



CHAVAGNES
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS

*A good school provides
a rounded education for
the whole person. A
good Catholic school,
over and above this,
should help all its
students to become
saints.*

Pope Benedict XVI



WELCOME



I am delighted by your interest in our historic College, and I hope this prospectus provides an insight into our joyful life here.

Nothing is as important to our society as the education of our young people. In 2002, my family and I were inspired to establish a school offering a truly Catholic education. At the invitation of the Bishop of Luçon, a small group of educators undertook this task, the fruits of which we experience today.

Here we promote a model of education where the Catholic Faith permeates and informs every aspect of our distinctive international programme, one which accommodates both the British and French National Curricula.

At Chavagnes we are committed to delivering a balanced, classical education to our students, recognising individual strengths and abilities.

A Chavagnes education provides boys with the intellectual, physical and spiritual challenges that will form the leaders, priests, fathers and saints of the 21st century.

Testament to this approach is that our pupils have gone on to study at the very best universities in the world. Many are now starting their own families and already in leadership positions in different industries. We have also averaged a priestly vocation a year since our foundation.

In essence we seek to educate the next generation of Catholic men. We ensure that each boy has the tools to excel in the modern world beyond Chavagnes and to respond to his individual vocation.

I will look forward to welcoming you and your son here soon.

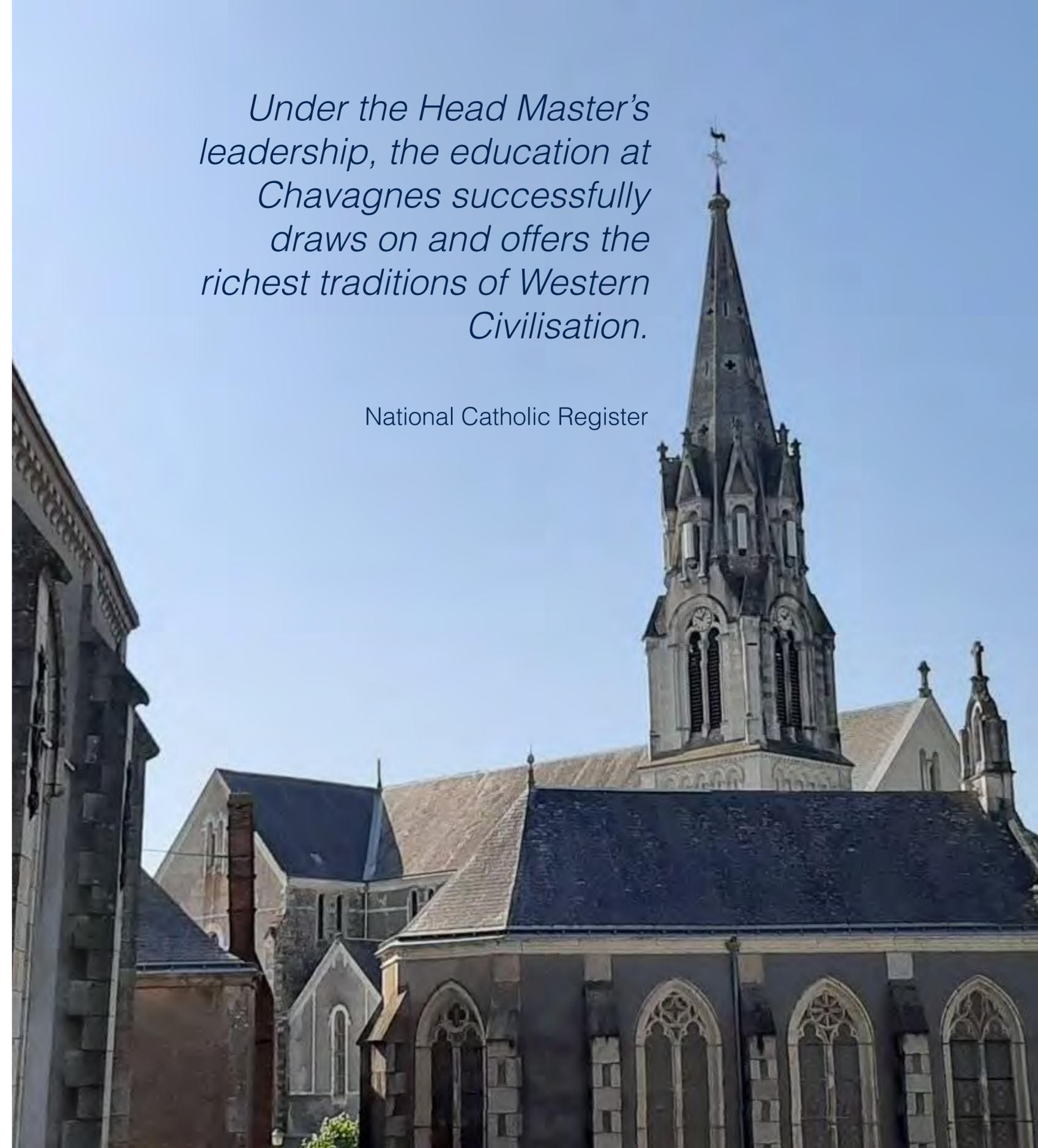
Mr Ferdi McDermott

MA (Edin), PGCE, MEd, MCIL, FColIT, FRSA

Head Master

Under the Head Master's leadership, the education at Chavagnes successfully draws on and offers the richest traditions of Western Civilisation.

National Catholic Register





OUR MISSION

As a non-selective school, our community benefits greatly from including boys with a range of academic and co-curricular abilities. Within this context of delivering a rounded education, we do place a significant emphasis on continuing academic progress.

At the core of our teaching and learning is the British National Curriculum. Whilst many of the boys sit GCSE and A-Level examinations, we also teach the Brevet and Bac programme for French pupils. Our unique Double Diplôme allows boys to complete both sets of examinations in the British and French systems. It is also possible for foreign students to have their British examinations validated by their local Ministry of Education.

