

KIAN AND REGAN HAVE BOTH THRIVED IN THE WARM AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



ST JAMES' CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL



ANN AND DONAL GRANT LIVE IN KINGSBURY WITH THEIR SONS, KIAN, AGED 18, REGAN AGED 13, AND SHAY, AGED EIGHT. KIAN LEFT ST JAMES' AND WENT TO COLLEGE AFTER TAKING HIS GCSEs AND REGAN IS IN YEAR EIGHT.

EXCELLENT SUPPORT

Ann and Donal have been delighted to see their two eldest sons succeed in the friendly, supportive environment of St James'. Ann says: "Kian was a shy boy when he started at St James' but the staff really built up his confidence and he did well academically. He has just finished a course in Public Service at college. Regan has now chosen his options for GCSE and is really looking forward to studying them in Year Nine next year."

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Ann says she attended St James' herself and had a happy time there and still has many of the friends she made at the school. She says: "Because we have three boys we wanted them to go to a mixed school and also wanted it to be a Catholic School. We thought St James' had a lovely community feel and it is an easy journey from where we live. We did look at other schools but found St James' was the best and ticked all of our boxes."

FAITH IN ACTION

"From the very first day Kian settled happily and went on to make loads of friends. Regan also settled in very well after he started. I think it is good that St James' have a welcome programme for the children going up from primary school and give them the chance to go in for a day. Because my boys have been brought up as Catholics the faith element of their school day has always seemed natural to them. I am glad they are able to say prayers each day at St James' and that Feast Days are celebrated with a Mass."

HELPFUL TEACHERS

Ann is pleased with the support the children get when they are about to take their GCSEs. "They hold intervention classes so the children don't get behind in any of the subjects. Before Kian sat his French GCSE there was a French TA who was really supportive and would help the children first thing in the morning before school. The children were given revision packs and could even go in on a Saturday morning to get help," she says.

GOOD COMMUNICATION

"We like the way the school keep parents informed about their children's progress and provide statistics to highlight any potential issues. There is a Parental Portal you can go on to find out how your children are doing. The school use all sorts of different communication channels to keep parents informed and if you email them about anything they are always quick to respond."

INFORMED ADVICE

"When Regan was choosing his GCSE options they provided lots of information to help the children make the right choices. When we went in to see the teachers they were all very honest about what the children could expect. Regan picked Spanish and they told him it was a hard GCSE and he would be expected to put lots of work in," Ann says.

ENCOURAGING RESPECT

"I would definitely recommend the school to other families. When people go round St James' they cannot fail to be impressed. The school expect the children to maintain the values they are taught and to respect and help each other. If we had to apply now we would be happy to send our youngest son, Shay, to St James."

CHILDREN SAY

Regan says: "St James' is a very friendly school and everyone gets on well with each other. Pupils are respectful towards each other even if they are in different years."



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