

# *Notre Dame High School Prospectus*

Sheffield, UK



Values that last a lifetime



# Welcome

May I offer you a warm welcome to Notre Dame High School. We are all very proud of our school and feel we are a very close and supportive community.

Our school was established to serve the Catholic families in the community of Sheffield and we are delighted that we are now able to also support the wider Christian community. We pride ourselves on our links with parishes, families, other world faiths and schools.

Following in the traditions of the Notre Dame Sisters we try to ensure that we serve the common good in our caring and ordered community through our passion for helping others, whatever their needs.

We are one of the most successful and highly regarded schools in the country, and believe this is because of our commitment to developing the whole child. Following in St Julie's footsteps to 'teach them what they need for life' we ensure that our students reach their potential academically but also that they grow as people, who are

aware of their responsibilities in the world in which they live.

We have the highest expectations of all students in every area of school life, for example in their relationships with one another, the ways in which they present and conduct themselves, and their approach and attitude towards their studies.

When you walk around our wonderful site, you will be delighted by the outstanding facilities, which are located within a variety of superb buildings including the listed Oakbrook House, our renovated main building, modern teaching blocks and specialist laboratories, sports facilities and research zones. It is an extraordinarily beautiful location, much valued by staff and students alike, contributing to our very special ethos.

**We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Notre Dame family.**

To find out more about Notre Dame High School, visit the website

[www.notredame-high.co.uk](http://www.notredame-high.co.uk)

# Gospel Values

In trying to describe the experience of being a member of the Notre Dame community, the first and most important thing to say is that we are a Catholic Christian school, rooted in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

In seeking to live out the Gospel Values, we are guided by the words of St Julie, the foundress of the Notre Dame Order. The Sisters of Notre Dame have produced a set of statements, known as the Notre Dame Hallmarks, which describe the particular characteristics of our worldwide Catholic Christian community. You will see some of these Hallmarks throughout this document and more importantly, we believe, you will see them in the day to day life of our school.

Students benefit from a vibrant chaplaincy team who offer support to our young people in all aspects of their development. Students experience opportunities for spiritual growth through retreats, regular acts of worship and liturgical celebration, including the Mass. There is also a strong commitment to social justice in the school, seen through the many charitable and campaigning activities that take place throughout the year. All members of the school community are encouraged to participate in the planning and running of all of these events, from acts of worship to fundraising.

It is not only through the work of the chaplaincy that students experience Gospel Values. We seek to ensure that these values are at the heart of everything, from the way in which we organise pastoral care to the courses that we run in the school. The care taken to put our Catholic beliefs at the heart of all we do results in a special atmosphere, which is experienced in the school and is the main reason for the school's success.

*“It is a place where you have friends and staff care.”*  
(Student)

*“I like being able to get involved in work for charities and outside agencies which help others.”*  
(Student)

*We live our lives based on Gospel Values – we challenge injustice and selfishness and work for peace and justice*

Notre Dame Hallmark



*We educate for life*

Notre Dame Hallmark



# *Learning & Achievement*

The Sisters of Notre Dame and their founder, St Julie Billiart, have provided us with a strong foundation and a real vision for caring for young people. We constantly review what we offer our students and ensure that we are following St Julie's instruction to 'give them what they need for life.' Students have access to a first class school site, and first class facilities, which are constantly being added to and improved. They also experience a curriculum, which is designed to develop their talents and challenge them.

A large number of our students choose to follow post-16 education in our highly successful sixth form, where they are joined by students from other schools. They have the opportunity to take part in work experience and the majority continue on into higher education. We have a proud tradition of students gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as many other leading Universities. A number of students also move directly into employment from the sixth form, which offers them good prospects of career development.

*We work collaboratively*

Notre Dame Hallmark

Excellence is only achieved because of the partnership between you, as parents and the school in supporting your child. We expect high rates of attendance and exemplary behaviour so that learning is of the highest quality.

As an outstanding school (OFSTED), we are proud of the performance of our students. Their results are excellent at both GCSE and A Level, showing positive value added scores.

It is important to us that your child flourishes. Excellence is about every child reaching their potential, and Notre Dame will work with you, as parents, to achieve that goal.

*“The quality of teaching was exceptional and your students were courteous, engaging and a real credit to their school.”*  
(External Quality Reviewer)

*“The tremendous commitment the staff have towards giving the best curriculum they can for each individual student is always very evident.”*  
(Parents)





# *Relationships*

We believe that every person is a unique creation of God and it is very important to us that every child knows that they matter.

One of the main ways in which students experience this in their day to day life is through the quality of relationships that exist in the school, both between students and between students and staff.

This creates a positive atmosphere of care and encouragement, allowing students to grow and realise their potential.

There is always someone to turn to for friendship and support. Your child will be loved, and as a parent, you will be confident in the care we take. Our hope is that you feel that Notre Dame is family.

