and how to independently develop ideas to form the foundation of later work. Work will be developed in response to a theme, issue, interest or concern.

##### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 1 - PERSONAL INVESTIGATION.**

This is a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material of between 1000 and 3000 words. The focus of the investigation is identified independently by the student and will lead to a finished outcome. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers or craftspeople - 60%

##### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 2 - EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT**

Students will select a starting point from a choice of eight questions set by the exam board. They will then complete a preparation period of work which may include mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, journals, models and maquettes. Following the preparatory period, students will complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time, in which they will produce a finished outcome. Students complete the unit of work plus a 15 hour exam - 40%

For further information, contact Mrs V McEvoy

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

One to one support provided every lesson in a nurturing learning environment. Our Sixth form are invited to work during their free periods in their own work space within the art room. Our students work is prominently displayed around the Art department showcasing their skills. Art students have the opportunity to get involved in running clubs, mentoring younger students and assisting with our open evenings; therefore developing their communication and leadership skills.



## **BIOLOGY**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Biology Grade 5 or GCSE Dual Science both Grade 5 with a Grade 4 GCSE Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 12**

Biological molecules, cells, organisms exchange substances with their environment and genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms.

##### **YEAR 13**

Energy transfers in and between organisms, Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments, genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression.

**Paper 1** - Year 12 content (2 hours)

**Paper 2** - Year 13 content (2 hours)

**Paper 3** - Content from both years, including a synoptic essay (2 hours)

The practical content is examined on all papers & **10%** of the marks require mathematical skills.

For further information, contact Mrs C Thomas

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

A UK based ecology field trip at the end of Year 12. There are also opportunities to help run dissection clubs for lower years and to compete in the Biology Olympiad.



## **BUSINESS STUDIES**

### **A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Grade 4 or above in a Business related subject.  
If not studied previously, GCSE English Language or Literature at Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

- Understanding of the nature and purpose of business
- Understanding of different business forms
- Managers, leadership and decision making
- Understanding of the role and importance of stakeholders
- Marketing and analysing marketing performance
- Operations and analysing operational performance
- Finance and analysing financial performance
- Motivation
- Analysing the strategic position of a business
- Choosing strategic direction
- Strategic methods: how to pursue strategies
- Managing strategic change

There are three external examination papers, all equally weighted at 33% each. The examination consist of multiple choice, short answer, data response questions based on stimuli and longer answer essay questions.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students have the opportunity to take part in the following:

- Young Enterprise.
- Student Investor Challenge – you get to buy and sell shares on the stock exchange.
- Educational visits - Jaguar LandRover.
- Guest lectures from industry speakes.



## **CHEMISTRY**

### **A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Chemistry Grade 5 or GCSE Dual Science both Grade 5 with a Grade 4 GCSE Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

**Organic Chemistry** - Introduction to organic chemistry, alkanes, halogenoalkanes, alcohols and organic analysis

**Physical Chemistry** - Atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, energetics, kinetics, chemical equilibria & le Chatelier's principle and oxidation, reduction and redox

**Inorganic Chemistry** - Periodicity, Group 2- the alkaline earth metals and Group 7 (17), the halogens

##### **YEAR 2**

**Organic Chemistry** - Optical isomerism, aldehydes and ketones, carboxylic acids and esters, aromatic chemistry, amines, polymers, amino acids, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and chromatography.

**Physical Chemistry** - Thermodynamics, rate equations, equilibrium constant  $K_c$ , electrode potentials & electrochemical cells and acids & bases

**Inorganic Chemistry** - Properties of period 3 elements and their oxides, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solutions.

There will be three, two hour examinations covering the content and practical skills learned during the course.

For further information, contact Mr T Brown

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- We have planned visits to university chemistry departments and to a chemical industry/ research facility.
- Participate in the Chemistry Olympiad.
- Take part in the after school weekly revision lessons.



## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

### **A-Level - OCR**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Computing / Computer Science at GCSE Grade 4 or above. If not studied previously, GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

**Computing principles** - This serves as an introduction to computer science covering a variety of topics allowing students to understand the basics of how computers work.

**Algorithms and problem solving component** - This relates principally to problem solving skills and will cover elements of computational thinking Problem solving and programming and Algorithms.

##### **YEAR 2**

**Computer systems** - This builds on the topics studied in computing principles in Year 1, allowing the students to gain a deeper understanding of the topics. (Years 1 and 2 – external examination).

**Algorithms and programming** - This builds on algorithms and problem solving studied in year 1. Students will further develop their problem solving skills learning to think algorithmically. (Years 1 and 2 – external examination).

**Programming project** - Students undertake a programming project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have gained. Students are able to set their own brief for the project. (Internally marked and externally moderated project).

For further information, contact Mr I Hanson

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students will have the opportunity to visit an organisation that uses Computer Science as part of their daily operations. This allows the students to see where the qualification could take them. In the past we have visited the BBC at Media City.



