



"Educating students: head, heart, hands"

# Notre Dame **SIXTH FORM** *Prospectus*





# Welcome

ND Sixth is part of Notre Dame, a comprehensive school for girls (and boys in the Sixth Form). Part of a worldwide network of schools founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame, it is a Catholic school that welcomes all those who want to learn in a supportive, caring and aspirational environment.

If you want to belong to a Sixth Form where you can be successful, are cared for, known individually and where you are encouraged to develop your skills and qualifications, then ND Sixth is the place for you.

ND Sixth has an impressive track record in supporting the further education of students from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of aspirations.

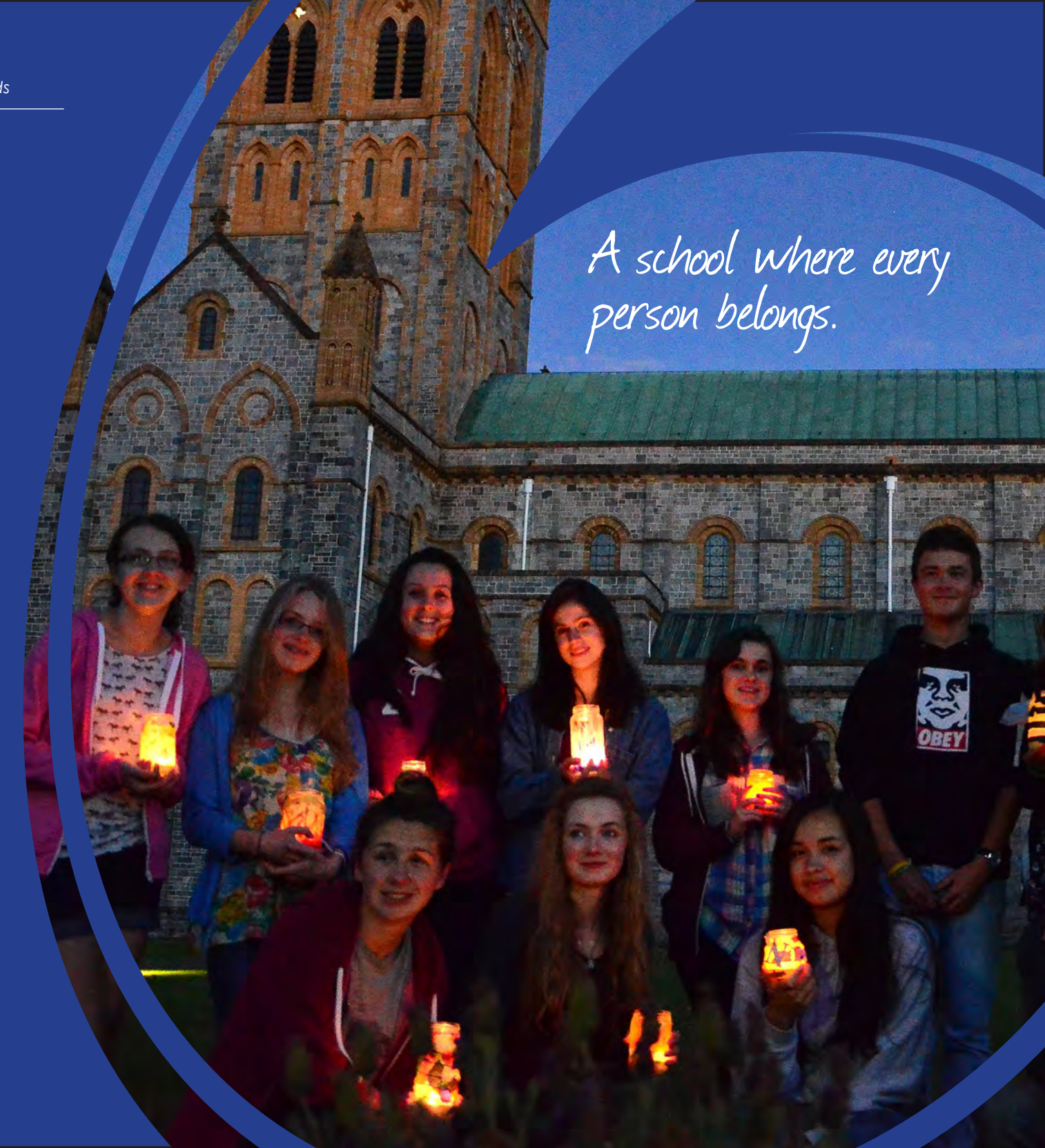
*Learn in a supportive, caring and aspirational environment.*

# Values

Notre Dame is a school that lives its mission statement:

- an optimistic school promoting Christian attitudes
- a school where every person belongs
- a school which values learning
- a school which rises to challenges and celebrates achievement

Notre Dame educates students: Head, Heart and Hands.