*“We are delighted with the boys' exam results, but we are particularly pleased at the level of pastoral support. Notre Dame has a great deal to do with the fact that they have turned out accomplished human beings.”*

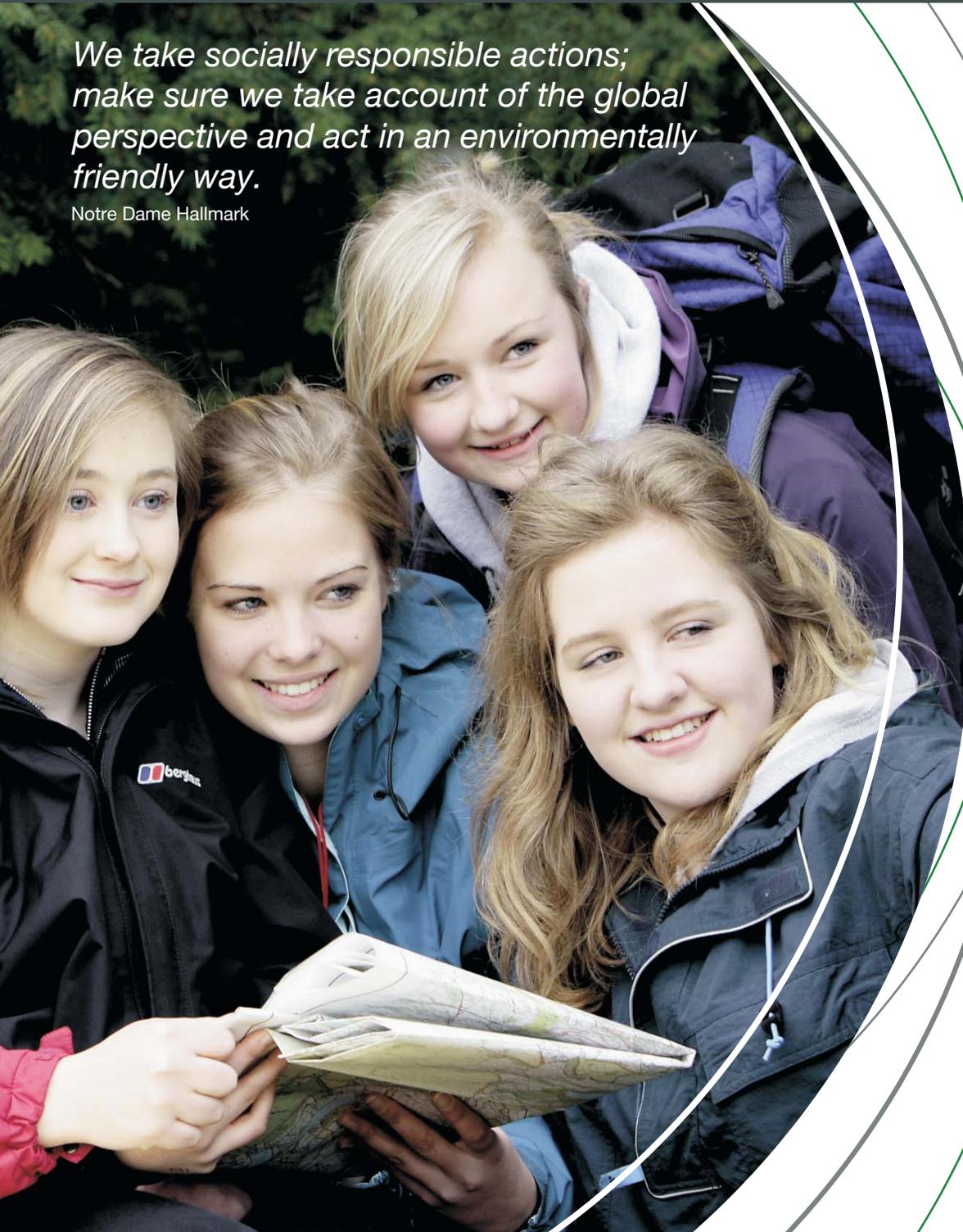
*(Parents)*

*We celebrate the diversity in our world community*  
Notre Dame Hallmark



*We take socially responsible actions;  
make sure we take account of the global  
perspective and act in an environmentally  
friendly way.*

Notre Dame Hallmark



# Community

It has been said that once you join the Notre Dame community then you are always part of it. Students have the opportunity to become fully involved in our community through the many extracurricular activities offered at our school and through active membership of form groups, year groups and houses. They are strengthened and supported by the strong school community and also by the wider community of which we are part.

Sixth form students are encouraged to link with the life of the Main School by taking on roles such as mentors and paired readers. They help at open evenings and sports days, and are valued as positive role models.