Both inside and outside of formal classes, each boy is encouraged and supported to achieve the best that he can. The day-to-day school environment fosters individuality, curiosity, teamwork and enjoyment.

An ordinary part of growing up, especially within the context of a boarding school, is personal development.

We believe that it is important to provide the opportunity to question, to challenge and to enquire beyond the classroom. The House system is integral to this and forms the basis of intra-mural competitive debating, sport and other activities.

Every boy is encouraged to take an active role in College life. We look to develop leadership skills and the ability to be both self-reliant and effective team players, as well as to nurture confidence in public speaking. These skills help each boy to grow in fortitude, and fulfil our mission to educate the next generation of Catholic leaders.

A Catholic school 'leads its students to promote efficaciously the good of the earthly city and also prepares them for service in the spread of the Kingdom of God'.

Gravissimum Educationis



FAITH LIFE

At the heart of our life as a school is prayer in the Chapel each day. Here, we have the opportunity to place all of the needs of the College before the Blessed Trinity and Our Lady.

The celebration of daily Mass is the source and summit of the Church's prayer, and so it is also at the centre of our school life. We are blessed to have a resident chaplain, plus a wide network of visiting priests, and strong support from local orders to assist us in this mission.

Morning Prayers, Holy Mass and Night Prayers, as well as other religious ceremonies, are timetabled as whole school events, and every class begins and ends with prayer.

Recognising that many families value a strong Catholic education, we admit boys from all religious denominations but our boys' spiritual development is underpinned by participation in the liturgical life of the College. Pupils are encouraged to develop their personal prayer lives and have frequent opportunities for confession.

A highlight of the school year is the boys' participation in the Paris-Chartres Pentecost Pilgrimage. This event is attended by thousands of young people who walk between the two cathedrals over three days, camping in tents and attending the traditional Latin Mass. On these and other occasions, boys will be able to meet socially with their French Catholic counterparts.

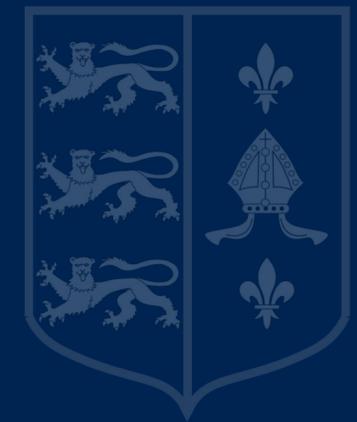
Chavagnes was a true present for me, no doubt about that... I feel truly blessed for having attended Chavagnes.

