



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
NDHS
SURREY ST., NORWICH, NR1 3PB



Notre Dame

Main School Prospectus

Welcome from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers and prospective Notre Dame Students



Thank you for taking the time to consider applying for a place at Notre Dame High School. Notre Dame is not just a school but also a loving Christian community. It is rooted in a rich history and was founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame over one hundred and fifty years ago. We continue their inspiring work as part of our wider Catholic mission to provide every young person in our school with the best education possible.

We take pride in the long-standing success of the school, which can be attributed to several key factors, including an outstanding broad and balanced curriculum, first-rate pastoral care, dedicated staff and the opportunities provided by extra-curricular activity.

Our community is committed to developing knowledgeable, morally informed and compassionate young leaders.

This commitment is underpinned by the pursuit of strong relationships between students, teachers and support staff, parents and carers. Notre Dame acknowledges that drawing the gifts out of our young people requires genuine partnership between families and the school.

The academic, moral, physical and spiritual education of children at Notre Dame is a joyous experience for all involved and is encapsulated within our mission statement and the words of Christ:

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

I hope you find that Notre Dame High School can offer you the fullest of opportunity, the greatest of success and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TP'.

Tom Pinnington
Head of School





Our Vision and Ethos

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

We are a joyous and inclusive Catholic school, inspired by the love of God and the teachings of Jesus, specifically faith, hope, forgiveness and peace.

Our community is committed to a rounded education that develops knowledgeable, morally informed and compassionate young leaders.



School Facilities

Classrooms:

There are seven superbly resourced main buildings on the Notre Dame site with a variety of specialist teaching areas and classrooms, all named after Saints. The buildings range from the original Georgian mansion house (St Julie's) through the original 1926 High School building (St John's) to modern classrooms for Languages (St Mary's, 2007) and Science (St Peter's, whose most recent laboratories were opened in 2011). There is a WiFi network across the site and all facilities are high quality teaching environments.

Catering:

The school aims to support the social, academic, spiritual and physical development of young people and part of this is an emphasis on healthy eating. To this end there is a popular bright, modern refectory with food provided by external caterers which has a healthy, varied and tasty menu and many exciting food initiatives throughout the year.

Sports Facilities:

Students have access to a wide variety of sports facilities, including all-weather tennis courts/ football pitches, a gym and basketball and volleyball courts. Whilst there are no playing fields on site, our students travel by bus to use the facilities of the Hewett School for athletics, rugby, football and other sporting activities. Sports Day takes place at the Town Close School playing fields and is always a highlight of the school year.

Learning Resource Centre:

The Learning Resource Centre is open both before, during and after school to cater for the high number of students who use the excellent facilities for private study, homework and extended learning. It provides a quiet study area well-stocked with books and periodicals for pupils.





School Days

The school day begins at 8.50am with Registration in class with the Form Group and Form Tutor. The school day is divided into 5 periods with morning break and lunchtime. There is Registration after lunch, and the school day ends at 3.30pm.

Each pupil is given a Student Planner which contains useful information about life at school, in which students write down their timetable, homework and notes. The timetable is on a fortnightly cycle, with weeks A and B alternating throughout the school year.



Houses

Each student is a member of one of four houses, named after pilgrimage sites – Jerusalem (red), Rome (yellow), Santiago de Compostela (green) and Walsingham (blue).

There is fierce but friendly rivalry between the different houses, seen most particularly during Sports Day. House points are awarded for effort, achievement, behaviour and attendance, with cups for the most successful Houses being awarded at the end of the school year. Students earn House points each time a teacher rewards their good work, effort, behaviour or participation.



Curriculum

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with an emphasis on traditional subjects. In year 7 all students study English, Maths, Science, RE, PE, Music, PSHE, Design and Technology, Art, Computing, History, Geography and two languages from French, German and Spanish.

GCSE options are chosen during Year 9. There is the expectation that all students study RE and at least one language (reflecting the founding of the school by an order of French nuns), in addition to English, Maths, Science and their options choices.





Extra Curricular activities

The school runs a wide range of extracurricular activities, many centred around Music, Languages, Geography and Sport.

Musical groups include a wind band, school orchestra, string and brass groups and various vocal groups and have a superb reputation across Norfolk. Pupils have the opportunity to play at concerts at school and public venues around the county and at music festivals abroad, the most recent being in Italy.