## **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (PRODUCT DESIGN) A-Level AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Product Design Grade 4.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

Product Design encompasses the science behind materials, maths behind basic engineering as well as core practical skills. Within this course you will learn about the social, ethical and moral decisions designers and engineers face as well as investigating materials and their properties. There is a substantial design and make project within year 13 and students will refine their practical skills throughout year 12.

### **STUDENTS WILL BE EXAMINED BY:**

**Exam (1):** Based upon technical principals. It is a 2.5 hour exam and is worth 30% of the A-Level

**Exam (2):** Based upon design and make principals. It is a 1.5 hour exam and is worth 20% of the A-Level

**Non-Exam assessment:** Substantial design and make project. It is worth 50% of the A-Level.

For further information, contact Miss S Cowell

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students are given one-to-one help during lunch time and after school sessions as well as access to extensive workshop and IT facilities.



## **DRAMA AND THEATRE A-Level – AQA**

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS: GCSE Drama Grade 4 or above.**

GCSE Drama at Grade 4 or above. If not studied Drama previously students should achieve either a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

#### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

##### **YEAR 1**

- Method Acting
- Scripted Performance
- Theatre Practitioners
- Greek Theatre
- 'Antigone' Set Text
- Live Theatre Analysis
- Performance Evening

##### **YEAR 2**

- Devised Theatre
- Theatre of Cruelty
- Theatre Practitioners
- Physical Theatre
- 'Metamorphosis' Set Text
- Practical Examination
- Written Examination

**Component 1: Drama and Theatre** - Three hour open book written exam provides 40% of A-level. Students will assess two sets plays, analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers and use their knowledge and understanding gained.

**Component 2: Creating Original Drama** - Working notebook (40 marks) and devised performance (20 marks) provide 30% of A-level. This component is marked by teachers and moderated. Students create and perform a devised drama which must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one prescribed practitioner (students may contribute as performer, designer or director).

**Component 3: Making Theatre** - Performance of a scripted extract (40 marks) and a reflective report (20 marks) provides 30% of A-level. This component is marked by AQA. Students practically explore and interpret three extracts (Extract 1, 2 and 3) each taken from a different play. Extract 3 will be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer, designer or director). Students produce a reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts

For further information, contact Mrs J Milborne

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Teachers have close links with Professional Actors in the industry and are lucky enough to have taught some current West End Performers, who have visited the school to offer workshops. Each year we work with Splendid Theatre Company at The Grange Theatre and regularly have visiting artists working with the students in their lessons. There is also a Sixth Form Performance Evening and an annual school production. Drama extends out of the classroom on many occasions throughout the year. We visit the theatre at least once every term. And we have an annual theatre trip to London.





## **ECONOMICS A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Grade 4 or above in a Business related subject. If not previously studied, GCSE Maths Grade 4 or above.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

- What is economics and the economic problem?
- Price determination in a competitive market
- Production, costs and revenue
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- The market mechanism, market failure and government intervention in markets
- Economic performance
- Macroeconomic policy
- The distribution of income and wealth: poverty and inequality
- The national and international economy

There are three externally assessed exams each worth 33% of the overall grade. Across all of the exam papers there are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, data response and essay questions. There are also extended writing questions based on an unseen case study.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

**Students have the opportunity to take part in the following:**

- Young Enterprise
- Student Investor Challenge – you get to buy and sell shares on the stock exchange
- Educational visits - Jaguar LandRover.
- Guest lectures from industry speakers and the Bank of England



## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

#### **IN YEAR 1, STUDENTS WILL LEARN:**

- How meaning and representation are conveyed through language in a variety of texts
- How language theories and frameworks can be applied to different texts
- How language changes in different contexts, including spoken and written contexts, and across different social groups
- How to write in a journalistic style; how to write in a formal, academic style
- How to conduct a language investigation

#### **IN YEAR 2, STUDENTS WILL LEARN:**

- How meaning and representation are conveyed through language in a variety of texts
- How language changes over time
- How babies and children acquire both spoken and written language
- How language changes across the globe
- How to write in a journalistic style; how to write in a formal, academic style

The course is assessed by terminal examination (80% of the marks; two 2 ½ hour examinations in year 13) In Year 2 students will also collect data on a language-related subject, chosen independently, and create their own language investigation as well as produce a piece of original writing, which together make up the Non-Examined Assessment, worth 20% of the A Level.

For further information, contact Mr D Huws

**IN OMNIBUS LABORA**

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

We arrange trips outside school, for example, to Manchester, to attend Sixth Form Study Days. The English Department offers theatre trips, as well as the opportunity to hear visiting speakers and take part in speaking competitions like the Rotary's Club's "Youth Speaks". Students studying A Levels in the English Department are also invited to mentor younger students and help them to develop their reading and writing skills.