Graduate of 2019



If we live the faith in our daily life, then our work too becomes a chance to spread the joy of being a Catholic.

Pope Francis



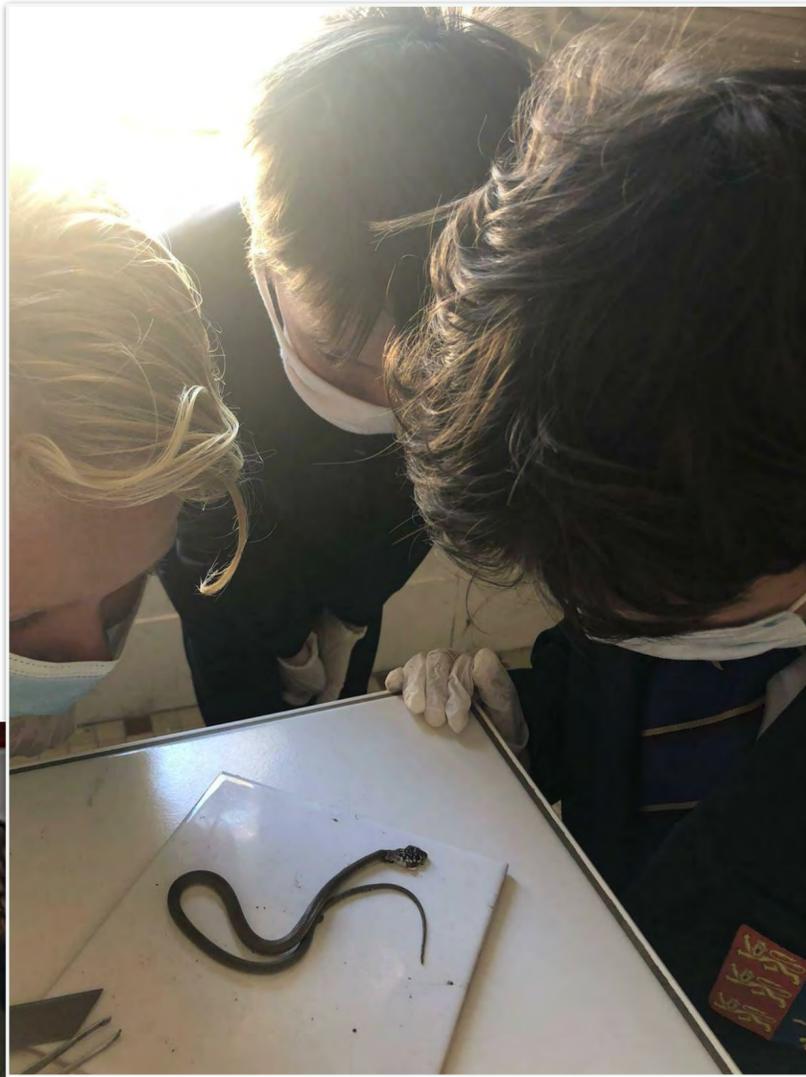
JUNIOR SCHOOL

There are several entry points for pupils within the Junior School however, the majority of boys join in Year 7 (age 10/11). The Junior School curriculum is designed to offer a broad base, introducing pupils to academic and cultural experiences designed to stimulate their intellectual and personal curiosity, and prepare the bedrock of knowledge for their later studies.

All pupils study English, Mathematics, Sciences, History, Religious Studies, Latin, French, Spanish, Art and Music.

Provision is made for English as an Additional Language for all non-native English speakers, often with one-to-one tuition. This, along with immersion in the language in classes and at meal times, means that our students learn English rapidly.

The Junior School provides the opportunity for friendships to form, for the boys to become 'men of Chavagnes' and for a personalised programme of study to be developed.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Most pupils in the Senior School prepare for GCSE and A-Level examinations, while some French boys choose to sit the Brevet and Bac. The Masters monitor progress carefully and ensure that the boys make the most of the academic opportunities available to them.

At the senior end of the school, additional responsibilities are placed on each student - to be an example of a Chavagnes education. Boys are chosen as House Captains, and several others take on the role of Prefects to monitor everyday life, inside and outside of the classroom.

Since we follow a personalised model of education, faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, we are able to provide a learning environment that meets the needs of each boy.

