



AQUINAS
COLLEGE

HIGH
ACHIEVERS
**HIGH
ACHIEVERS**
HIGH
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HIGH
ACHIEVERS

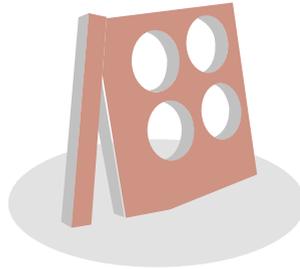
A Statement of Purpose, Values & Vision

Aquinas College strives to be a Catholic college for the whole community. Christ is at the very heart of our philosophy.



This is expressed in our commitment to the Gospel values of...

FREEDOM
JUSTICE
and **LOVE**



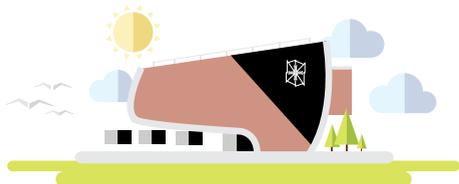
We affirm and value each member of our community, recognising the dignity and unique nature of each individual.

In this way the presence of Christ is celebrated.

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

John 10:10

We share in each other's strengths, support each other in our weaknesses and strive for the highest standards of achievement in all we do. We also encourage a questioning stance towards the values of our increasing secular society.

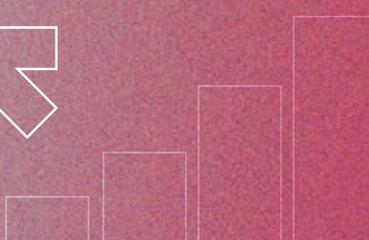


In short,
we aim to provide
reasons for living and
hoping.



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AS AN AQUINAS STUDENT WE WILL SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR ASPIRATIONS

We want to ensure that you, are engaged in stimulating activities that challenge and stretch you both academically and personally, in order to reach your full potential.

We recognise the challenges high achieving students face when competing today, so we aim to ensure that you will gain a more impressive UCAS application and CV which will be extremely beneficial to your future career prospects.

This booklet provides a flavour of the opportunities available to you as an Aquinas student.

BE  MORE



ENHANCE
YOUR
FUTURE &
CAREER
PROSPECTS

TRIPLE A PROGRAMME

A rewarding High Achievers Programme

The 'Triple A' scheme here at Aquinas College is a study programme designed to support our most able students to achieve their academic ambitions and make aspirational choices, whilst also encouraging a greater degree of cultural awareness and increasing levels of social engagement/activism.

Applicants invited to join the scheme will have excellent entry qualifications, usually with a G-Score of 8 or above (which equates to a grade 8 average across their GCSE subjects).

Our 'Triple A' scheme is primarily designed to help students to excel in their studies here at Aquinas. It will also prepare them for life after Aquinas, helping them progress to the UK's most prestigious universities, and will give them the skills necessary to build a successful and rewarding career.

We will also offer opportunities to those who meet the criteria for other 'widening participation' schemes such as the Cambridge HE+ programme, and Nuffield Research Placements.

We have built a programme that is as interesting and wide-ranging as it can possibly be, whilst at the same time encouraging students to aspire to the best universities and then the most rewarding careers available.



ELEMENTS:



Provide sessions focused on academic study skills and on developing transferable critical skills.



Encourage a greater degree of cultural awareness and increased levels of social engagement/activism.



Encourage students to take an Extended Project Qualification (or equivalent) to complement students' qualifications.



Offer volunteering and charity opportunities which will be supported by the college Chaplain and outside agencies.



Prepare students for university entrance and for any applications, interviews, or entry tests/exams that may be required.



Support activism and campaigning opportunities, working alongside Aquinas Citizens and the Aquinas Student Union.



Broaden students' cultural and academic horizons so that they have a wider appreciation of all that life has to offer with trips and visits to a variety of academic and cultural destinations.



Encourage students to undertake work experience, placements or internships, in conjunction with the Careers team and departmental teams.



Run rich and varied sessions - some led by influential academics, others involving group discussion and project management.



Access an excellent set of activities and resources that have been curated for you to access during your time on the programme.

CAMBRIDGE HE+ PROGRAMME

HE+ is a collaborative project set up by the University of Cambridge in several regions of the UK. It is designed to help schools and colleges to share best practice in supporting and challenging (their most able) Year 12 students with extension activities and materials, and to create an atmosphere in which students can support each other in raising their academic attainment and aspirations.

All participating students can mention their involvement in this highly prestigious scheme in their CVs and university application forms.

In order to achieve this, participating students will have the opportunity to:

- access subject-based extension material, focused on developing the key skills and academic confidence required for university-level study
- talk to admissions staff about the application process and receive appropriate support and guidance on making a strong application to the University of Cambridge and other competitive universities.

Scan the QR code below to visit the Cambridge HE+ website





BE PART
OF OUR
VALUES
AND
VISION

EPO

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project offers students the opportunity to explore their academic interests beyond their A-levels. Students can investigate the topic of their choice culminating in a 5000-word academic report or artefact with a supporting report explaining how research has informed the final product. Students will keep a log book to record the development of the project which will contribute to the final grade for the qualification.

The course offers a valuable opportunity for students to develop their academic writing skills, using research and referencing skills which are required when studying for a degree course.

Our EPQ students leave the course well-prepared for university study and have many of the fundamental academic skills in order to succeed on a degree course. Students will be supported by an experienced supervisor and will attend lessons once a week.