## **ENGLISH LITERATURE A-Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Literature Grade 4 or above.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

**IN YEAR 1, THE SPECIFICATION TAKES THE THEME OF “LOVE THROUGH THE AGES”;  
STUDENTS WILL STUDY:**

- A play by Shakespeare – we are currently studying “Othello”
- Poetry on Love through the Ages (pre-1900)
- The modern novel – currently “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- A range of extracts from novels, learning how to apply an analytic framework to them

**IN YEAR 2, STUDENTS WILL STUDY A RANGE OF TEXTS WITH SHARED CONTEXTS:**

- Modern drama – our current choice is “My Boy Jack”, from the context of World War I and its aftermath
- The poetry of Wilfred Owen
- “Regeneration” by Pat Barker
- A range of prose extracts, both literary non-fiction and fiction, which considers the context of WWI

The course is assessed by terminal examination (80% of the marks; one 3 hour exam and one 2 ½ hour exam in year 13). In Year 2, students also write their Non-Examined Assessment, an extended essay comparing two texts from a point of view in which the students themselves are particularly interested worth the final 20%.

For further information, contact Mr D Huws

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

We also arrange trips, for example, to Manchester, to attend Sixth Form Study Days. The English Department offers theatre trips, as well as the opportunity to hear visiting speakers and take part in speaking competitions like the Rotary's Club's "Youth Speaks". Students studying A Levels in the English Department are also invited to mentor younger students and help them to develop their reading and writing skills.



## **FRENCH A-Level – AQA**

Languages are all around us, we live in a multilingual global society. Choosing an A Level language is a really good decision if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career options and a lot of fun along the way. Language courses are interesting and varied subjects which give you a broad range of knowledge and transferable skills. Furthermore, a Modern Foreign Language can be studied with a wide range of other subjects at university such as Engineering, Law and even Medicine.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS: GCSE 5 or above in GCSE French.**

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Course content: The following themes will be covered:

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends: The changing nature of family, Cyber society, The place of voluntary work.
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues: Positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised, How criminals are treated.
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: A culture proud of its heritage, Contemporary rancophone music, Cinema: the 7th art form.
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?, Politics and immigration.

### **SPEAKING ASSESSMENT (30%) 16-18 MINUTES.**

**Task 1** is a presentation of an independent research project (2 minutes) followed by a discussion (9-10 minutes).

**Task 2** is a discussion based on a stimulus card (5 minutes preparation followed by 5-6 minutes discussion).

### **LISTENING, READING AND TRANSLATION – (50%) 2HRS 30 MINUTES**

#### **CRITICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING (20%)**

Two hour examination comprising of two essay questions, one based on the novel *No et Moi* and one based on the film *La Haine*.

For further information, contact Mr G Gerrard or Mrs J Petts

### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- There are opportunities to do work experience in France and we offer a study tour to Paris.
- Links with Manchester University are in place and enrichment days are offered



# **GEOGRAPHY**

## **A-Level - Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Geography Grade 4 or above, If not studied previously a Grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

#### **YEAR 1**

- Tectonics Processes and Hazards
- Coastal landscapes and change
- Globalisation
- Regenerating Places

#### **YEAR 2**

- Water Cycle and Water Insecurity
- Carbon Cycle and Energy Security
- Superpowers
- Migration, Identity & Sovereignty.

Unit 1 Dynamic Landscapes

2 hour exam

30%

Unit 2 Dynamic Places

2 hour exam

30%

Unit 3 Synoptic Investigation

1hr 45mins exam

20%

Unit 4 Coursework (Year 2)

3-4000 word report

20%

For further information, contact Mr P Bittles

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

**Fieldtrips** - there is a minimum of 4 days of fieldwork in the UK where we often use the facilities and experience of the Field Studies Council. The possibility of a four day visit to Barcelona.

**Models** – students create 3D models to aid understanding of glacial landscapes.

**Displays** – our students update the sixth form Geography display board, showcasing their own work and presentations.

**Technology** – recently we have used Google Cardboard to carry out virtual fieldtrips in lessons; an example of innovative new technology.



## **HISTORY**

### **A- Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE History Grade 4 or above. If not previously studied, GCSE English Literature Grade 4 .

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

**Component 1** - Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603 – 1649.

Absolutism challenged 1603-1649

**Component 2** - Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1917 – 1929

The Russian Revolution and the Rise of Stalin 1917 – 1929

**Component 3** - Start Historical investigation on a topic of your choice on the French Revolution

##### **YEAR 2**

**Component 1** - Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1649 – 1702

Monarchy restored and restrained 1649-1702

**Component 2** - Revolution and Dictatorship: Russia, 1929 – 1953 Stalin's Rule 1929-1953

**Component 3** - Complete Historical investigation on a topic of your choice on the French revolution

**Component 1** = Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

**Component 2** = Written exam, 2 hours 30 minutes

**Component 3** = 3,000-3,500 word essay

For further information, contact Mr D Whipp

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

We have a specialist A Level room and a departmental library. We offer one to one Oxbridge preparation. We have our own History society, and provide guidance and advice about going on to study at University. We give you the choice of which historical enquiry to study. We have built the course to ensure that you are a rounded Historian, and not repeat what you done at GCSE helps make you more attractive to admissions tutors. We have built the course to ensure that you are a rounded historian, and do not just repeat what you have done at GCSE. This helps make you a more attractive to admissions tutors.



