

NIALL AND SHANE HAVE BEEN HELPED TO EXCEL THANKS TO THE COMMITMENT OF STAFF AT ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



ST JAMES' CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL



DAWN AND PAUL DEVLIN LIVE IN KINGSBURY WITH THEIR SONS, NIALL, AGED 18, SHANE, AGED 15 AND RYAN, AGED NINE. NIALL HAS NOW LEFT ST JAMES' AND SHANE IS IN YEAR TEN AT THE SCHOOL.

CARING TEACHERS

Dawn and Paul have been delighted with the way staff at St James' have motivated both their sons to do well. "The teachers are all very caring and committed and in the seven years Niall and Shane have attended the school I haven't had to go into the school to raise any issues. They all want the children to do well and help them to achieve the best results they can," Dawn says.

INSPIRING GOOD WORK

"We like the way the school make the children keen to do well early on with their rewards scheme, which involves giving merits for good work, badges for receiving a certain amount of merits and having tea with the head teacher. This encourages the

children to try hard to earn merits and helps them to achieve their full potential.

BEST SCHOOL

"When Niall was due to start secondary school we looked at other schools, but realised St James' was by far the best in the area. I had been there and other members of our families had gone there and done well and Niall said he liked St James' best because it had a warm, friendly environment. When Shane was due to move up we also gave him the choice and he said he wanted to go to St James'.

BOOSTING CONFIDENCE

"Niall was a very quiet child when he started and wasn't a good mixer because he lacked confidence. However, the drama teacher took him under his wing and got Niall to do little jobs for him, which built up his confidence. In just six weeks everything changed and Niall became more confident and started to mix well. Niall has had a happy time at St James' and been well prepared to have a successful career in IT.

DEDICATED STAFF

"The teachers try to help all the children to do as well as they can and go the extra mile to help them when they are sitting their GCSEs and A Levels. The teachers will even go in on Saturdays to help any pupils having problems and are available before and after school.

FLYING START

"Shane's experience at St James' has been different from his brother's. He was a very sociable child and had no problem mixing. He had done karate, getting his black belt at the age of ten, and also Gaelic football. He has played for Prince's Park Football Club since he was four so he already knew some of the children. He was happy at the school straight away and has made lots of friends. He is currently in the school football and basketball teams.

AWARD WINNERS

"Both Niall and Shane have received the prestigious Jack Petchey Award while at the school. Niall was given it for helping out in the library providing IT support. Only nine children receive the award each year so it is considered an important achievement. Shane received it the following year for sports leadership, having done 200 hours work helping younger children, both as a football coach and with PE. It was a proud moment for both of them when they went to receive their awards," Dawn says.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

"The school hold celebratory nights, such as a sports award evening for sporting achievements during the year and a prize giving to celebrate academic achievements, especially at GCSE and A Level. The school also help the community with charity fund raisers and a Christmas party for senior citizens."

CHILDREN SAY

Shane says: "I really enjoy school because the teachers are always very helpful and want us to succeed in everything. The lessons are fun and we learn a lot and the teachers are always on hand if we need any help at lunchtimes or after school. I really like being a sports leader because it opens up opportunities and helps the children in the community. My favourite subject is PE because I really enjoy it."



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