

HONOURS  
PROGRAMME

FIND YOURSELF  
**REACHING  
HIGHER**

**NSCG** | NEWCASTLE  
AND STAFFORD  
COLLEGES GROUP

# FIND YOURSELF GOING FURTHER



## HONOURS PROGRAMME



If you're achieving great results and want to go on to study at a prestigious university, our Honours Programme will help you realise your ambitions.

To study this additional programme alongside your A Levels, you'll need a profile of mainly 9-7 grades in your GCSEs. So, if you want to win a place at a top-flight university, start putting the hard work in now.



### FIND YOURSELF AT NSCG

At Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG), all students are encouraged to realise their ambitions and achieve or exceed their target grades through excellent teaching, the development of independent learning skills and outstanding pastoral and academic support.

The Honours Programme is an additional pathway for students whose aspirations are to progress onto highly competitive courses at top universities, such as those in the Russell Group.

Once accepted onto the programme, you'll be expected to commit extra time every week to this intensive support pathway.

You'll get involved in extra and super-curricular activities and experiences, such as visits to top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. The programme helps build your confidence, develop your skills and knowledge and improves your chances of achieving a place at a world class university.

*KG Dobson*

**Karen Dobson OBE**  
Principal and Chief Executive

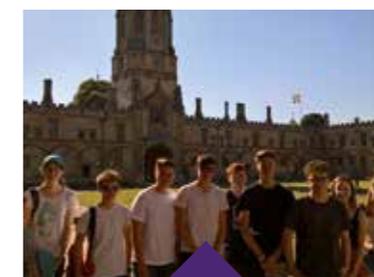
# TOP 10%

of colleges in England for learners aged 16-18

# 97%

**Overall A Level Pass Rate**

*Student success rates on all of our NSCG A Level subjects exceed national benchmarks*



**VISIT TO CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD**



**VISIT TO SIDNEY SUSSEX, CAMBRIDGE**

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### FIND OUT MORE

Email us at:  
**honours@nscg.ac.uk**  
or visit our website:  
**nscg.ac.uk/honours**

# FIND YOURSELF EXCELLING



## Q&A WITH AMBER JOHNSON

Amber Johnson, ex-Honours Programme student, reflects on university life and how the Honours Programme helped her achieve her ambitious goal of studying at the University of Cambridge.

### HOW DID BEING A MEMBER OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME HELP YOU PREPARE FOR UNIVERSITY?

The Honours Programme provided me with exceptional support and guidance and really helped me to realise my potential and gain the confidence needed to apply to such a prestigious university.

### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

My favourite part was probably the numerous residential visits. They really gave me an insight into life in higher education in general, and specifically, what studying at Cambridge might be like.

### AS PART OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME, WHAT SUPPORT DID YOU RECEIVE?

Not only did I receive support from my personal tutor, I also got lots of help and advice from various other staff at the College with things such as my personal statement and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which I undertook alongside my A Levels. The on-going support helped to grow my confidence and improve my research and writing skills which was instrumental in me getting my place at my chosen university.

### HOW DID THE EPQ PREPARE YOU FOR APPLYING TO, AND GAINING A PLACE AT UNIVERSITY?

Doing an EPQ alongside my A Levels was really like a test-run for university and helped to develop my super-curricular activities in addition to the study skills I learnt. It really enabled me to evidence my interest in Archaeology as a subject, which my A Levels alone couldn't do. Without it, I'm not sure I would have known for sure what I wanted to do, nor got the place at Cambridge.

### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ANYONE CONSIDERING APPLYING TO THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

I would say go for it! I can honestly say that before the Honours Programme, I had never considered an Oxbridge university being an option for me. There's often a stereotype surrounding these sorts of universities that can be a little daunting, but having heard from numerous guest speakers about university life and from the on-going support I received from my peers and tutors, I realised that it was totally a viable option for me.

## AMBER JOHNSON

### DESTINATION

University of Cambridge to study Archaeology

### COURSES

- A Level Art (A\*)
- A Level Biology (A)
- A Level Chemistry (A)
- EPQ (A)

### JOINED US FROM

Sir Thomas Boughay Academy

# FIND YOURSELF AMONGST LIKE-MINDED ACHIEVERS

Getting to the top of your game takes hard work and dedication.

We're here to help you every step of the way with a packed programme of lectures, workshops and activities that will help you fast track your future.

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Richard Simpson, the College's Honours Programme Leader, will be your personal tutor and you'll benefit from one-to-one advice and guidance on a weekly basis.

Richard holds a first-class MA degree from the University of Warwick, as well as an MBA. He has a background in international business having spent almost a decade overseas. Living and working in South Africa, Europe, Russia, Singapore and Australia gave Richard a great understanding of the challenges of working globally.

Fast-forward several years, and after successfully studying for his PGCE qualification, Richard has been translating his love of learning and the world of ideas into his student lectures for the past 15 years.