In practice, this means that in the all important stages of their academic journey with us (Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form) the boys continue to benefit from small class sizes and, in some specialist subjects, one-on-one tuition.

At Chavagnes, we do not simply teach for the examination, although we do enjoy great successes in that arena. Rather, we offer a broad, well-rounded experience, aimed at the development of the whole pupil.

Understanding the pressures of the senior school, we continue the work of helping young men to grow. This is true in terms of both academic and personal development.

The majority of the boys leave Chavagnes to study at leading universities in the UK and overseas. Whatever a boy's strengths and weaknesses, we will support him in making the best choices for his future.

Former Chavagnes pupils are now at the forefront in industry, the law, education, journalism, the military and in medicine. We also have a growing number of old boys who have joined the Catholic priesthood.



Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

St Augustine

We see our role as teachers in the context of a wider mission of the Catholic Church, to provide a place of formation for the whole child.

Ferdi McDermott, Head Master

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Boys at Chavagnes are expected to make the most of their time at the College.

They should try to learn as much as they can from every aspect of school life. The classroom is not the only educational setting here and the school day is full of opportunities for learning.

One of the many blessings we have is the location of our school and its grounds. The boys are involved in daily service including washing their own dishes and cleaning their rooms. They may help with our chickens and rabbits or learn new skills at the local organic farm.

Music

Music is a human activity that transcends national and cultural barriers. Our musical tradition is therefore a particularly appropriate focus for our international school.

We involve the whole school in singing since, as Catholics, we have the additional privilege of being able to participate in the prayer of the whole Church.

It is the role of the full College Choir, and the smaller Schola Cantorum, to enrich and deepen our participation in the Sacred Mysteries through solemn music, by drawing on the Church's rich, cultural patrimony.

The St Cecilia Society, one of our many clubs, is promoted to all boys in order for them to learn new instruments including piano, guitar and violin.

Sport

Sport is an integral part of daily life at Chavagnes, providing a natural forum to encourage team spirit and enabling the boys to experience healthy physical exertion.

The discipline, formation and respect taught through timetabled sport supports both physical and mental development. Football, basketball and tennis matches as well as cross-country, taekwondo and swimming offer a necessary counterbalance to spiritual, cultural and academic activities.

These experiences play a key role in the growth of the whole man.

Recreation

We have a well-equipped games room which serves for relaxation and fun while the boys learn other essential life skills, like teamwork and self-assertion.

