



**As an Aquinas student we will support you in your aspirations. We have many programmes that you can be a part of that will help you to achieve your goals giving you the skills and experience to succeed. Here is a flavour of the opportunities available to you as an Aquinas student:**

### **Professional Employer Mentoring Programme.**

If you want a career in law, accounting, engineering, IT, events management or creative design, join our employer mentoring programme where we can match you with someone working in an area you are interested in. You experience 1:1 meetings with your mentor over the course of a year, and with your last meeting will be a visit to business premises and experience of a mock interview.

### **Stretch and Challenge Programme**

Aquinas has a very active programme to support the aspirations of those who would like to apply to Oxford or Cambridge or other Russell Group universities. Each year 80 lower sixth and 30 upper sixth students take our Stretch and Challenge Programme, an interdisciplinary course designed to develop critical thinking, debate and the verbal articulation of ideas. As part of this students complete an Extended Project, ideally in

their lower sixth year. This highly bespoke package sought after qualification involves independent research and is highly valued by the top universities. Students also have the opportunity of visiting four London museums in the summer term, and can attend lectures in college by visiting professors.

Extensive support for students applying to **Oxford and Cambridge** is integrated into the Stretch and Challenge programme. In the January of their lower sixth year S&C students have the opportunity to visit Cambridge on an aspiration-raising overnight visit. Students receive individualised pastoral support during the application process, talks from visiting Oxbridge professors on applications and interviews, and seminar style classes to prepare for admissions tests and interviews. In 2016 80% of Stretch & Challenge students held offers from Russell Group universities when they took their A levels, and five students took up places at Oxford and Cambridge.

### **Tomorrow's Teacher programme**

This programme will help you to decide whether teaching is for you. You will experience guest lectures from Universities focusing on the hot topics in teaching, a University visit which includes a mock interview, specialist help with personal statement writing and professional





skills tests. There is also an opportunity to become a reading mentor gaining valuable work experience with one of our local secondary schools. Students interested in primary education can also gain work experience via our Youth SVP programme.

### Aquinas Medics Programme

Our programme begins as soon as you start at Aquinas.

You all meet your group in September to discuss the qualifications needed to study Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Science and Nursing. You will also register with our Medics Coordinator Sandra Morgan and receive regular updates via our college bulletin, **Aquinas Medics Twitter feed** and our **Aquinas Healthcare website**, where we highlight both internal and external events/open days and summer schools including the UNIQ Summer School programme at Oxford University.

During your two years of preparation for University we take part in/and/or help organise the following activities;

**Guest speakers** (past Medical, Dentistry, Nursing and Veterinary students plus representatives from various university programmes including **admissions officers for Medicine from Manchester University**)

We also have an **Aquinas Alumni Mentoring** programme - what does this do?

**Fastbleep Medics Workshop** with current Manchester University medical students visit up Aquinas to run an interactive 3 hour workshop on different aspects of medicine.

**Work experience** opportunities at Stepping Hill hospital.

**Student SVP** work volunteering programme in residential care homes.

**Stepping Hill hospital** careers champions. information day.

**Royal College of Anaesthetists** workshop in Manchester.

**Keele University** medics workshop.

**Christie Hospital** work shadowing programme  
**Nuffield bursary** programme.

**Medical ethics** programme organised by our upper sixth for our lower sixth students.

External day/evening talks at the **Manchester Literature and Philosophical Society, Manchester University, Manchester Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)** on new research in Medicine, Genetics and Biological Sciences.

**Manchester Royal Infirmary** Annual Christmas lecture.

Specialist support with essential **UKCAT** and **BMAT** admissions tests for University.

Our **Careers Day** in June with guest speakers include working nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, doctors, prosthetists and orthotists, radiographers and occupational therapists.

We will also help you apply for the **Manchester and Leeds University Access programmes** if you meet the criteria they require.

Support is provided to help you fine tune your **UCAS personal statement** and we also run a very successful practice **Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)** session in November of your second year in preparation for your real University MMI interview. The panel includes on our a local GP who teaches on the degree programme at Manchester Medical Schools). In addition, we also offer one to one/panel interviews on request.



### Bringing business and education together

We work closely with the local Chamber of Commerce and were one of the founding members of the Gander Project, bringing education and business together.

This project gives you the opportunity to enhance your studies by getting involved in Dragon's Den style competitions, business visits, work shadowing, business games and sector conferences. Our next conference will take place in June and will cover a variety of careers in the digital and graphic design industry.

### Careers Day

Each year we have an extensive careers day inviting over 80 guest speakers from a wide variety of job sectors to talk to students about 'A day in the life being a...' It gives students an opportunity to talk to someone in a career area in which they are interested in and find out what a job really entails.

### Guest Speakers

We run a comprehensive inspirational guest speaker programme which has included:

- Mark Carney, Governor of The Bank of England
- Dominic Monaghan - actor in Lost, X-Men, Lord of the Rings
- Danny Brocklehurst, the BAFTA and International EMMY winning screenwriter
- Andy Burnham, MP
- Tony Lloyd, Greater Manchester's Police and Crime Commissioner
- Professor Roger Searle, Durham University (Geophysics)
- Professor Iain Stewart, Director of the Sustainable Earth Institute
- Robert Elstone, Chief Executive of Everton Football Club
- GHCQ
- Various research scientists from University of Manchester

### E-Ambassadors

The Aquinas e-Ambassadors are digital champions who are passionate about using devices, software, apps and social media for learning. They are given training in the use of various digital technologies and, as a team, will create toolkits and resources and host workshops to share ideas and new skills, dedicating their time and energy to offering advice and support. They will each be given the opportunity to take part in the KPMG Cyber Champions programme or the Barclays Digital Eagles Programme.

### Extended Project Level 3

Aquinas is a leading centre for the Extended Project qualification (EPQ), having been one of the first local sixth form colleges to offer it in 2009 and currently having one of the largest cohorts of students in the North West. Each year over 100 students take this qualification with great success, achieving outstanding grades. Aquinas College has supported curriculum leaders in other colleges who have started to offer this qualification.

The EPQ allows students to work independently focusing their research on an area of particular interest to them.

The qualification is valued by many of the Russell Group Universities with comments such as "As a research-intensive university, the University of Manchester is very supportive of the skills the Extended Project encourages learners to develop".

"We have an increasingly compelling evidence base that students who did well at the EPQ settle in well to their undergraduate study at a research-intensive university like ours, and so are keen to see more of them in our lecture theatres and seminar rooms." (University of Southampton)