Examples of research investigations have included:

- The origins and justifications of capital punishment.
- The role of religion in defining purpose.
- The use of Psilocybin in modern medicine.
- The effect of language on neurodivergent conditions.
- The legislation of misinformation in social media.

Examples of practical artefacts have included:

- Coding an enigma machine.
- Designing and making a light to support people with seasonal affective disorder.
- Self portrait using the technique of Kintsugi.
- Producing music to interpret an individual's mental health.
- A performance of Othello.

The projects above demonstrate the diverse nature of the qualification, allowing students to investigate a topic or subject of their choice. The qualification is equivalent to 50% of a full A-level and some universities may reduce their entry requirements based on a strong result in the EPQ.

MATHS ENRICHMENT

The Maths Department runs a weekly Maths Enrichment programme throughout the year. In the Autumn term this focuses on preparing students for the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, in Spring we use material from the Oxford Online Maths Club, then from Easter onwards we focus on preparing for the Maths Admissions Tests (MAT/TMUA). This continues into U6 when students prepare to sit the admissions tests. These sessions use the STEP Support Programme resources provided by Cambridge University

If students receive an offer to study at Cambridge, we provide weekly support to prepare for STEP. This includes discussions of how to select questions and strategies for tackling unfamiliar problems.

We have a dedicated section of our website that pulls together all the resources for high attaining students. This contains links to useful websites and resources such as past papers for the Senior Maths Challenge, STEP papers and Maths Admissions Tests.

We take a group of students to the Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw lecture at the University of Manchester each year. This is an annual lecture by a guest speaker for Manchester University students.

We also take a group of students to the Mathematical Modelling Day run by Manchester University for college students. Students work with PhD students on mini-projects which they then present on at the end of the day.

Scan the QR code below to visit the NRICH Project, which aims to enrich the mathematical experience of all learners



AQUINAS MEDICS

Aquinas Medics is an enrichment program helping students prepare for their applications to medical, dental and veterinary schools. The application to these courses require students to have a significant amount of volunteer work experience, an understanding of the GMC guidelines and medical ethics, successful UCAT and/or BMAT results and finally preparation for the panel interview and multiple mini interviews.

Potential medic/dentist/vet students are identified in L6 and invited to join the Google Classroom. From here students are in contact with the medic coordinator, past students and the U6 medic mentors where we advise on how to prepare for the applications and the timescale across the two years.

In Lower 6th:

- students will apply for volunteer work, (it doesn't have to be medical). Vet students will try to obtain work experience across a range of animal settings (vet practises, farms, petting zoo, animal sanctuaries).
- students will attend Medical Ethics workshops run by the U6 medic students, where they will explore the pillars of medical ethics and the GMC guidelines and how they apply to different ethical scenarios.
- students will be encouraged to attend external workshops, lectures, open days run by various university outreach services.
- students will be encouraged to join The Medic Portal and Medify to prepare for the UCAT and BMAT before taking the tests.

In Upper 6th:

- students will be applying to UCAS so will have help on personal statements, roles and responsibilities forms ready for the early deadline.
- some students will organise and run the Medical ethics workshops for the L6.
- students will act as mentors for the L6.
- students will attend practice panel interviews and multiple mini interviews at college and externally to prepare for interview season.



REACH
YOUR FULL
POTENTIAL

SCIENCE ENRICHMENT

The Science Department runs various Stretch and Challenge enrichment sessions throughout the year. These are in addition to the students timetabled lessons. They include preparation for the National Science Olympiad competitions:

Biology: Olympiads for both Lower 6th and Upper 6th students

Physics: Olympiads for both Lower 6th and Upper 6th students

Chemistry: The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge for Lower 6th and Olympiad for Upper 6th students

Chemistry also enter students in Lower 6th for the Schools' Young Analyst Competition

As well as competition entry, our Stretch and Challenge workshops help prepare our students for Oxbridge entry. These sessions look at Science beyond the A-Level specification, touching on degree-level ideas and developing student problem solving skills within both industrial and everyday contexts.

We also support Lower 6th students

to apply for the Nuffield Science Research placements (a 4 week funded placement in University or industry over the summer holidays).

The Science department continues to give students the opportunity to visit research centres and prospective employers. We also offer students opportunities to take part in lectures and workshops (both online and where possible from guest speakers and visits).

These have included talks with the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, the Cambridge Physics Centre, the North West Science Network (COVID response and lectures from Oxbridge mentors), Manchester University (Animal research day and genetics workshops) and the Christmas lectures at University of Lincoln. We have visiting STEM speakers from various career areas talking about topics as diverse as microbiology, dementia and conservation, plus sessions offered by STEM businesses including Siemens Virtual Work Experience and staff from Astra Zeneca talking about degree apprenticeship opportunities. The

Physics department organise an annual trip to Geneva to visit CERN and the Large Hadron Collider and offer potential engineers the chance to take part in an Engineering Your Future careers day.

We are also lucky enough to have contact with Aquinas student Alumni who return to college to give talks and mentoring opportunities related to their careers including, medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and conservation science.

Environmental Science and Biology students have also had the opportunity to take part in volunteer work with local Wildlife Trusts and we are currently working with the Woodland Trust to plant 300 trees on our college grounds.

Scan the QR code below to visit the STEM website, which aims to challenge and engage learners in STEM subjects



BE MORE

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