

NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP

Honours Programme

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Since 2019



It begins at
NSCG



Let's begin with a big hello.

As one of the highest performing further education colleges in the country, NSCG has a long established reputation for delivering excellent education and training. We are also one of only two colleges locally with an Outstanding Ofsted rating across all areas.

At NSCG, we endeavour to provide outstanding learning environments and enrichment experiences to equip you with the skills and knowledge to realise your full potential.

For students who show particular academic aptitude and ambition, our Honours Programme can help you to submit successful applications to some of the country's most selective and prestigious universities, including those in the Russell Group and

progress onto highly competitive courses such as medicine and veterinary science.

This additional pathway requires significant extra commitment. But you get out of it what you put in and the benefits far outweigh the effort.

Once accepted, you'll get involved in extra and super-curricular activities, such as visits to top universities including Oxford and Cambridge and have the opportunity to expand your thinking with additional weekly tutorials.

You will develop vital critical thinking skills, further your knowledge and expand your horizons as you significantly improve your chances of achieving a place at a world-class university.

Your future starts here.



The Honours Programme is led by Richard Simpson. Richard holds a first-class MA from the University of Warwick, as well as an MBA and he has been translating his love of learning into his student lectures for more than two decades, helping hundreds of young people reach their full academic potential.

Honours Programme

If you're achieving great results and have the ability, drive and determination to go on to study at a highly selective university such as those in the Russell Group, our Honours Programme will help you realise your ambitions.

To study this additional programme alongside your A Levels, you'll need a profile of grades 7 to 9 in your GCSEs and a willingness to put in the work. Good grades alone are not enough to secure a place at a top university, you have to stand out from the crowd and the Honours Programme can help you do just that.



Toby Davies

Toby's curiosity, passion and natural mathematical ability made him a perfect fit for the Honours Programme.

His achievements during his time at NSCG include Gold Awards in both the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Olympiad and he consistently delivered the highest performances in both his Chemistry and Physics classes across very strong cohorts.

Toby's love for learning didn't start and end in the classroom, as lectures with the Imperial College Further Maths Programme and University of Cambridge saw him explore subjects such as combinatorics, cryptography, quantum computing, differential equations and the link between cicadas and prime numbers.

His hard work has now secured him a place at Durham University.

Previous School

Madeley School

Course(s)

A Levels in Maths (A*), Further Maths (A*), Physics (A*) & Chemistry (A)

Destination

Durham University to study Maths

“ I now
have a greater
confidence in
my own ability
to do well. ”

What additional support did you receive through the programme?

I focused on developing my wider skillset, in particular critical thinking and logical reasoning skills. The additional support pushed me to the point where I now feel that I have the skills I need to start and hopefully be successful in, university study.

Additionally, my tutor provided lots of guidance when I was writing my personal statement in order for me to make as competitive an application as I possibly could. In particular, this included refining my word count so I could include as much detail as possible, as well as giving advice on explaining how my super-curricular activities enhanced my subject-specific knowledge and skills.

What advice would you give to someone who is just starting out at college?

Make the most of any free time you have and use it to get ahead of work and research your subject of interest beyond the classroom. Start looking for super-curriculars as soon as possible, so you have evidence of your subject passion and how you have researched your subject beyond the syllabus when it comes to university applications.

Don't forget that your Lecturers are there if you are struggling with a particular part of your subject, reach out to them and they will be happy to help you.

Lastly, get a structured study plan in place early in the first year, but don't overburden yourself with too much work, make sure you have free time to enjoy your hobbies and interests.

What is the most important thing you learned from your time on the Honours Programme?

Anyone can make a strong, competitive UCAS application to the UK's top universities (and potentially worldwide) if they are passionate about their chosen subject, willing to research beyond the syllabus and are prepared to work hard both independently and in the classroom.

How did the programme help you grow, both academically and personally?

Academically, I've definitely developed my knowledge of maths extensively through super-curricular opportunities and my HE+ Project. I've also participated in exercises designed to improve critical thinking and logical reasoning skills which I found have greatly improved the methodology when tackling maths problems.