Richard lives and breathes student success. He believes passionately in helping students reach their full academic potential and understands the need to combine this with an appreciation of cultural sensitivities and wider personal development.



## UNIVERSITY LINKS



As part of the programme you'll have the opportunity to take part in HE+, a collaborative project run by the University of Cambridge. Amongst other things, the HE+ project gives talented young people the opportunity to take part in academic extension classes and an academic research competition - along with the opportunity for a residential visit to Cambridge at the end of the year.

## SUMMER SCHOOL AND ACTIVITIES

You'll be encouraged to apply to attend a week-long Sutton Trust Summer School and other day and residential events run directly by the universities. These will give you a taste of what life is like at a leading university and give you all the inside tips on how to make a successful application.

You'll also have the opportunity to participate in the annual Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition where you'll gain experience in speaking on a public platform as a member of a team, and our Debating Society will give you the opportunity to develop your skills in presenting and defending a position on topical subjects in live debates with other young people.



## OUR TWO-YEAR HONOURS PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

- An initial team-building day at Gradbach Mill in the Peak District.
- A specific subject mentor, specialist tutor and personal tutor group to help guide your development beyond the A Level syllabus.
- Development of critical thinking skills delivered through taught sessions.
- The chance to take an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- Practical workshops and targeted help to prepare you for university aptitude tests.
- Regular talks from visiting academics and former Honours Programme students.
- Specialist support and workshops for students who want to join the medical, veterinary or legal professions.

# FIND YOURSELF IGNITING YOUR PASSIONS



NEXT STOP  
university

#NSCGRESULTS



## Q&A WITH JAMES DUFFY

### WHAT OPPORTUNITIES HAS THE HONOURS PROGRAMME GIVEN YOU?

The Honours Programme has provided me with a great opportunity to meet new friends and helped build my confidence before applying to university. It's been great to spend time with like-minded people who are of a similar mind-set and equally passionate about their subject as I am.

### WHAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DID YOU RECEIVE AS PART OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

The fact that I had a subject specific mentor to help keep me on track with things such as work experience, super-curricular activities and my personal statement, meant that not only was I on track to meet my predicted grades, but that I was also in a really strong position when applying to university.

### WHAT TRIPS HAVE YOU BEEN ON AS PART OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

As part of the programme, I went on multiple residential visits to Oxbridge where I got to meet subject lecturers for advice and guidance on my personal statement and received a tour of the campus and facilities. I also got the chance to hear from a range of guest speakers from the prestigious Russell Group and Oxbridge, which allowed me to make an educated and well-informed decision about my next move.

### WHAT ADDITIONAL SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED AS PART OF UNDERTAKING AN EPQ?

Doing an EPQ has helped me to develop my independent research skills, develop a broader understanding of my subjects and has helped me to learn how to keep things concise when writing, which has been really useful for my exams.

### NOW YOU'VE FINISHED COLLEGE, WHAT'S NEXT?

I'm going to the University of Birmingham to study a BSc in Money, Banking & Finance. I got offers from the University of Cambridge, the University of Manchester and the University of Leeds, but the course at Birmingham was the one that really stood out to me.

## JAMES DUFFY

### DESTINATION

University of Birmingham to study Money, Banking & Finance

### COURSES

- A Level Economics (A)
- A Level Geography (A\*)
- A Level Physics (C)
- EPQ (A\*)

### JOINED US FROM

Clayton Hall Academy

# FIND YOURSELF DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS



## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Leading universities expect excellent academic performance in all A Level subjects taken. What really sets university applications apart from others is the ability to demonstrate real passion for your subject that goes beyond the A-Level classroom.

To help you to develop your interests, you'll be provided with a subject mentor whose role is to meet with you regularly to review your progress. You'll also be encouraged to document your learning in a student journal which will become invaluable when it comes to preparing your Personal Statement and supporting your university application.

Alongside this, we expect Honours Programme students to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The EPQ teaches independent research skills which are highly valued by universities and will help you to make a successful transition from college to the more independent mode of study required at university. Undertaking an EPQ also provides a structured format to embed your super-curricular research. Ultimately, what you choose to research is completely up to you, but you'll get the opportunity to discuss this with your mentor. The EPQ is also worth UCAS points (half a full A Level, ie, the same academic standard as a full A Level but narrower in scope).



## LATIN

An optional 1 hour per week class in Latin is also available (subject to sufficient interest). This is not a club or society, but a formal taught and registered class. A basic understanding of Latin language is extremely useful for the study of many disciplines at university.



## ASAD HUSSAIN

**DESTINATION:**  
University of Manchester  
to study Medicine

**COURSES:**

- A Level Biology (A\*)
- A Level Chemistry (A\*)
- A Level Geography (A\*)

**JOINED US FROM:**  
St Peter's Academy



The Honours Programme has been a great launch pad and provided me with so many amazing opportunities to help get me on the right path for a successful career in Medicine. The support I received is second to none and has really encouraged me to aim high. I would recommend it to anyone.

