



Notre Dame

CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

have faith in your future

Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College is situated in inner Leeds, and caters specifically for pupils from the three partner Catholic 11-16 high schools in the city. In addition the College recruits students from approximately 100 high schools in Leeds and surrounding towns and districts. A substantial number also come from St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School in Wakefield and a smaller number travel from Catholic schools in Bradford to study at the College. Around 92% of the students are residents of Leeds; 37% are from black and minority ethnic group backgrounds, compared to 25% in year 11 across the whole city. 42% of students attract disadvantage uplift.

Notre Dame places a great deal of emphasis on fulfilling our Catholic Mission and in providing extensive individual support to students to enable them to achieve their full potential. The Mission and Ethos permeate all elements of College life, from the tutorial programme, to the general Religious Education programme, to assemblies and liturgies, to reaching out to the wider community, both locally and internationally.

The College has grown rapidly since its creation in 1989, when it had around 450 students. In 2015/16 we enrolled 1,828 students, all aged 16-19. There are an additional 50 fee-paying international students. Notre Dame, as the only sixth form college in Leeds, is a major part of the city's level three provision. It enjoys an enviable reputation for its success and the quality of student experience offered; as a consequence, it is vastly oversubscribed, with more than two applicants for every place in September 2016.

The College is built on a compact site and although parts of the campus are 100 years old, there has been extensive new building work in recent years. Further teaching blocks were opened in 2004, 2008 and 2010. An additional teaching block opened in April 2016 has extended our excellent Science laboratory facilities and we have invested heavily in our IT infrastructure over recent years e.g. all classrooms have Smartboard facilities.

Students predominantly follow Level 3 programmes, although there is an expanding curriculum offer at Level 2 in response to local need. We currently offer 34 different A level subjects and are increasing our portfolio of vocational and applied course to serve the needs of our local community.

At A Level the College's pass rate remains above the national rate and, although high grades are below the national average, our Value Added remains high. The College ALPS three-year T-score generally places us in the top 25% of colleges nationally. It is especially gratifying that the proportion of Upper Sixth students successfully progressing to university has maintained the levels of previous years. Around 85% of applicants progress to HE and 35% of the students progressed to one of the top 30 universities - Oxbridge, Russell Group, or 1994 Group universities. Increasing numbers are also seeking employment or apprenticeships. The progression rate to HE for Notre Dame Students is of significance for the city as a whole.

Leeds is the second largest metropolitan authority in England and it has seen a rapid growth in its economy in recent years. The city is particularly known for its financial services, business and legal services, as well as health and manufacturing. The overall prosperity of Leeds could mask the fact that there are areas of significant deprivation in some of the inner-city wards. One of the great strengths of Notre Dame is the

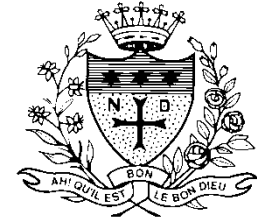
way in which we achieve success even though our students come from such a wide variety of social, economic, ethnic, and faith backgrounds. It is truly a place where people from such diverse backgrounds meet, study, and succeed together in a harmonious and productive environment.

Leeds is well known for its three universities including our Catholic partner Leeds Trinity University. There is now one major FE college, Leeds City College, which is the institution which resulted from the merger of four other FE colleges. In addition there are the nationally known and respected Leeds College of Building and Leeds College of Art. A new 16-19 free school opened in the south of the city in September 2015 and a further college, specialising in Performance Arts is planned. A University Technical College opens in September 2016. Notre Dame works closely with these partners in the Leeds Federation of Colleges and in various bodies attached to the local authority. FE institutions and Notre Dame occupy a very significant place in 16-18 education in Leeds, notwithstanding the fact that there are 30 school sixth forms in the authority.

These posts arise as part of a restructuring of senior management following the appointment of Simon Lett, our VP (Curriculum and Quality) to the post of Principal at Greenhead College. The senior team will consist of Principal, Finance Director, two Vice Principals and two Assistant Principals (see accompanying structure diagram).

Assemblies and opportunities to celebrate the spiritual life of the College are a key part of the Notre Dame experience and a key element of life in a Christian college community. The Chapel is shared by the Universities Chaplaincy and Notre Dame and there are regular voluntary masses there. In addition there are a number of whole cohort liturgies and celebrations in the liturgical calendar. The leavers' mass and final assembly are a significant high point in the life of the College.

The College is currently involved in the West Yorkshire Area Reviews of Further Education. As part of that review, the College has been judged to be financially viable for the future in its present form. The financial health of the College is officially rated as good.



NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BUILDING A COMMUNITY ON FAITH AND TRUST

Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College, inspired by the Christian tradition, holds at the centre of our ethos the dignity and uniqueness of each person. Notre Dame values and welcomes those of other beliefs.

We aim to:

- treat each other with respect
- create an atmosphere of mutual trust in which we develop the confidence to be ourselves
- provide a high quality, meaningful education which encourages the development of the whole person
- provide equality of opportunity
- celebrate the joy and energy of our community
- support everyone, of all abilities, to make positive steps towards achieving their full potential
- promote a caring environment, working together for the benefit of the individual and the wider community
- build an environment based on equality, trust, respect for each individual in our community, and full development of each person's potential, as found in the teaching and example of our Lord Jesus Christ