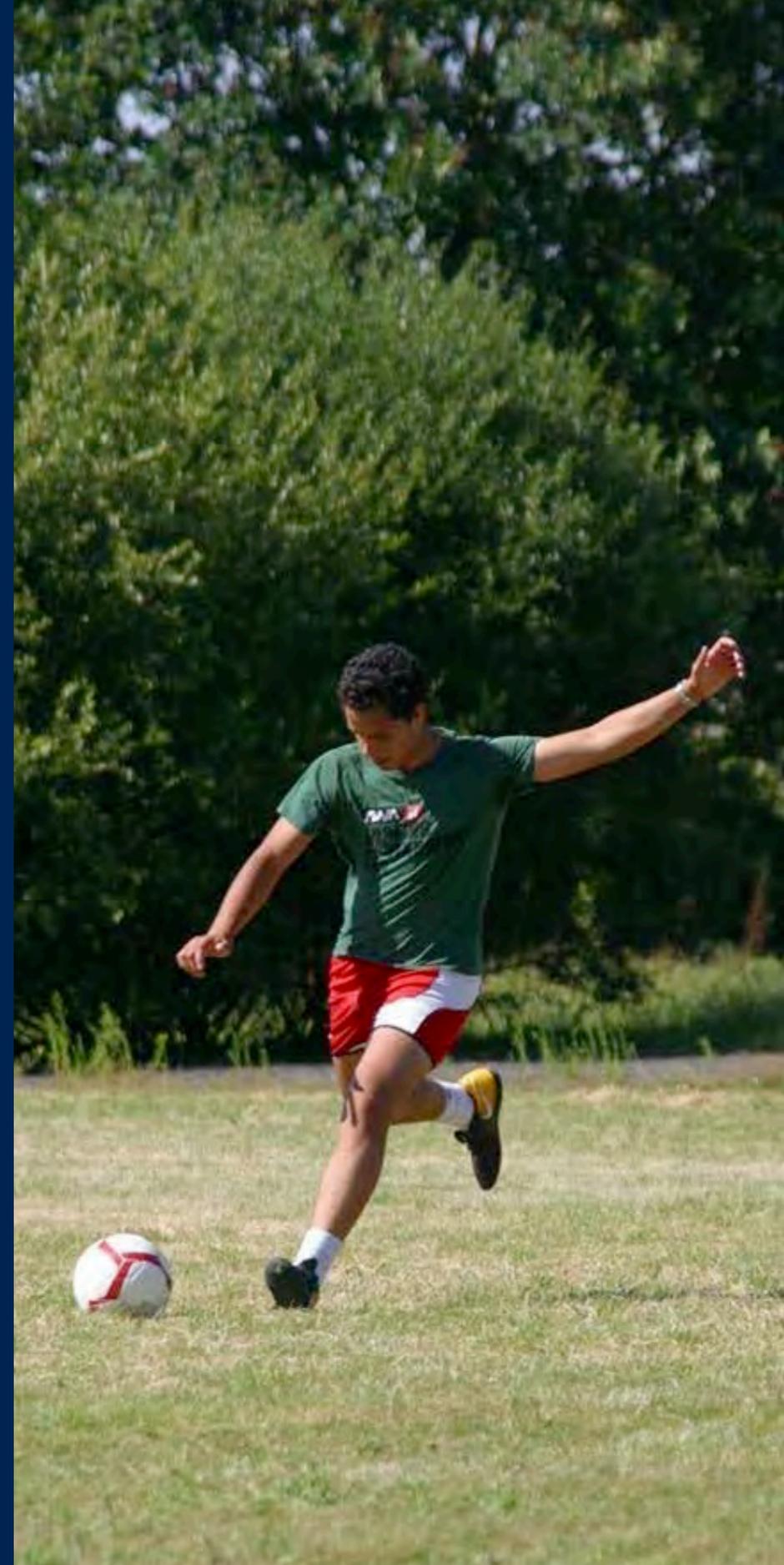
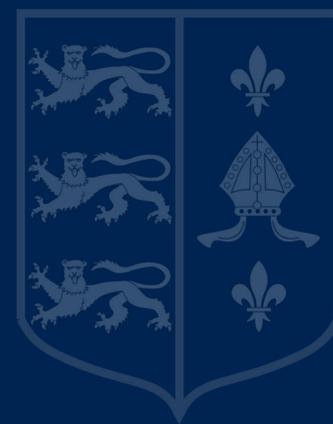
Contributing to the boarding school environment, organised games like chess, table tennis and pool offer an opportunity for inter-House tournaments as well as individual challenges.





*Happiness is secured
through virtue; it is a
good attained by man's
own will.*

St Thomas Aquinas



CO-CURRICULAR PURSUITS

Students are provided with plenty of opportunities to develop interests and skills in activities outside of our weekly schedule. With the flexibility of time enjoyed by boarding schools, we accommodate coaching and training in tennis, fencing, rowing and horse-riding,

The Scouts of Chavagnes is an active, happy and engaging group within the wider school community. Boys from Years 7 to 10 are encouraged to join as 'associate members' of the troop, and those who are more serious about scouting have the opportunity to work towards taking the Scout Promise.

In the evenings, chess competitions, debates, literature and language clubs are run. These activities help the boys develop strategic and higher-order thinking, enhancing their intellectual prowess for their academics, careers and the other challenges they will face when they finish school.



HOME FROM HOME

At Chavagnes we place great importance on the pastoral care we give to the boys during their time here.

For many boys, their life at College is the first time they have been away from home. We do not take this responsibility lightly and work to ensure that each boy is welcomed, becomes an active part of the school and feels 'at home' as quickly as possible.

Boys share rooms with others of a similar age. Sharing rooms helps develop our family spirit, as well as enabling the boys to master different languages with their roommates.

The House system encourages each member to grow and develop. Each of our four Houses - Rochejaquelein, Cathelineau, Suzannet and Charette - is run by a House Master who is supported by senior boys appointed as House Captain and Vice Captain. The House Masters are the main providers of pastoral support, organising weekly activities and are an immediate point of reference for all boys.

