



ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

NURSERY - INFANTS - JUNIORS - SENIORS



MAKING THE TRANSITION INTO  
SENIOR SCHOOL



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AT ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL  
EVERYONE IS VALUED, EVERYONE IS SOMEONE

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# OUR SCHOOL

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St Nicholas' School is a happy, thriving school where education is seen as a partnership between teachers, pupils and parents. We are proud to play our part in the development of children until they reach the age of sixteen.

The school has three major educational aims:

- To encourage each pupil to achieve the highest possible standards of academic work and to benefit fully from the aesthetic and physical education programmes which we offer.
- To develop self-esteem, confidence and leadership skills and to cultivate a sense of responsibility in every pupil, together with a growing awareness of moral and spiritual values.
- To offer all pupils a caring and well-run environment in which to develop the skills and knowledge they will need both in school and in their future lives.

We believe that our school plays a vital role in helping children find and build on their strengths and realise their goals. We aim to instil a sense of pride in everything that they do and give them the vision to see the virtue in the endeavours of others.



**Dr Wright**  
Headmistress

Dr Wright joined St Nicholas' School in 2018 and is committed to constantly enhancing all aspects of education; both the academic and pastoral. She is a passionate educator and continues to make time to teach every week.

Prior to joining St Nick's, Dr Wright worked at Sherfield School for 13 years and during that time held a number of roles, including Head of Boarding and Deputy Principal. She has worked in both the state and independent sectors, teaching in the UK and abroad, and has been an Inspector for the Independent School's Inspectorate for more than a decade.

She is a member of the Girls' Schools Association and is passionate about producing tomorrow's trailblazing young women.



# MEET KEY SENIOR STAFF

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## **Mrs Byrne-Chinn**

Director of Teaching and Learning; Head of Mathematics

Mrs Byrne-Chinn joined us in September 2022 as the new Director of Teaching and Learning and Head of Mathematics. Previously, Nicola was an Assistant Head, a Lead Practitioner of Mathematics and an advisor of Teaching and Learning across a trust of schools in Essex. After working in challenging comprehensive schools for 16 years, she is excited to contribute to shaping a cohort of brilliant, adventurous women, and will endeavour to motivate and inspire them to reach their full potential and be the best at whatever they want to do. She is committed to ensuring they leave St Nicholas' with the attributes needed to help change the world for the better.



## **Miss Huyton**

Director of Pastoral Care; Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Claire Huyton is the Director of Pastoral Care and Designated Safeguarding Lead. She oversees all aspects of pupil wellbeing and personal development throughout the school, assisted by the Heads of Phase and tutor teams. Claire joined the school in September 2020, having previously worked as Director of Pastoral Care at The Royal School in Haslemere.



## **Miss Willmott**

Phase Leader of Key Stage 3; Teacher of Physical Education

Miss Willmott joined us in September 2022 as the new Phase Leader of Key Stage 3 and a teacher of Physical Education. Previously Hannah was at More House School (Frensham) for six years teaching Physical Education and she was also Head of Year for 5 and part-time boarding house mistress.

# ISI INSPECTION REPORT 2022



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St Nicholas' School was visited by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in May 2022. We received the highest achievement of EXCELLENT. To see the full report, please visit our website [st-nicholas.hants.sch.uk](http://st-nicholas.hants.sch.uk).

In our recent ISI Inspection we achieved full compliance and the highest category of

## EXCELLENT

in both “the quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements”  
and “the quality of the pupils’ personal development”



“ **The quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements is excellent**

Children in the EYFS get off to an excellent start in their education and by the end of Year 2, most are working well above age related expectations.

“ **The quality of the pupils’ personal development is excellent**

Pupils successfully develop a quiet and calm level of high self-esteem, confidence, responsibility and caring attitudes.

“ **The quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements is excellent**

Pupils of all ages and abilities demonstrate excellent academic achievements.