# LAW

## A-Level - AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE English Language or Literature at Grade 4 or above.

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

Law affects virtually all aspects of our lives and regulates much of our every day activity. During the course students will study criminal and civil law and develop their ability to analyse legal rules and principles and factual issues. Students will construct persuasive legal arguments to offer answers to problems and evaluate the strength of those arguments. Success in the subject will require students to take an interest in current legal affairs, to read widely and write in a clear and concise manner. A good memory is essential because there are a lot of cases to remember. A commitment to progress your study outside the classroom must also be assumed.

### COURSE OUTLINE

**English Legal System** - this includes a study of:

- The criminal courts and the role of magistrates and the jury in criminal trials.
- The way judges interpret Acts of Parliament, e.g. are prostitutes soliciting "in" the street if they are calling out of a window?
- Delegated legislation e.g. is a local authority allowed to try to stop people singing obscene songs in private?
- Legal personnel including barristers, solicitors, legal executives and judges.

**Criminal Law** - general elements of liability including:

- The offences of assault, battery and grievous bodily harm, together with sentences a defendant may receive.
- The offences of murder, manslaughter and defences which could be raised, e.g. self-defence, consent.
- The offences of theft and robbery.

**Civil Law** - knowledge and understanding of private law including:

- Liability in negligence for injury to people and damage to property.
- Topics such as nuisance, vicarious liability and medical negligence.
- The rules of the law of contract, including warranties and conditions and breach of contract.

### ASSESSMENT

No Coursework

Examination (100%) – There will be 3 papers at the end of the course which will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions and questions requiring students to construct persuasive legal arguments to answer a problem scenario.

For further information, contact Mrs M Smart

### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

Students take part in mock trials and have met with Magistrates. Students are fully supported in reading around the subject.



## **MATHEMATICS**

### **A Level Mathematics Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** A Level Mathematics Edexcel - Students will need a grade 6 or above at GCSE.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1/AS PURE MATHEMATICS**

**Topics include:** Proof, algebra and functions, coordinate geometry in the  $(x,y)$  plane, sequences and series, trigonometry, exponentials and logarithms, differentiation, integration, vectors

##### **YEAR 1/AS APPLICATIONS**

**Section A: Statistics** - Statistical sampling, data presentation and interpretation, probability, statistical distributions, statistical hypothesis testing

**Section B: Mechanics** - Quantities and units in mechanics, kinematics, forces and Newton's laws

##### **YEAR 2 PURE MATHEMATICS**

Extend the methods of year 1, with the addition of numerical methods, modulus functions, inverse and composite functions, parametric equations, arithmetic and geometric sequences, advanced trigonometry, advanced calculus, vectors in three-dimensions.

##### **YEAR 2 APPLICATIONS**

**Section A: Statistics** - Extension of year 1 methods, with the addition of conditional probability, normal distribution, non-linear regression and further hypothesis testing.

**Section B: Mechanics** - Extension of year 1 methods, with the addition of projectiles, friction and moments.

Three exams at the end of Year 13 each 2 hours long. Two papers will cover the pure maths content and the third paper will cover the applications.

For further information, contact Mr S Hesketh

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. These include UKMT Senior Challenge, UKMT Senior Team Challenge and University of Southampton Cipher Challenge. Lunchtime clubs are available for Problem Solving and there is a comprehensive program of support for students sitting MAT or Step exams for Oxford or Cambridge entrance.





## **FURTHER MATHEMATICS**

### **AS/A Level –Edexcel**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Edexcel Students will need a grade 8 or above at GCSE. They also need to take A Level Mathematics.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **YEAR 1/AS CORE PURE MATHEMATICS 1**

Proof by induction, complex numbers, matrices, series, further calculus, vectors and planes.

##### **YEAR 1/AS OPTIONAL MODULES**

There are a number of optional modules in A level further maths. At St Nicholas' we study the following.

**Decision 1** - Algorithms and graph theory, algorithms on graphs, critical path analysis, linear programming

##### **FURTHER PURE 1**

Vector products, conic sections, t-formulae, numerical methods for differential equations.

##### **YEAR 2 CORE PURE MATHEMATICS 2**

Further complex numbers, method of differences, further calculus, polar coordinates, hyperbolic functions, differential equations.

##### **YEAR 2 OPTIONS**

**Decision 1** - The planarity algorithm, the travelling salesman problem, the simplex algorithm, further critical path analysis.

**Further Pure 1** – Further conic sections, Taylor series, further methods in calculus and limits, numerical integration, reducible differential equations.

Four exams at the end of Year 13 each 90 minutes long. Two papers will cover the Core Pure maths content and there is one paper for each of the optional modules.

