

## NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL - GENERAL INFORMATION

Notre Dame High School came into existence in 1864 when the Sisters of Notre Dame arrived in Norwich to teach their first students. From this small beginning we have grown and now have approximately 1400 pupils aged 11 – 18, which includes a 6<sup>th</sup> Form of approximately 400. There are approximately 200 students in each year group.

Notre Dame High School converted to become an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 but retains the school name. We are supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia and the Department for Education (DfE).

Accommodated in listed buildings on a city centre site, we offer students the opportunity to study GCSE subjects, together with vocational courses, and A levels. We attract students from a wide area of Norfolk and North Suffolk as well as the Norwich area. Many of the children come to us from financially deprived areas. 21% of our students (300 pupils) travel over 20 miles each way, demonstrating their commitment to the school.

We aim to enable all students to develop fully their potential irrespective of academic ability or social background. We offer a wide curriculum of GCSEs and A levels. We feel the same responsibility towards all students and are recognised as being a School with a strong Christian outlook. This is reflected in our Mission Statement:

We are a Catholic High School where every person is a valued member of our community, invited to follow Christ's call to a life of Hope, Joy, Love, and Forgiveness.

We are committed to fostering high expectations and developing the full potential of each individual so that they may become compassionate, interdependent, lifelong learners, striving to create a better and more peaceful world.

*I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full*  
(John 10:10)

The School has a strong tradition of looking beyond its boundaries and each year considerable sums are raised for various charities. Last year's Sponsored Walk resulted in over £16,000 which was distributed to charities at home and abroad. The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, CAFOD, and the East Anglian Children's Society are amongst those that we regularly support.

We were accorded High Performing Specialist School status in 2008. We achieved the Investors in Families Award in 2009 and had our International Award renewed. We were the North East and East Anglia regional winners in the 2012 Church School Awards.

The majority of students continue their education into our 6<sup>th</sup> form where they are joined by students from a number of High Schools across Norfolk and North Suffolk. Our examination results are consistently above both the national and county average.

## LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Leadership Team currently consists of the Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers, five Assistant Headteachers, and the School Business Manager. The team meets at least once a week.

The team currently comprises Brian Conway (Headteacher), Neil Cully (Deputy Headteacher, School Improvement), Thomas Leverage (Deputy Headteacher, Teaching & Learning), Josephine Hammersley (Assistant Headteacher, Developing Teaching), Antony Little (Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum Development, 14-19), Kevin McNally (Assistant Headteacher, School Community), Alex Savage (Assistant Headteacher, Student Welfare), Paul Short (Assistant Headteacher, Leading Learning), and Linda Bennett (School Business Manager).

The Leadership Team is supported by a Senior Management Team comprising Patrick Harrison (Head of RE), Yvonne Gorrod (Head of Languages), Roger Higgins (Head of Science), Claire Bromley (Head of English), Ben Gallacher (Head of Maths), Gerry Kirwan (Head of PE), Steve Goymer (Head of Inclusion), Simon Duckworth (Senior Pastoral Support Worker), Julie Brazell (Learning Support Centre Manager), Mark Richards (Site Manager) and John Eady (Company Secretary). They meet fortnightly.

**DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES** – please refer to the School Improvement & Development Plan, available on request.

#### **PASTORAL CARE**

The School is organised on a year system. On entry each student is placed in a mixed ability form, which is the responsibility of the Form Tutor. It is the Form Tutor who is the main point of contact with the student. The Form meets twice a day and the Form Tutor is able to monitor work, behaviour, attendance and attitudes as well as offer assistance, if required, with personal problems. We make regular use of the support services available through the Local Authority, the Diocese, Children's Services and the Health Authority. Each day begins with a reflection or Assembly.

The School Council meets fortnightly. Extra curricular activities include drama, music and sport – especially basketball where we have teams in the National League. Students below 6<sup>th</sup> form are expected to wear school uniform, which is considered an integral part of school discipline. Discipline is based very much on respect and trust between students and staff. Support from parents is strong and an active Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) makes a valuable contribution to school life.

#### **THE SCHOOL DAY**

The school day is divided into five lessons of 60 minutes. The morning break divides periods 2 and 3 and the lunch break follows period 3. School begins for staff with a daily briefing at 8:40 and ends at 3:30. For pupils each day begins with a form period or assembly at 8:50.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

The school enjoys excellent relations with other agencies and welcomes the varied and extensive support available. It is committed to Staff Development and is involved in a number of initiatives to support other Norfolk schools.

## **THE GOVERNING BODY**

The Governors are a very talented, committed and supportive group. The Headteacher and Leadership Team have a very strong working relationship with the Governing Body.

The Full Governing Body meets at least once a term.

Committees meet twice a term, or as required, and comprise Audit, Pastoral & Admissions, Resources, and Teaching Learning and Curriculum committees.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

All students follow a core curriculum throughout the lower school. Class groupings allow students to be taught at an appropriate level in different subjects. Some specialisation occurs at year 10 when some vocational courses are offered within the National Curriculum. We enjoy excellent liaison with our seven feeder schools and a close relationship with two Special schools, providing outreach in both Science and MFL and inviting children into school to experience the many facilities we have to offer.

## **FACILITIES**

The school site, in the centre of Norwich, is conveniently situated for those students and staff who travel in (sometimes from considerable distance). It is a conservation area and we are fortunate to have attractive grounds. Unfortunately there is very restricted parking on site for staff and visitors. There are seven buildings housing specialist accommodation for all subjects in the curriculum. The school has a student/computer ratio of 4:1.

In addition to the usual classrooms we have the following specialist facilities: Specialist Drama Studio, Modern Languages Multi-Media Room, Learning Resource Centre, Chaplaincy, Music Practice Rooms, Gymnasium and Weights Room, Sports Hall (4 badminton court size), twelve/thirteen Science Laboratories, four/five Workshops for Design and Technology. Two specialist rooms are dedicated to Food and Textiles and we have a specialist Graphics Room and Computer Rooms.

On the school site we have a re-surfaced and fenced Multiple Use Games Area where students can play football, tennis and other games in all weathers. The school uses playing field facilities for outdoor games on the nearby Hewett School campus.

We are delighted to have restored the historic Chapel on site and have it in regular use.