“ **The quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements is excellent**

In the years 2017 to 2019 results in GCSE examinations were above the national average and in some subjects well above, including mathematics.

A large majority of pupils achieved the highest grades of A\* or A grades (or equivalent) in all GCSE subjects.

“ **The quality of the pupils’ personal development is excellent**

Pupils know what is expected of them and do not give up easily. Because of this they are confident in, and feel well prepared for, the next stage of their lives.

*ISI Inspection, May 2022*



# MAKING THE TRANSITION

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Starting a new school, or moving from one section of a school to another, can be a daunting experience for both pupils and parents alike. Here at St Nicholas' School we aim to make the transition as seamless as possible in the following ways:

- The two form tutors for Year 7 are chosen so that pupils who have come up through our own Junior School will already be familiar with them.
- Small tutor groups enable any new pupils to get to know their form tutors quickly.
- All pupils will be asked to name friends with whom they would like to be in a tutor group and the staff do their utmost to ensure that each pupil is with at least one of their friends.
- Small classes, which are normally fewer than twenty girls and often a lot smaller, enable teachers to get to know the pupils very quickly and also encourage pupils to ask for help if they need it.
- The excellent pastoral care supplied by the form tutors and the Deputy Head Pastoral ensures that pupils feel safe and secure.

Towards the end of the summer term, both new and current Year 6 pupils are invited to our annual 'Moving Up' day where the girls will spend the day with their new class and form tutor, getting to know each other and familiarising themselves with the Senior School.

At St Nicholas' we appreciate how important a smooth transition is and we spend a lot of time aiding this, with Year 7 teambuilding events and trips throughout the year. These help to ensure that the girls are provided with plenty of time to get to know each other, form friendships and bond through activities and their experiences.

The following pages detail some of the events and trips that our Year 7 pupils have enjoyed.



# YEAR 7 TRANSITION DAY

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All Year 7 girls are invited to their very own transition day which is held at beginning of the autumn term, the day before the school welcomes back the rest of the school. This provides another chance for our pupils to meet their peers and form tutor, familiarise themselves with the layout of the school and enjoy plenty of teambuilding activities.

During the day we see plenty of smiling faces and it is clear that everyone makes new friends. This transition day sets the girls off to a flying start in the seniors!





# YEAR 6 & 7 READY STEADY COOK

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Early In the autumn term our Year 6 and Year 7 girls have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the school's very own 'Ready, Steady, Cook' event!





# YEAR 7 CAMP OUT

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From toasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate by the fire, to parents vs pupils in a friendly/competitive rounders match, our Year 7 pupils had so much fun during their camp out! This fantastic event was hosted by their form tutors and Key Stage 3 Phase Leader.





# YEAR 7 NORMANDY TRIP

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In the autumn term, Year 7 have a residential trip to Normandy at the beautiful Château de la Baudonnière.

The girls always have a great time with lots of fun and energetic activities, speaking French and learning about French culture. They discover the beautiful towns of Dinan and St Malo. This is always a fantastic and unforgettable adventure.





# HOUSE COMPETITIONS

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As an all-through school, Junior and Senior pupils are provided with opportunities to work together throughout the year in their houses, participating in annual House Drama and House Music competitions and supporting each other in Sports Day.





# OUR SENIOR GIRL'S EXPERIENCES

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*"At the beginning of Year 7, I was worried that the lessons would be harder than in the Junior School but the teachers helped us to understand before they moved on."*

Heidi

*"Year 7 was a big step up from the Junior School but it was great fun. It was one of the best years and all the teachers were nice."*

Bea

*"At the start of the year I felt very nervous because I didn't know anybody and I was worried about the amount of homework. Fortunately, everyone was really friendly and welcoming and the homework never exceeded the allocated time."*

Natalia

*"I was new in Year 7, so I had to make new friends and get used to being a St Nick's girl. I was really worried on my first day but, once I met all the girls and teachers, I realised this was the right school for me."*