For further information, contact Mr S Hesketh

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Comprehensive program of support and preparation for students sitting University entrance exams, including Mathematics Aptitude Test (MAT - Oxford), Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA – Warwick + others) or Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP - Cambridge), as well as for other maths related courses such as the Physics Aptitude Test (PAT) and BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT). Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. These include UKMT Senior Challenge, UKMT Senior Team Challenge and University of Southampton Cipher Challenge



## **MEDIA STUDIES**

### **A Level – EDUCAS**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Media Studies at Grade 4 or above. If not previously studied, GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **IN YEAR 1, STUDENTS WILL LEARN:**

- How representations of various groups are created in different media, including magazines, film and TV
- How media institutions work and how their audiences' needs are filled by their products
- How narratives are conveyed in different products and genres
- How to research, plan, produce and evaluate a real-life media product

##### **IN YEAR 2, STUDENTS BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION AND STUDY THE FOLLOWING:**

- Theoretical evaluation of production, considering modern theories like feminism or Marxism
- Media industries and audiences across products as diverse as radio and video games
- Contemporary and historical, English and non-English media products
- How to research, plan, produce and evaluate a portfolio of linked media products, such as a short film in its entirety or a music video

The course is assessed by terminal examination (70% of the marks; two 2 ½ hour examinations in Year 13) and by coursework (30% of the marks).

For further information, contact Mr D Huws

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students are offered the opportunity to work independently and in groups; we also arrange trips outside school, for example, to Manchester, to attend Sixth Form Study Days. The English Department offers theatre trips, as well as the opportunity to hear visiting speakers and take part in speaking competitions like the Rotary's Club's "Youth Speaks". Students studying A Levels in the English Department are also invited to mentor younger students and help them to develop their reading and writing skills.



## **MUSIC**

### **A-Level - EDUQAS**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** 4 or above at GCSE level or an equivalent standard on your instrument.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

##### **PERFORMING:**

**YEAR 1 -** Working towards a performance of 2 pieces (Grade 5 standard or above) Year 2 Working towards a performance of 3 pieces (grade 6 or above).

##### **COMPOSITION**

**YEAR 1 -** Studying a variety of composition techniques and devices and completing one composition to a brief set by the candidate.

**YEAR 2 -** One further composition completed during this year (if choosing 25% composition) OR two further compositions completed this year (if choosing 35% composition).

##### **APPRAISING EXAM**

**YEAR 1 -** Study of the Development of the Symphony and a choice of Rock and Pop, Musical Theatre or Jazz. **This second option will be chosen according to the strengths of the students.**

**YEAR 2 -** Further in depth study of areas outlined above and either **Into the 20th Century** or **Into the 21st Century.**

**Component 1: Performing (35% or 25%)** - Non-exam assessment, externally assessed between March and May by a visiting examiner.

**Component 2: Composing (35% or 25%)** - Non-exam assessment, externally assessed.

**Component 3: Appraising (40%)** - Listening and appraising exam - 2 hours 15 minutes.

For further information, contact Mrs H McKenna

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

Students will be offered the opportunity to perform in both small recitals and larger scale concerts throughout the year in a variety of venues. We will encourage A level students to take part in our Music Tour abroad and perform in a completely different setting. We will arrange visits to concerts by professional orchestras and ensembles which will help secure the understanding of the variety of styles studied for the appraising exam.



## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

### **A- Level - AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Art Grade 4 or above or if not previously studied the production of a portfolio which meets a required standard.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, new techniques and processes by studying both traditional and new technologies. The course will predominately focus upon digital photography. Students should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study, for example, portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation).

#### **YEAR 1 - AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE**

Students are introduced to research skills and how to independently develop ideas to form the foundation of later work. Work will be developed in response to a theme, issue, interest or concern.

#### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 1 - PERSONAL INVESTIGATION**

This is a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material of between 1000 and 3000 words. The focus of the investigation is identified independently by the student and will lead to a finished outcome. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of photographer - 60%.

#### **YEAR 2 - COMPONENT 2 - EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT.**

Students will select a starting point from a choice of eight questions set by the exam board. They will then complete a preparation period of work. Following the preparatory period, students will complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time, in which they will produce a finished outcome. Students complete the unit of work plus a 15 hour exam - 40%.

For further information, contact Mrs V McEvoy

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

One to one support provided every lesson in a nurturing learning environment. Our Sixth form are invited to work during their free periods in their own work space within the art room. Art students have the opportunity to get involved in running clubs, mentoring younger students and assisting with our open evenings; therefore developing their communication and leadership skills. There will be opportunities to take part in photography visits.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **A-Level – OCR**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Grade 4 at GCSE Sports Science. If not previously studied students need at least a Grade 4 in Additional Science. Students must be proficient in ONE practical area from the Department for Education list of approved sports. Please ask if you are unsure.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

70% - External examination based upon the theory.  
30% - Practical Assessment.

#### **COMPONENT 1: PHYSIOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

Focuses on key systems of the human body involved in movement and physical activity and the changes within these systems prior to, during & after exercise.

#### **COMPONENT 2: PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE**

Focuses on the psychological factors affecting physical activities and sports, including: theories that affect learning and performance in physical activities; training and feedback; group dynamics and goal setting. Students will gain an understanding of the psychological factors that influence performance in sport.

#### **COMPONENT 3: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

Focuses on the sociological and contemporary factors that influence and affect physical activity and sport including: society & culture; the Olympic movement and modern technology.