Personally, I feel that I have greater confidence in my own ability to do well and in addition, I feel that my communication of ideas has improved thanks to the mini group research project we did, as well as my Cambridge interview. Overall, I feel I have a more well-rounded set of skills that will benefit me at university and in my future career.



You bring the ambition.

We'll bring the rest.

You can expect:

- Launch and team building event at Gradbach Mill in the Peak District.
- Participation in the prestigious Cambridge University sponsored HE+ programme.
- Subject led initiatives such as the Chemistry and Physics Olympiads and Cambridge Chemistry Race.
- Specialist workshops in Medicine and Veterinary Science.
- Talks from visiting academics.
- Visits to universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, Lancaster and Durham.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Opportunity to study Latin (subject to sufficient interest and staff availability).



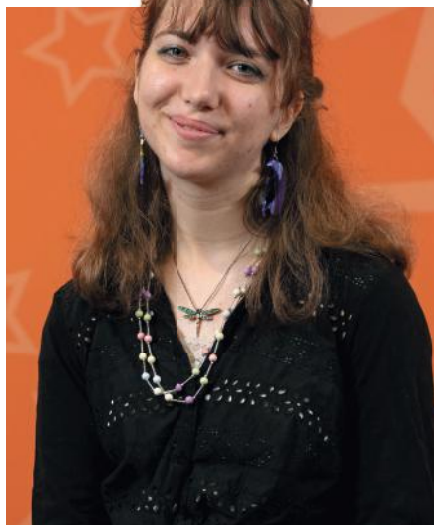
Students from the Honours Programme visited the Harper & Keele Veterinary School, where they attended a lecture with Dr Mandisa Greene, Medical Director at VetsNow and former President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.



Each year, the Honours Programme begins with a team-building day at Gradbach Mill in the heart of the Peak District.



Newcastle College hosted BBC Question Time, giving our students the opportunity to visit the set and take part in a Q&A with host Fiona Bruce.



“

The tutors really supported my diverse subject combination and helped me succeed.”

Leila Everill

Leila made her mark at NSCG as a truly exceptional student.

She demonstrated outstanding mathematical ability. She completed the full A Level Maths course by the end of Year 1, alongside studying Further Maths, advancing well beyond the taught curriculum.

In Physics, Leila consistently achieved the highest marks in assessments and stood out as the most able student in a very strong cohort.

Leila's abilities extended beyond the sciences. Her EPQ focused on the design and development of a children's play tent using scaled origami and specific material properties to achieve a self-erecting product, reflecting technical precision with strong creativity and an aesthetic awareness.

Previous School: Clayton Hall Academy

Course(s): A Levels in Animation (A*), Maths (A*), Further Maths (A), Physics (A*) & EPQ (A*)

Destination: University of Oxford to study Engineering



“

The guidance and feedback from tutors has helped to set me up for life at university.

”

Imogen Speakman

Imogen's ability for both mathematics and essay writing supported excellent progress across all her subjects during her time at NSCG, but it is in the world of business and finance that her real interest lies.

Imogen has further explored her passion through competitions and practical experience. Her submission to the Entrepreneurship Lab essay competition at King's College, Cambridge investigated the benefits of innovation in uncertain environments.

Imogen secured a place at the University of Manchester to study Business Accounting in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the “Big 4” largest and most influential accounting firms in the world.

Previous School: Madeley School

Course(s): A Levels in Maths (A*), Geography (A*) , Business (A*) & EPQ (A*)

Destination: University of Manchester to study Business Accounting with PwC

Super-Curricular Enrichment

A photograph of two students, a young man and a young woman, sitting at a desk in a classroom. The young man in the foreground is smiling and writing in a notebook with a yellow highlighter. He is wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt and a red lanyard. The young woman in the background is looking down at a book. They are both wearing red lanyards. The background shows a green bulletin board with various papers and photos pinned to it.

Super-Curricular Study Journal

Everything we do is about equipping you with the skills and knowledge needed to progress to the next level.