Ella

*"At the beginning of the year I felt nervous but excited. After a few days I realised it wasn't as hard as I expected. Year 7 was probably the best year I have had."*

Zixuan

*"Year 7 was one of the best years I have had. At first I was a bit worried about moving up to the Seniors and I did not know if I would be in a class with my friends. However, those fears all went very quickly. The lessons were enjoyable and I liked having lots of different teachers."*

Annabelle

*"At the beginning, I was both excited and worried about moving up to the Senior School. As the year went on, I enjoyed it more and it was one of my favourite years. I loved learning the new subjects and I have made stronger friendships."*

Tamsin



# THE SENIOR SCHOOL DAY

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<b>7.30am – 8.00am</b>	<b>Breakfast Club</b>
<b>8.00am – 8.15am</b>	<b>Early Birds Club</b>
8.30am - 8.45am	Registration
8.45am – 9.10am	Assembly
9.10am – 9.45am	Lesson 1
9.45am – 10.20am	Lesson 2
10.20am – 10.55am	Lesson 3
<b>10.55am – 11.15am</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
11.15am – 11.50am	Lesson 4
11.50am – 12.25pm	Lesson 5
12.25pm – 1.00pm	Lesson 6
<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>	<b>SENIOR LUNCH / Lunch Clubs</b>
2.00pm – 2.05pm	Registration
2.05pm – 2.40pm	Lesson 7
2.40pm – 3.15pm	Lesson 8
3.15pm – 3.50pm	Lesson 9
3.50pm – 4.00pm	Form Time
<b>4.00pm – 6.00pm</b>	<b>Collection / After School Clubs / Homework Club</b>

The School Day begins with registration at 8.45am; however, pupils are welcome in school from 7.30am. From 7.30am until 8.00am there is a Breakfast Club, for which there is a charge. From 8.00am until 8.15am, pupils are supervised in set areas of the school and, from 8.15am onwards, they are allowed in their form rooms. Assemblies, hymn practices and form time are held between 8.45m and 9.10am, when lessons start. Lessons then run until 10.55am, when there is a morning break of 20 minutes followed by another 3 lessons until 1.00pm.

The lunch period for seniors lasts for 1 hour. During the first half-hour most girls will eat lunch in the dining hall, according to a rota, so that different year groups go in at different times. For the majority of the girls the second half of the lunch period will be free time or they might attend a club.

There is a brief registration period at 2.00pm, followed by 3 more lessons and a 10-minute form period. The day ends at 4.00pm. However, there are a number of afternoon clubs, most of which run until 5.15pm. There will also be sports fixtures. Homework club is offered until 6.00pm every day and there is a small charge for this.



# YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

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## Senior Time Table

In the Senior School, each day is divided into 9 periods, giving a total of 45 periods per week and the breakdown of the curriculum for Year 7 is as follows:

**Art** – 2 periods

**Classics** – 1 period

**Computer Science** – 2 periods

**Drama** – 2 periods

**English** – 6 periods

**French** – 2 periods

**Food Technology** – 3 periods (half a year each)

**Geography** – 2 periods

**History** – 2 periods

**Mandarin** – 2 periods

**Mathematics** – 6 periods

**Music** – 2 periods

**PE** – 3 periods (2 of Games, 1 of PE)

**PSHE** – 1 period

**RS** – 1 period

**Science** – 6 periods (2 each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

**Spanish** – 2 periods

**Textiles** – 3 periods (half a year each)

Extra French and Curriculum Support may be offered instead of one foreign language.



# YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

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## Homework

Pupils in Year 7 will have an average of 2 x 20 minutes homework each night and teachers follow a homework timetable to ensure that this is evenly spread out for the girls. Where possible, homework will not be set and due in the next day, to ensure pupils have time to discuss with their teacher if needs be. Occasionally additional pieces of work may be set in subjects such as music, textiles, food etc. Homework is likely to include reading tasks, question sheets, research, revision etc. and will be used to encourage your daughter to work more independently. Pupils may be asked to complete a piece of work on the computer, and this should be printed at home and submitted for marking in the same way.