#### **COMPONENT 4: PERFORMANCE WITHIN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Candidates** perform or coach a sport or activity from the approved DfE list  
Candidates complete an Evaluation and Analysis of Performance for Improvement (EAPI) where learners will identify and justify the major area of weakness within the performance to prioritise for improvement. This will include a proposed long term (2-3 months) development plan to improve the area of performance identified.

For further information, contact Mrs N Simms

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

The Physical Education Department is a successful and vibrant part of the school. It offers all sixth formers the opportunity to take part in both competitive and recreational sport every Wednesday afternoon. Sixth formers can contribute to the school and wider community through leadership, officiating and organisation roles with the lower school in a variety of sports. This can add tremendous value to any applications such as UCAS Forms, apprenticeships, internships and personal statements.



## **PHYSICS**

### **A-Level – AQA**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Physics Grade 5 or GCSE Dual Science both Grade 5, GCSE Maths 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

Measurements and their errors, particles and radiation, mechanics and materials, waves, and electricity.

##### **YEAR 2**

Further mechanics and thermal physics, fields and their consequences, nuclear physics and turning points in physics.

There will be three, two hour examinations covering the content and practical skills learned during the course. Each exam approx. 33%;

Practical work is used extensively to allow understanding of theoretical concepts of how our universe works.

For further information, contact Mr D Deakin

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

A three day Trip to CERN to see particle physics accelerator, have a lecture and see Geneva;  
Trip to Jodrell Bank to find out how radio telescopes work plus others under development!



# PSYCHOLOGY

## A-Level – AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** At least GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics.

### WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?

In Psychology there are 3 examined units; each lasts 2 hours and account for one third of the A-level qualification.

#### YEAR 1

**Social Influence:** Students learn about how people influence the behaviour of others. Topics include: explanations for conformity, conformity to social roles, explanations for obedience, resisting obedience and conformity, the role of social influence processes in social change.

**Memory:** Students learn different theories about memory and forgetting. Students will also learn about the real-life area of eye-witness testimony and how factors such as misleading information can reduce accuracy of recall.

**Attachment:** Students learn about how relationships in early childhood impact on development later in life. Topics include: the role of the father, animal studies of attachment, cultural variations in attachment, effects of institutionalisation, Romanian orphan studies.

**Psychopathology:** Psychopathology is the study of psychological disorders. Within this topic students learn about how different psychologists explain and treat: obsessive compulsive disorder, phobias and depression.

**Approaches:** Students learn about the different psychological perspectives including: the biological approach, the cognitive approach, the behaviourist approach, the humanistic approach and Freud's psychodynamic approach.

#### YEAR 2

**Biopsychology:** Students learn about how the physiology of the body affects the mind and behaviour. Topics include: the divisions of the nervous system, the structure and function of neurons, the function of the endocrine system, the fight or flight response, circadian rhythms.

**Issues and Debates:** Students learn about the key arguments that psychologists have about the causes of behaviour, for example: nature vs nurture, freewill vs determinism, holism vs reductionism.

**Gender:** Students learn why about physiology theories that try to establish different genders behave differently. For example: the role of hormones and chromosomes, Freud's psychoanalytic theory, the influence of the media, and causes of atypical gender dysphoria.

**Stress:** Students learn about the effect of stress on an individual's physical and psychological well-being. Topics include: the physiology of stress, the role of stress in illness, managing stress.

**Addiction:** Students learn explanations for and treatment of addictive behavior. Topics include: the biological explanation of nicotine addiction, the cognitive theory of gambling, biological and psychological treatments for addiction.

#### YEAR 1 AND 2 RESEARCH METHODS

Research Methods is a fundamental part of A Level Psychology and is taught across both years of the course. Within this topic students learn how to conduct and evaluate their own psychological research, and use statistical tests to analyse data. Methods include: experiments, observations, questionnaires and interviews.

#### ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:

- Drop-in sessions are offered by the department continuously throughout the year, especially to support those who may require extra help with their mathematical and research method skills as part of the course.
- Homework club is offered once a week after school.
- Year 12 students have the opportunity to attend a trip visit The Freud Museum, The National History Museum and The Science Museum in London.



## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

### **A-Level - OCR**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Religious Studies Grade 4 or above. If not previously studied, GCSE English Language Grade 4 or above.

#### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE EXAMINED?**

##### **YEAR 1**

**Philosophy of Religion** - Ancient Philosophical influences, the nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence of God, religious experience, the problem of evil.

**Religion and Ethics** - Religious approaches, ethical theories, applied ethics.

**Developments in Christian religious thought** - Death and the afterlife, Jesus Christ, moral principles.

##### **YEAR 2**

**Philosophy of Religion** - Theological and philosophical developments, religious language.

**Religion and Ethics** - Meta-ethics, the conscience, sexual ethics, developments in ethical thought.

**Developments in Christian religious thought** - Christianity in society, liberation theology.

Students will sit three, two hour exams at the end of Year 2. Throughout the year, students will be monitored closely and their progress will be tracked through timed essays, internal exams and homework. Students are expected to read independently on a regular basis.