We welcome and actively promote links with the wider Catholic community, including primary schools, parishes and the family of Notre Dame schools across the globe. This global aspect is vital in giving students a sense of place within the world and to recognise their responsibilities to others. Students know that we always seek to work in partnership with them, their parents and their parishes in helping them to succeed at Notre Dame.

Our provision for spiritual and moral development is central to our commitment to the 'common good'. We positively support students in developing an understanding as to how they can put their gifts and talents at the service of the wider community, particularly those who are most vulnerable or in need.

“*Your students were our ‘pushers’ in Lourdes. They were helpful and caring and we felt very safe with them. They were a delight to know, nothing was too much trouble for them and we had plenty of laughs along the way.*”  
(Pilgrims on Lourdes trip)

“*What a pleasure it was to have your students on campus at Liverpool Hope. At a shared disco for pupils with disabilities they demonstrated their commitment to inclusion and social justice. They were great ambassadors.*”  
(Vice Dean of Education)

*We honour the dignity and sacredness of each person and ensure we develop the whole person*

Notre Dame Hallmark

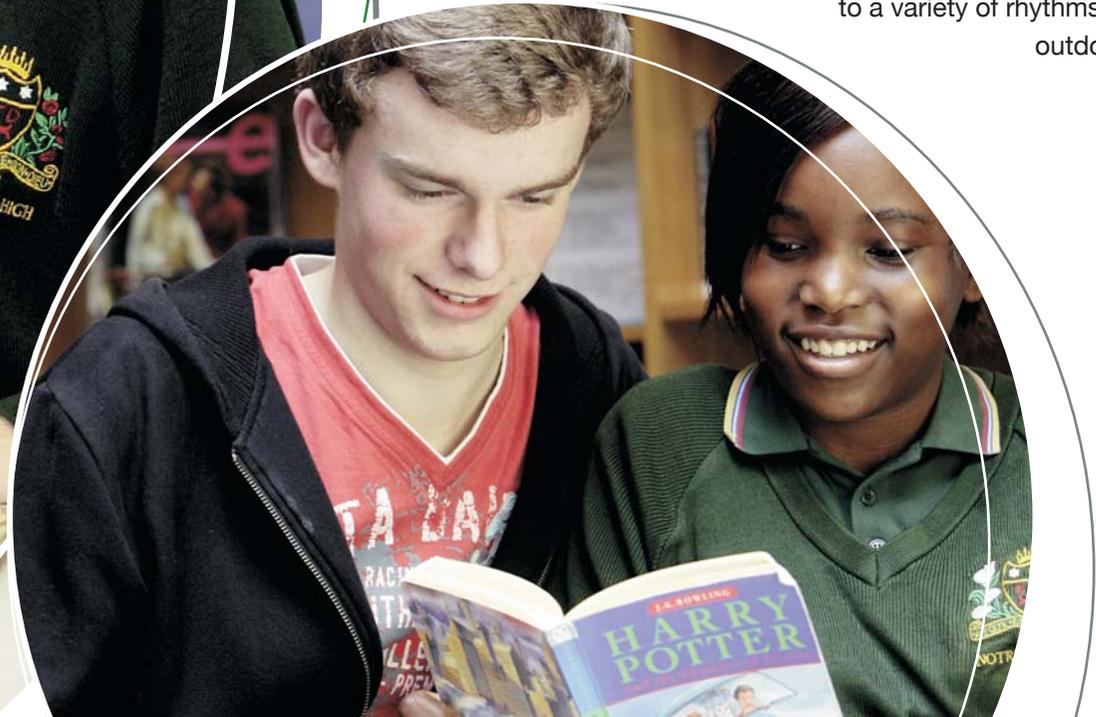


# *The Notre Dame Experience*

School is all about being able to enjoy and participate in a wide range of activities, and the Notre Dame experience delivers just that!

Students have a great range of extra-curricular activities and clubs to choose from, where they can develop their own personal interests, grow in self-confidence and learn a whole range of new skills.

The breadth of sport is second to none, and the teams do well in the various leagues that they enter. So you can kick and hit balls; run up hill or down dale or dance to a variety of rhythms; you can play outdoors or stay in!



The Performing Arts gives students a range of orchestras and choirs, drama and dance opportunities – and not just at home, but abroad too!

Or perhaps you like Maths puzzles, debating, making things with your hands or making scientific discoveries – there are a wealth of clubs waiting for you.

And if you like travel you may end up in Europe or even further afield, practising your languages, supporting other communities or having a good look at a different culture.

**So welcome to the Notre Dame experience!**

*“Our daughter’s experiences at Kielder and at the Battlefields will ensure that she continues towards taking a positive role in society; a true example of Notre Dame’s aims to prepare their pupils for life.”*  
(Parents)

*“Thank you for the splendid contribution of the school orchestra. Your generous gifts of time, talents and endurance are very much appreciated!”*  
(Parish Priest)



*We commit ourselves to community service*

Notre Dame Hallmark



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