## CHLOE FOX-ROBERTSON

**DESTINATION:**  
University of Oxford  
to study Geography

**COURSES:**

- A Level Chemistry (A)
- A Level Geography (A)
- A Level Maths (A\*)

**JOINED US FROM:**  
Madeley High School



The Programme really helped me to realise my potential and give me the confidence to apply to the University of Oxford. The support and guidance I received as part of the programme was brilliant and we had lots of amazing opportunities to hear from guest speakers and visited some of the UK's most prestigious universities.



## EVE LOVATT

**DESTINATION:**  
University of Oxford  
to study History

**COURSES:**

- A Level History (A\*)
- A Level Politics (A)
- A Level Psychology (A\*)

**JOINED US FROM:**  
Wolstanton High School



I've really enjoyed my time on the Honours Programme. The staff were very supportive and encouraged me a lot during my time at the College. I'm looking forward to progressing to the University of Oxford and having a history-based career in the future.



## REBECCA WALTON

**DESTINATION:**  
Royal Veterinary College to  
study Veterinary Medicine

**COURSES:**

- A Level Biology (A)
- A Level Chemistry (C)
- A Level Physical Education (A)

**JOINED US FROM:**  
Madeley High School



The Honours Programme was such a fantastic experience for me. It enabled me to meet like-minded people with the same aspirations and supported me in so many ways throughout the process of applying to university.



# FIND YOURSELF AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME



## Q&A WITH KATIE QUAYLE

### WHAT OPPORTUNITIES HAS THE HONOURS PROGRAMME GIVEN YOU?

The Honours Programme has given me lots of opportunities and enabled me to apply to some of the most competitive universities in the country. I've had the chance to hear from some amazing guest speakers and the support that I've received has really helped to shape my application around what is needed. The programme really pushes you to achieve your full potential.

### WHAT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DID YOU RECEIVE AS PART OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

The most valuable support for me has been that which I received for my personal statement. Before joining the Honours Programme, I wasn't 100% sure what the Russell Group universities expected to see within an application, but with the help of Richard (my personal tutor) and the shared knowledge of the guest speakers that came in to talk to us, I learned what I needed to do and could tailor my application accordingly. Without this help and guidance, I wouldn't have got the amazing offers that I got!

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE HONOURS PROGRAMME?

I've really loved the Philosophy of Science lectures as they really helped to expand my knowledge in that specific area. The residential

trips were also great! One trip in particular to the University of Oxford was also a real highlight; a group of us visited Christ Church for three nights which really opened my eyes.

### HOW DID DOING AN EPQ BENEFIT YOU AND WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED?

Doing an EPQ has been one of the best decisions that I have made. When you're studying on an A Level programme, there isn't much room to go above and beyond the curriculum. However, the EPQ gave me that additional space to explore a subject that I was passionate about whilst further aiding my university application. Doing the EPQ allowed me to develop both my research and independent working skills and learn how to think outside the box.

## KATIE QUAYLE

### DESTINATION

University of Bristol to study Philosophy and Politics

### COURSES

- A Level History (A)
- A Level Psychology (A\*)
- A Level RE (A\*)
- EPQ (A)

### JOINED US FROM

Madeley High School

# FIND YOURSELF REIMAGINING YOUR FUTURE

3 STEP APPLICATION PROCESS TO JOIN THE HONOURS PROGRAMME

## BEFORE STARTING AT NSCG

# 1

### Register your interest

Register your interest in joining the Honours Programme by emailing [honours@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:honours@nscg.ac.uk). Alternatively, we may get in touch with you directly if you have been recommended to join by your current school.

# 2

### 'Top 200' event

Once you have registered, you'll be invited to our 'Top 200' event in June where you'll get more information about the programme, the chance to meet the Honours Programme Leader and the opportunity to speak to current students who are members of the programme.

# 3

### Application

Depending on your GCSE results, you may then be invited to apply for one of the 40 places and, if successful, you'll officially be a member of the Honours Programme!



NEWCASTLE COLLEGE



STAFFORD COLLEGE

## ONCE ENROLLED AT NSCG



### INTERESTED?

If you would like to be considered for the programme, please email [honours@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:honours@nscg.ac.uk)

FIND YOURSELF AT



**Newcastle College**

Knutton Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2GB

T: **01782 715111** E: [info.newcastle@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:info.newcastle@nscg.ac.uk)

**Stafford College**

Victoria Square, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2QR

T: **01785 223800** E: [info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk](mailto:info.stafford@nscg.ac.uk)

[nscg.ac.uk](http://nscg.ac.uk)



**The Small Print:** All our course information was correct when we printed this brochure. But hey, sometimes things change at the last minute. For all the latest info, it's always best to check our website.