*A school where every person belongs.*



Notre Dame SIXTH FORM Prospectus

## Background

There has been a Notre Dame in Plymouth for nearly 150 years. The school today is proud of its history but is forward looking.

In 1804, two French women, Julie Billiart, the daughter of a country draper, and Françoise Blin de Bourdon, an aristocrat, founded a Religious Congregation dedicated to the education of girls. From that time onwards, in Europe, America, Africa, Japan and other parts of the world, Sisters of Notre Dame have worked to keep alive the educational ideals of St. Julie. It is a truly worldwide family to which all our students belong.

St. Julie believed that education should be for all, whatever their ability. The first Sisters were encouraged to educate **"the whole child: heart, hands and head"** and they were urged to teach their pupils **"whatever is necessary for life"**.

The school continues this tradition today, educating students 'head, heart and hands'.

Notre Dame educating students: head, heart and hands

## Support

Notre Dame is a comprehensive school and welcomes students of all abilities. There is a wide range of support available to enable all our students to shine, whether by stretching and challenging the able or offering additional time and help to those who need it.

The vertical House system sees students join mixed age tutor groups and benefit from the family feel of growing alongside older and younger students. Each House provides strong pastoral support, with the tutors at the heart.

Three times a year you will receive a Progress Review along with opportunities to speak to subject staff and tutors, although an on-going dialogue with staff is encouraged.

*There is a wide range of support available to enable all our students to shine.*



# Curriculum

There are a wide range of courses available at ND Sixth:

## Pure A Level

Either 3 or 4 Advanced Level courses or equivalent (this depends on the APS you achieve). You should have an APS of 40+ and a minimum of 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.

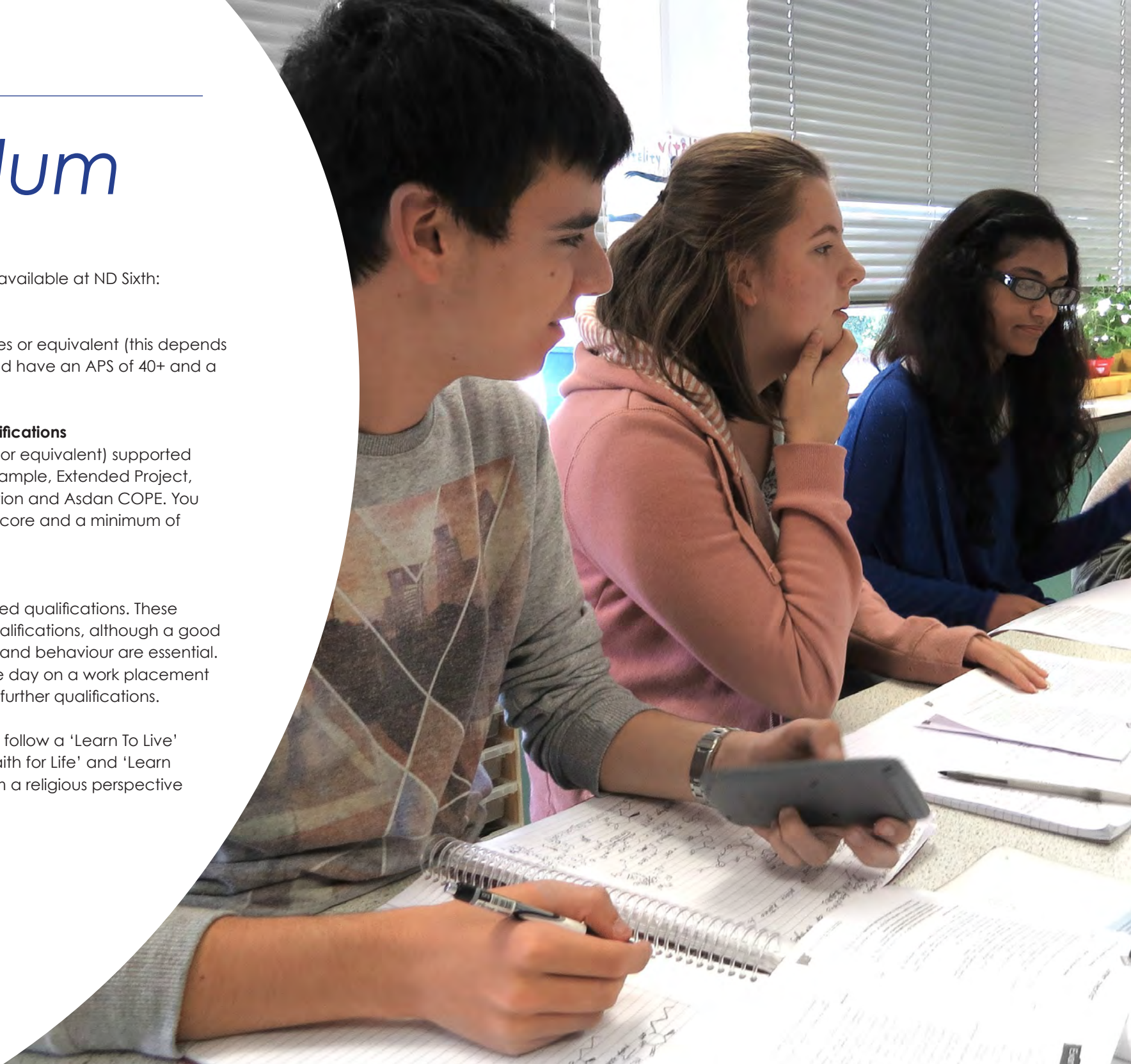
## Mixed A Level and Additional Qualifications