Good grades alone aren't enough, so you will be expected to document your experiences in a specially designed study journal provided by the College.

This ensures that you are keeping a record of each enrichment activity you take part in and that you are reflecting on and evaluating your experiences as they occur, which will provide vital support when the time comes to prepare your all-important UCAS application.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

EPQ is an A Level standard, stand-alone qualification designed to extend and develop your abilities beyond the A Level syllabus and prepare you for university or your future career. Taking part in the EPQ gives you the opportunity to complete an independent project worth 28 UCAS points and more importantly, helps to develop the vital independent study and research skills that are valued in Higher Education.

You will plan and carry out research on a subject of your choice, which will then be used to produce a 5,000 word academic report or artefact.

The investigation, structure and composition of the project is all down to you, but you will have the support of teaching staff who will teach you research and project management skills and offer expert feedback and guidance, enabling you to fully embrace this super-curricular initiative.

There are very few limitations on the angle you can take which provides an excellent opportunity to focus the EPQ on your personal interests, future degree or career plans.

Helping your university application to stand out is at the heart of the Honours Programme and being able to demonstrate a genuine passion for your subject that goes beyond the classroom will allow you to develop your personal statement when the time comes.

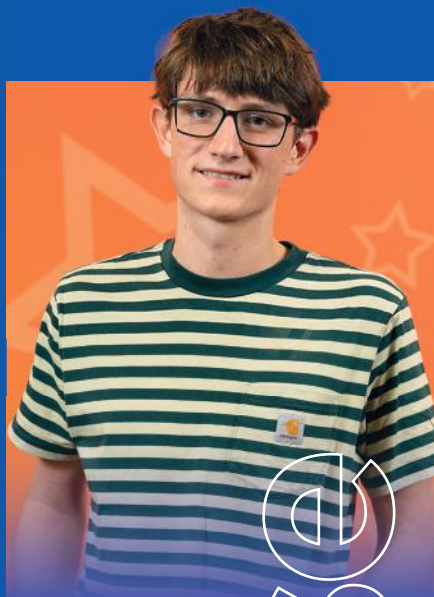
Completing an EPQ is highly recommended for A Level students hoping to go to Oxford, Cambridge or any of the Russell Group universities. These top institutions encourage applicants to undertake the programme as it helps to develop the critical and independent study and research skills needed for a successful transition into university.

University Links HE+

As part of the Honours Programme, you'll have the opportunity to take part in HE+, a collaborative project run by the prestigious University of Cambridge.

HE+ will introduce you to super-curricular activities, academic extension classes and a research competition, as well as an opportunity to visit Cambridge at the end of the year.





Hector Jealious

Hector's intellect and work ethic saw him excel across all his subjects, but it is in Economics where his real interest lay, combining his strength in quantitative analysis with his curiosity for how it can explain human behaviour.

His EPQ focused on the economic efficiency of the UK tax system and provided a great opportunity for him to utilise his problem solving skills, skills he was able to develop in both his Maths classes and through participation in a 10 week Advanced Mathematics Support Programme at Keele University.

His commitment to learning and strong academic ability supported Hector in securing a place at Clare College, University of Cambridge.

Previous School

Clayton Hall Academy

Course(s)

A Levels in Economics (A*), Maths (A*), Further Maths (A*), Physics (A*) & EPQ (A*)

Destination

Clare College, University of Cambridge to study Economics

“The Honours Programme gave me an insight into what life is like at Oxbridge.”

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What made you want to join the Honours Programme?

I wanted to join the Honours Programme because I knew it would help me put together a competitive university application, which was really important to get offers from the places I was aiming for. I'd also heard a lot about the experience and knowledge that Richard has and I thought it sounded like a good chance to learn from him and set up my future in the best possible way.

What are your career goals for the future?

My EPQ focused on the question, “Is the UK tax system economically efficient?” I wrote a 5,000-word report and got to analyse a lot of really interesting data. I'd like to build on this by pursuing a finance-based role, particularly in investment banking, with the goal of turning it into my career.