For further information, contact Mrs. D Freestone

IN OMNIBUS LABORA

#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

The Religious Studies department is proud to offer a number of exciting opportunities for students such as Masterclasses that are run by the University of Oxford. Within school, we also offer dedicated revision sessions, which are led by specialist teachers. These will prepare our students for their exams. We pride ourselves in going that extra mile to help the student achieve his/her goals and aspirations.





## **SPANISH A Level – AQA**

Languages are all around us, we live in a multilingual global society. Choosing an A Level language is a really good decision if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career options and a lot of fun along the way. Language courses are interesting and varied subjects which give you a broad range of knowledge and transferable skills. Furthermore, a Modern Foreign Language can be studied with a wide range of other subjects at university such as Engineering, Law and even Medicine.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS: GCSE 5 or above in GCSE Spanish.**

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT AND HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

Course content: The following themes will be covered –

- Social issues and trends: Aspects of Hispanic society – Modern and Traditional Values, Cyberspace, Equal Rights.
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society : Immigration, Racism, Integration, Political and Artistic Culture.
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic world: modern day idols, Spanish Regional Identity, Cultural Heritage. Aspects of political life in the Hispanic World: Today's Youth, Monarchs and Dictatorships, Popular movements.

### **SPEAKING ASSESSMENT - (30%) 16-18 MINUTES**

**Task 1** is a presentation of an independent research project (2 minutes) followed by a discussion (9-10 minutes).

**Task 2** is a discussion based on a stimulus card (5 minutes preparation followed by 5-6 minutes discussion).

### **LISTENING, READING AND TRANSLATION – (50%) 2HRS 30 MINUTES**

#### **CRITICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING (20%)**

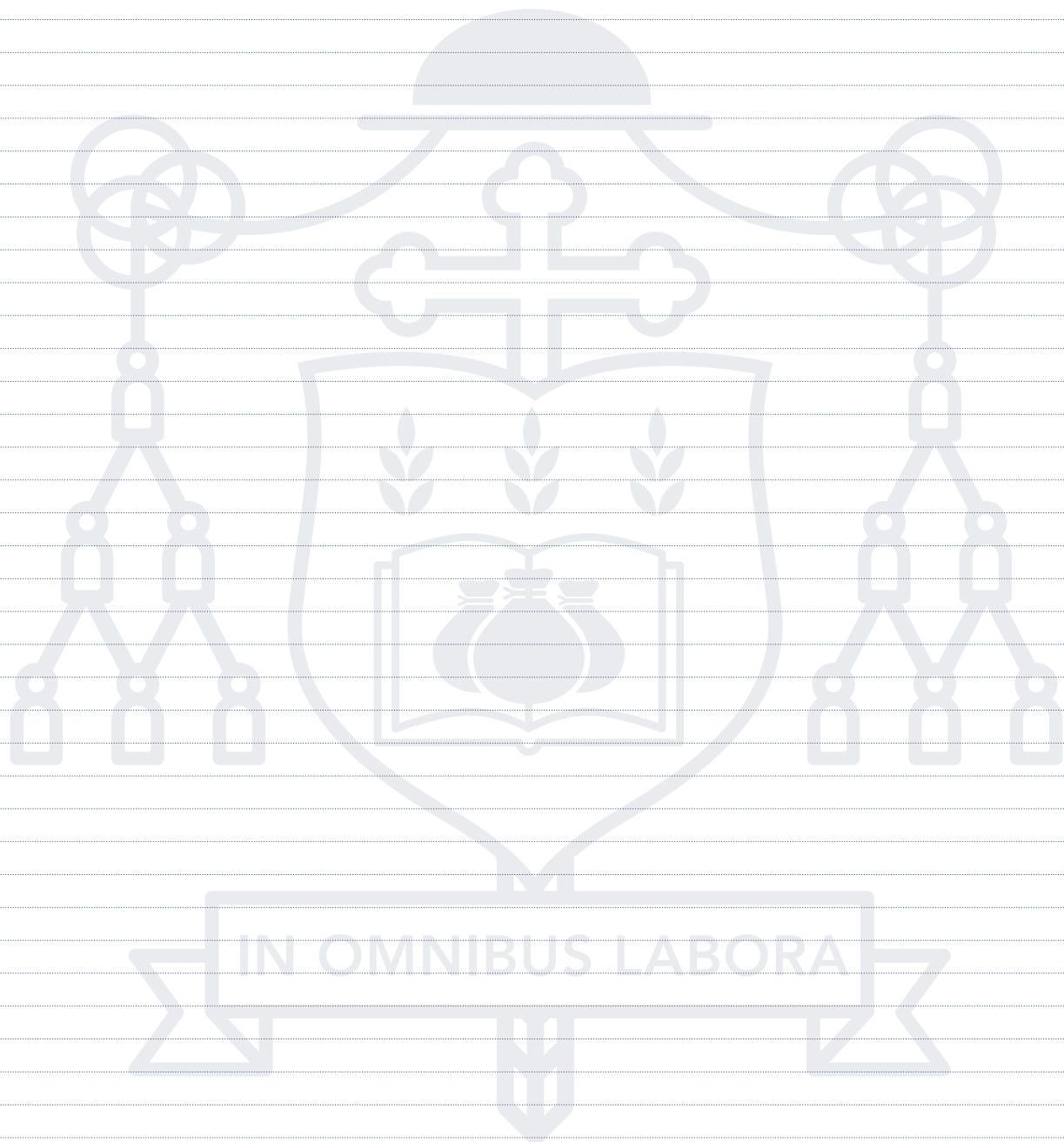
Two hour examination comprising of two essay questions, one based on the play La Casa de Bernarda Alba and one based on the film Volver.