Usually 3 Advanced Level courses (or equivalent) supported with additional qualifications for example, Extended Project, Community Volunteering Qualification and Asdan COPE. You should have between 40 – 48 APS score and a minimum of 5 A\*-C GCSE grades.

## Vocational Pathway

Vocational Courses offer work related qualifications. These courses have no minimum entry qualifications, although a good record of attendance, punctuality and behaviour are essential. You spend two days in college, one day on a work placement and two days where you can gain further qualifications.

**Additionally...** All ND Sixth students follow a 'Learn To Live' programme which incorporates 'Faith for Life' and 'Learn for Life' exploring current issues from a religious perspective and lifelong learning.



# Extras

At ND Sixth, we know that qualifications alone are not enough. In helping you reach the next stage in your life, we look to ensure you have a rounded and broadly balanced experience.

ND Sixth offers many leadership opportunities: all students are encouraged to take on a leadership role, whether as a part of the Senior Student Leadership Team, Subject Ambassador, Senior House Captain or leading tutor group activities. All students have the opportunity to be a part of the Social, Spiritual or Study Committee which give students a chance to make a difference in school and have their say. The list is endless and we encourage all students to take an active part.

We are always open to new ideas: your time in the Sixth Form is what you make it. ND Sixth works best when students make the most of every opportunity available to them.

The school also provides a strong faith life. Retreats, reflections, liturgies and Mass are part of the pattern of the school year.



## Links

ND Sixth is part of the TLP (The Link Partnership). This is a consortium of schools that includes St Boniface's, Eggbuckland Community College, Devonport High School for Boys and Devonport High School for Girls.

You benefit from this initiative in many ways. There is a greater range of courses on offer where you will experience a wider variety of teaching and learning styles. There are more opportunities for extra-curricular activities and you have the chance to mix socially with students from other schools.

Students get involved in all aspects of school life. They compete for their Houses, stand for election as House or Sports Captains, raise money for charity and participate in surveys and interviews. They run clubs, volunteer and represent the school in sports and academic events.

Notre Dame also has a strong tradition of student involvement in local and regional activities such as Plymouth Youth Parliament and in 6th Form students successfully applying for Nuffield Research Placements.



## Facilities

As part of ND Sixth, you benefit from one of the most attractive school sites in the city. Our grounds are spacious and our facilities are up to date.

The heart of ND Sixth life is the common room. This is a social space but it is also well equipped with PCs for independent study. There is also a state of the art library, with further ICT support for Sixth Formers as well as dedicated study rooms for private study.

The Culture Café is available throughout the day for a more informal atmosphere for study with wireless access. ND Sixth students can also take advantage of the fully equipped Fitness Suite and four court Sports Hall. The Sixth Form Garden is also available for relaxation and leisure.

*Our grounds are spacious and our facilities are up to date.*



## OFSTED comments (2013)

*"The sixth form is good. It prepares students well for their futures. Many leave to study at very good universities."*

*"Teaching is mainly good and frequently outstanding. Relationships between staff and students are excellent. Teaching helps students to develop a good understanding of what they are learning."*

*"AS-level results have been above average over the last few years."*

## Student Comments

*"The school always puts your best interests first."*

*"A safe environment where learning is key."*

*"ND Sixth is like a big family."*





"Educating students: head, heart, hands"

## Find out more

There are several ways to find out more about ND Sixth...

Check out the school website at [www.ndonline.org](http://www.ndonline.org)  
or follow us on Twitter ([@NDPlymouthSixth](https://twitter.com/NDPlymouthSixth)) or Facebook ([NDSixth](https://www.facebook.com/NDSixth)).  
There are also Twitter subject accounts run by ND Sixth students.

Contact us via email at [ndsixth@ndonline.org](mailto:ndsixth@ndonline.org)  
by telephone on **01752 775101** and find us at  
Looseleigh Lane, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 5HN.