Work on the computer may involve research using the internet but all pupils are given advice on the safe use of the internet in Computer Science lessons and as part of the PSHE course. All pupils are made aware of the ICT Acceptable Use Policy, which is a separate document.

Teachers aim to set work which can be completed in the time allocated. However, pupils do not all work at the same pace and, therefore, some pupils may find that it takes a little longer. If this is a problem, please contact the teacher concerned. Where possible, your daughter should aim to complete the task, to demonstrate what she can do and so that she gets sufficient practice in preparation for future examinations. Homework is not intended to be easy as pupils need to develop resilience, so that they can attempt challenging examination questions. You should, therefore, not expect your daughter to achieve full marks on a regular basis. Without struggle, there is no progress!

If work is not completed on time, or is not of a satisfactory standard, your daughter may be asked to do it again. If this happens on several occasions, you will be notified. The school also holds a weekly lunchtime detention for pupils who repeatedly fail to complete their work. A lack of commitment at KS3 could impact on a pupil's progress and, in turn, affect their GCSE grade.

## Curriculum Support

We realise that pupils develop at different rates and that some pupils benefit from a little extra help. The school, therefore, offers Curriculum Support to help pupils develop strategies to improve their learning. This support is provided by trained staff to meet pupils' individual needs.

Pupils may be tutored in small groups, or they may be given additional help within a lesson. A few girls may be offered Curriculum Support instead of one modern language.

Members of the Curriculum Support department also liaise with subject teachers to ensure that pupils receive the support they need in class. Small classes enable subject teachers to provide pupils with additional help and scaffolding for their learning. If you are concerned that your child may have learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, please contact the Curriculum Support department in the first instance [csdept@st-nicholasschool.co.uk](mailto:csdept@st-nicholasschool.co.uk). We will be able to talk with you and your child about their needs and advise you as to your next steps.



# YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

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## **MAT Learner**

More able and talented pupils are identified by their subject teachers in association with baseline data. We are committed to providing a challenging and dynamic curriculum, which provides opportunity and nurtures our most able and talented pupils.

Lessons are differentiated appropriately, providing challenge and pace. Opportunities allow pupils to explore subjects in greater breadth, as well as depth, and independence is encouraged.

More able pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of workshops, attend talks and trips to aid in enriching their learning.

# THE CURRICULUM GOING FORWARD



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## Year 8

The Year 8 Curriculum is similar to that in Year 7. There are 2 main changes:

- Pupils may opt to take Classical Civilisation instead of Latin or Extra English and Curriculum Support is offered for those who need it
- Pupils who find languages difficult may be offered Extra French and Curriculum Support instead of one or two foreign languages.

## Year 9

In Year 9, pupils are able to choose to continue a combination of two foreign languages from:

- French and Spanish
- French and Mandarin
- Spanish and Mandarin

Extra English, Extra French and Curriculum Support are offered as before. The rest of the curriculum is much the same but pupils begin their GCSE courses for maths and the three separate sciences.

Part way through Year 9, pupils make their GCSE Option choices. We realise that it is an early stage to be making such important decisions and we know that young people often change their plans for the future quite radically. In addition to this, technological development means that the job market is undergoing rapid change. For these reasons, it is vital that pupils keep as many options open as possible and try to keep a balance between Languages, Humanities and Creative/Practical subjects. These are the additional subjects that they will study in Years 10 and 11.

All pupils study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and French or Spanish. The majority also study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as 3 separate subjects. However, pupils who find Mathematics and Science challenging have the option of taking Combined Science, which will give them 2 GCSEs instead of 3, and enable them to spend some time taking Extra Maths and Extra Science lessons.

All option subjects will be arranged into 3 option blocks, according to the choices of the pupils, and each pupil will be asked to choose one subject from each block.