For further information, contact Mrs C Bainbridge

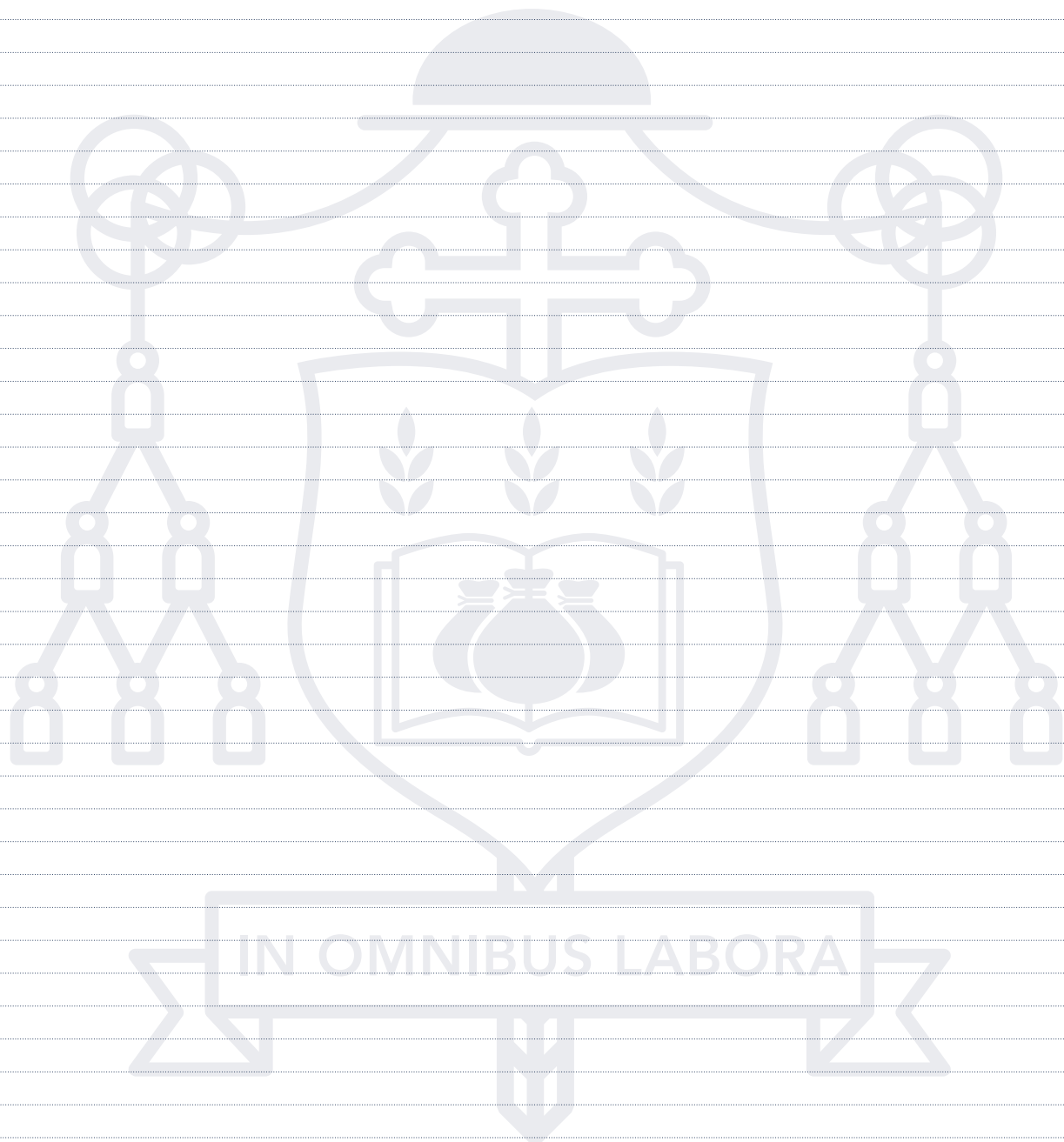
#### **ST NICHOLAS' EXTRA:**

- There are opportunities to do work experience in Spain and we offer study tours to Barcelona or Madrid.
- Regular visits to the theatre and cinema at the Royal Exchange and Cornerhouse, Manchester.
- Links with Manchester University are in place and enrichment days are offered.

NOTES:



NOTES:



“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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