Our school Matron helps the transition from home to boarding to be as smooth as possible. She assists the boys in settling in, making up their rooms and will repair minor damage to uniforms.

Our boarding facilities include the library which is stocked with fictional and reference books, the supervised computer room, common room and two games rooms. Boys are able to use the sports equipment for tennis, basketball, badminton, volleyball, pool and table tennis in the evenings and weekends. An appropriate film may be shown over the weekend for downtime.

Our mission to foster independence and maturity means that the boys also look after their school and boarding environments, with cleaning duties and occasionally helping to cook an evening meal.

Over the weekends, boys may be given access to their phones to contact home. Otherwise, we have several phones for incoming calls from parents to their sons. Video calls and emails can also be made during allocated times on the computers.

You're not just a number on a sheet of paper - you're part of a huge family.... It has been a privilege and an honour being Head Boy at Chavagnes International College.

Joshua Osbourne, Head Boy 2019/20



TRIPS & EXCURSIONS

On the weekends and breaks, boys participate in cultural, religious and recreational trips and visits, as we are fortunate to be surrounded by historic and charming villages, religious sites and opportunities for adventure. With several train stations close by, the local bus service and our own college minivan, we organise plenty of outings, and day pupils are invited to join the boarders, making outings a whole-school experience.

Day trips include visits to the numerous beaches close by, exploring historic villages and excursions to Nantes. Boys can explore the rich history of the Vendée in its many museums and galleries, visit and learn about farming and agriculture, and go further afield to Angers, Chartres, Lourdes, Paris and the Riviera. International choir and cultural trips have previously included Wales, Sweden and Rome.

Recreational outings include ice-skating, bowling, laser tag, and swimming at the nearby aquatic-centre, as well as relaxing at the beach or cinema and being amazed by the spectacles at the world-renowned Puy du Fou theme park.



LOCATION

Our college is closely associated with the Catholic identity of the Vendée and is at the heart of ancient Christendom.

We are located in the Vendée, in the beautiful Pays de la Loire region of the west of France. Historic sites, beautiful towns and beaches are easily accessible, and countryside and farms surround Chavagnes itself.

Our school Houses are named after four local heroes of the Catholic counter-revolution in defence of faith and freedom. These leaders were Suzannet, Cathelinau, Rochejacquelin and Charette, and we maintain a good relationship with those families today.

Nantes Atlantique is the nearest airport, with which we have good train and bus links. The College organises airport collections and drop-offs for school holidays.

The school is within walking distance of local amenities, including groceries, gift shops, boulangeries and restaurants. The pharmacy and doctor's surgery are also nearby.





ADMISSIONS

As a non-selective school, we do not make decisions based on academic achievement alone.

In order to ensure a rigorous yet fun learning environment, we look to admit pupils who are likely to flourish academically and personally if offered a place.

Registration

The first step is for prospective families to complete the registration form.

Visit and Assessment

If formally applying for a place, prospective pupils are invited for interview at the college where possible. We can arrange visits or a taster week for you and your son to see the school in action.

An informal interview with the academic and pastoral staff, a tour of the college and participation in a lesson with the prospective year group can be arranged.

School reports from the current school will be requested as well as a letter from your family Priest or someone of similar standing.

Pupils who are unable to visit, but would still like to be considered for a place, can have their initial assessment online.

Offer

After the initial meeting, a letter will be issued stating whether the school is able to offer a place.

Your place will be secured once the acceptance form and deposit have been received.

2020-21 Fees

Deposit:	150€
Years 7 & 8 Tuition:	6.000€
Years 9 -11 Tuition:	8.500€
Years 12 & 13 Tuition:	10.500€
Full Boarding, in addition to tuition:	8.500€

Bursaries

Scholarships and bursaries are available at the discretion of the College's Board of Governors, reducing fees by as much as 50% in cases of financial hardship and/or particular intellectual ability. Special choral awards are also available, and our dedicated Charitable Trust may offer 100% scholarships in exceptional circumstances.

Reduced fees also apply to families with multiple sons at the College.

Contact

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www.chavagnes.org
@chavagnes



*Probably the best school
in the world, I miss it a lot.*

Louis, alumnus



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INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

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