How did the Honours Programme help to prepare you for university?

The Honours Programme helped through the whole process. From choosing a destination and course right through to completing the final applications. At the same time, it gave me the chance to start building the knowledge and skills I'll actually need once I get there.

The academic support was brilliant too and helped to keep me motivated throughout without pushing me too hard. It also gave me the opportunity to lean into the university learning style, such as having more independence and taking responsibility for my own work, which I know will be really useful.

What opportunities did you find the most helpful?

The trip to Oxford was definitely one of the most helpful opportunities because it gave me an insight into what life at Oxbridge could be like and helped me set a target to aim for in my head. I also really enjoyed the “What Is Now” presentation, as it gave me my first opportunity to demonstrate and practice critical thinking. It also helped me become more confident with presenting and public speaking.

How did the programme help you grow as a person?

It gave me a great foundation to meet new people and build connections. The trip to Gradbach was especially good because it pushed me to interact with others around me. I also found the tasks we did in tutorials helpful, even though they were often on topics I wouldn't normally choose. Doing them really broadened my scope of knowledge and made me more open-minded.

A photograph of two students walking on a college campus. On the left is a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a purple t-shirt and light blue jeans. On the right is a young man with short, dark, curly hair, wearing a light-colored polo shirt and blue jeans. Both students are wearing red lanyards with ID badges. They are walking past a building with a sign that says "College". The background shows some greenery and a clear sky.

This isn't just a college.
It's where
your
takes sha



future
pe.

Propel Your Potential.



Jewel Reyes

Previous School:

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy

Course: A Levels in Biology (A*), Maths (A), Chemistry (A), Maths (A)

Destination: Keele University to study Medicine

“ The opportunities I had throughout the Honours Programme helped to build my confidence and slowly introduced me to the reality of going to university. ”



Edward Robinson

Previous School:

Madeley School

Course: A Levels in Maths (A*), Further Maths (A*), Physics (A) & Computer Science (B)

Destination: University of Bath to study Maths

“ The Honours Programme gave me some of the best NSCG memories, from help submitting my university applications to competing in Olympiads. ”



Honours Programme students realise their ambition to achieve a place at high performing universities.

The Honours Programme can help you stand out from the crowd, many of our Honours Programme students step up to top universities or move into a competitive programme, making it the perfect pathway for ambitious and high-achieving students.

Everything we do in the Honours Programme is about equipping you with the skills and experience that will really make the difference as our consistently high success rates with Oxbridge, medicine, law and veterinary applications prove.



Ella Parsons

Previous School:

Sir Thomas Boughiey Academy

Course: A Levels in Biology (A), Chemistry (A), History (A) & EPQ (B)

Destination:

University of Manchester to study Biochemistry

“ The tutors offer so much support to their students and were always willing to put in extra time outside of class to support and encourage me. ”



Matthew Allen

Previous School:

Trentham Academy

Course: A Levels in Maths (A*), History (A*), Politics (A) & Further Maths (B)

Destination:

University of Cambridge to study Law

“ The standard of teaching is so high and the tutors provide an excellent work environment, they were always on hand to provide support. ”

How to apply.

Places on the Honours Programme are strictly limited. If your GCSE results identify you as a qualifying student, you will be contacted and invited to apply just before the autumn half-term and the programme begins immediately afterwards.

For more information visit nscg.ac.uk/honours or email honours@nscg.ac.uk



1,242

students in 2024
progressed to
113 universities.

**Around 97% of
NSCG students go
on to university, an
apprenticeship or
employment.**

How we get you ready for University.

- Tailored support with UCAS applications to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities.
- The opportunity to study for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).
- Super-curricular study journal to record your academic development journey beyond the classroom.
- For mathematicians, access to develop interests via the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP).
- Specialist workshops in Medicine and Veterinary Science.
- The opportunity to apply for the MedicMentor programme and Keele University's Steps2Medicine Program.



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The small print: The information contained within our guide is correct at the time of going to print. For all the latest information it is best to check our website.