# KINGA AND DAVID HAVE MADE A FLYING START TO THEIR EDUCATION WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE DEDICATED STAFF AT ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



MARIOLA AND MARIAN PLATA LIVE IN WILLESDEN GREEN WITH THEIR CHILDREN, KINGA, AGED 18, AND DAVID, AGED 14. KINGA IS IN YEAR 13 AND DAVID IS IN YEAR NINE AT ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

## **GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION**

When Kinga and her parents went to look round St James' for the first time they were immediately impressed with the school. Mariola says: "We were amazed at what they were offering students and how well they presented themselves. We really liked the overall atmosphere and the layout of the school. Kinga got such a good first impression that she was very keen to go to it. There were other schools that were closer to where we lived but we decided we were prepared to travel that little bit further because St James' seemed so good and we also liked the fact it was a Catholic school.

# **WARM WELCOME**

"Kinga has done so well there, and has been improving year on year, so we are very pleased we chose St James'. Now Kinga is doing her A Levels and looking ahead to going to university, we can fully appreciate what a good decision we made back then. When she first started it seemed a huge step up from primary school but she was made to feel welcome and soon settled in. She made friends very quickly and never complained to us about any aspect of the school," Mariola says.

### **ENJOYING LESSONS**

"David made a very good start at St James' too, having heard only positive things about the school from his older sister. He made new friends quickly and enjoyed the range of subjects on offer. David finds all the lessons very interesting. He is particularly interested in IT, but does well in all his subjects. All the teachers are very supportive to him and they have praised his behaviour and his ability to us.

### **CLEAR DIRECTIONS**

"They have both always been very enthusiastic about going to school in the mornings. They both don't like missing lessons at school and would always want to catch up on what they missed. We particularly liked the fact that the teachers sent out a clear message to the children from the start about what they were expecting from them academically and what they were expecting in terms of behaviour, so the children knew straight away what they had to do.

### **WELL MOTIVATED**

"Kinga has always felt encouraged by her teachers in every lesson and in every year as she has moved up the school. She also felt challenged by her homework, which is why she is doing so well now. She has always said she felt very motivated by the staff. She is doing A Levels in Business Studies, Psychology, Geography, Spanish and Polish and wants to study Environmental Law at University," Mariola says.

### **REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS**

"We are pleased we have been kept informed about everything and think the teachers communicate with the parents well. If you leave a message for them they get straight back to you. They will also contact you to let you know how your child is doing at regular intervals. David's Maths teacher contacted me directly the other day to tell me how well he was doing. We think it is good that you don't have to wait for parents' evening to find out how your children are getting on. We honestly can't praise St James' highly enough."

# **CHILDREN SAY**

**Kinga says:** "St James' have given me some amazing opportunities. The support I have received has been immense, and I will always remember the school in a positive way. The skills I have been taught and friends I made will stay with me forever"

David says: "I couldn't have chosen a better school."





# ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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