Exchange and cultural visits take place to many countries in Europe and further afield. Older pupils get the opportunity to support various international charitable activities, such as the Hosanna House Children's Pilgrimage Trust's visits to Lourdes. Visits further afield are organised as part of various curriculum options and in recent years there have been school trips to Iceland, Japan and America.

The school takes part in many of the local sports leagues and has had extensive countywide sporting success.



Achieving potential

We value all our pupils and do our best to ensure that everyone achieves to their potential. We use established and innovative tracking and assessment systems to help ensure all our pupils achieve well, and provide support so that they may succeed.

We have a committed Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator and a team of Learning Support Assistants to ensure all our pupils achieve their best. We assess all pupils regularly and stretch those who benefit from a greater challenge.

Our Pupil Premium funding is used to fund Progress Mentors, who are specifically responsible for intervention in areas such as English, Maths and Science. We have an English as an Additional Language (EAL) Co-ordinator to assess and support pupils who come from homes where English is not the first language.





Student Leadership

We value the views of all in our community and encourage pupils to take responsibility and pride in their school. We encourage independent learning and foster high ambition, and encourage pupils to do the very best they can and develop leadership skills. To that end we promote student leadership throughout the school and have an active School Council (and separate Sixth Form Council) with representatives from all years. The School Council focuses on matters that are particularly pertinent to students and recently channelled student opinion regarding uniform which was reflected in a revised uniform code.

Pupils are encouraged to develop leadership skills in other aspects of school life, for instance determining which charities receive monies raised from fundraising activities and offering support with the school work of younger pupils. The overall aim is to nurture and prepare our pupils for life after school, whether that be further study or entering a working environment.



Uniform and appearance

We have a smart uniform and expect pupils to adhere to the uniform policy, a visible manifestation of a desire to succeed and to do our very best. Details of our uniform policy can be found in the prospectus insert. We expect all pupils, including the VI Form, to come to school smartly dressed and organised ready for schoolwork.

We have a number of 'non-uniform' days throughout the year, including the annual St Julie's Day Sponsored Walk. Such days are used to collect monies to support various charitable activities, both local and national. Over the years many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been raised for charitable causes in this way.





Pastoral Care and Support

The school is proud of its reputation for providing outstanding pastoral support to its pupils. The first point of contact for any concerns may often be the Form Tutor. Form Tutors stay with their form group through Years 7 to Year 11 which allows a continuity of support and understanding for all the pupils in the class.

We have Pastoral Support Workers for each Key Stage and there are larger teams of staff who help support children who need additional help. We also have a Learning Support Centre to help with the temporary difficulties common to teenagers as well as our Progress Mentors who focus on academic intervention. The School Chaplaincy service provides additional pastoral support.



Sixth Form

We have a flourishing and successful Sixth Form who share the same space as the pupils in Years 7-11. The Sixth Formers provide strong role models for younger pupils, and will often help with their learning, for instance by listening to children read. They may also take responsibility for whole school initiatives, such as the Pulp calendars and year planners.

The majority of pupils who join us in Year 7 stay with us through to the end of the Sixth Form, from where a majority go on to university education. We hope your son or daughter may stay at Notre Dame right the way through into our Sixth Form.





Community

The school is part of a wider community of Catholic schools in Norfolk and north Suffolk which include our main feeder schools (St Augustine's, St Benet's, St Edmund's, St Francis of Assisi's, St Mary and St Peter's (Gorleston) and St Mary's (Lowestoft)). There are occasions throughout the school year when we take part in activities with our feeder schools, most notably the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham and Christmas celebrations at the cathedral.

Our Catholic ethos is central to our work as educators and forms the foundation of our day to day experience at Notre Dame. This ethos is clearly evident in the whole school Masses which take place throughout the year; the weekly Assemblies which follow the themes of the week and the daily acts of worship and reflection in Form groups.

The wide diversity of pupils at school reflects our Catholic traditions, and we welcome children from all backgrounds. This mix of individuals is one of the strengths of the school. We are passionate about our mission to challenge inequality and prejudice and to enable each young person to have full equality of opportunity without barriers to achieve their potential.

We work closely with other secondary schools across both Norwich and Norfolk and participate in many local debates, competitions and local sports leagues. We contribute to the community through our charitable activities, for instance by providing hampers for homeless people at Christmas.



Contact Us

We are always happy to hear your feedback, suggestions or questions, and can be contacted by writing to:

Notre Dame High School, Surrey Street, Norwich, NR1 3PB

Telephone us on 01603 611431

E-Mail us on office@ndhs.org.uk

"We look forward to hearing from you"





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