All pupils will also study PSHE, General Music, PE and RS.

# THE CURRICULUM GOING FORWARD



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## Year 10

In Year 10, pupils will continue studying the core subjects and start their GCSE options.

In addition, all pupils follow courses in General Physical Education, Religious Studies, Music and PSHE. There are no formal assessments for these subjects.

Also in Year 10, pupils carry out one week of work experience, prior to the end of the spring term. They are encouraged to find their own placement and not to rely on working with a parent or other member of the family. Members of the teaching staff try to visit every pupil on their placement.

Towards the end of Year 10, pupils are elected for roles as school officers, including Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, House Captains and Vice Captains, House Sports Captains, School Prefects and mentors. Pupils taking on these roles gain experience of giving speeches, organising their House entries for the House Drama and Music competitions, helping with the organisation of Infant, Junior and Senior Sports Days and carrying out duties before school, during morning break and at lunchtime.

We are always delighted with how the girls cope with the new challenges that they meet as they develop the leadership skills needed to prepare them for the future.

## Year 11

Pupils continue to study the core subjects and their chosen option subjects, making a total of ten GCSE subjects. Some GCSE subjects will be offered at both Foundation and Higher Level.

In addition, all pupils follow courses in General Physical Education, Religious Studies and PSHE. There are no formal assessments for these subjects.

At the end of Year 11, and following their GCSE Examinations, the girls are ready and excited to move on to the next stage of their education. The transition from school to post-16 education or training can be daunting, but because of our outstanding reputation we have wonderful links with colleges and education providers in the area. At St Nicholas' School we work closely with pupils and their parents to help with the smooth transition to the next stage in our leavers' lives.

Amongst the excellent destinations are:

- Alton College
- ArtsEd London
- Charterhouse College
- Farnborough Sixth Form College
- Gordon's College
- Peter Symonds College
- Queen Mary's College
- Reading Blue Coat
- Salesian College
- Wellington College

\*Please note, this is the current curriculum to date and can be subject to change year on year.



# GCSE SUCCESS

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At St Nicholas' School we are immensely proud of our GCSE pupils and all they have achieved. Our pupils have attained results to be proud of, their personal academic successes, alongside their dedication, resilience and positivity are to be commended.

Amongst the many highly impressive personal achievements in 2022 were:



 EMMA B  
GCSE 2022 Success

Emma secured seven grade 9s and three grade 8s at GCSE.

Emma is going on to Farnborough Sixth Form to do her A Levels in Economics, Maths & Business Studies. Her long term plan is to go to University to study either Economics or International Business.



 IZZY G  
GCSE 2022 Success

Izzy secured three grade 9s, five grade 8s and two grade 7s at GCSE.

Izzy has enrolled at Peter Symonds College in Winchester to study A Levels in History, Classical Civilisation and Combined English Literature & Language. Long term she hopes to attend university and study History and English as a joint degree.



 SIYA S  
GCSE 2022 Success

Siya achieved five grade 9s, two grade 8s and 2 grade 7s at GCSE.

Siya has chosen to study Economics, Business and Maths for A levels at Farnborough Sixth Form College. Her long-term plans are to go to University for further study in the Business/Economic field.



 ALEYNA C  
GCSE 2022 Success

Aleyna achieved two grade 9s, six grade 8s and two grade 7s at GCSE.

She is now at Farnborough Sixth Form College, studying Maths, Chemistry and Biology. Aleyna's long term goals are to go to university and hopefully study Medicine.



 ZOYYAA R  
GCSE 2022 Success

Zoyyaa achieved five grade 9s and five grade 8s at GCSE.

Zoyyaa joined Farnborough Hill Sixth to study Maths, Chemistry and Business Studies A-levels. Her future plan is to study Accounting and Finance at University.



# ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

NURSERY - INFANTS - JUNIORS - SENIORS

## ST NICHOLAS' SCHOOL

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