

Student Alumni

Emily Starr – Class of 2016

“During my two years at HF 6th I studied PE, Drama and English Literature receiving grades A*BB.

The teaching was outstanding and I was constantly given support whenever I needed it within an extremely positive learning environment. Nothing was too much trouble and the staff were always more than happy to help in any way they could, going above and beyond time and time again.

As well as the academic side to 6th form, the 6th form team were amazing at giving us more opportunities outside of our subjects, such as first aid training, UCAS career fairs and extra-curricular sport. I was able to lead initiatives on topics myself and my friends were passionate about, and help to plan and lead events as a deputy head girl, providing me with vital life skills that have proved extremely useful outside of school.

HF 6th helped me so much with gaining a place at university and preparing me for my further studies. After sixth form I went on to complete a First Class degree in Physical Education and School Sport, and then my PGCE at Edge Hill University. I have since secured my first full time teaching job at a fantastic school, teaching secondary PE. I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today if it was not for the support and guidance from HF 6th.”



Hansa Ahmed – Class of 2020

Hi,

My name is Hansa and I am a former sixth form student.

I joined as a new student, previously having no idea about the representation of the school or the facilities it offered because I came from a Islamic boarding school. I was apprehensive before coming to Holy Family because it was a whole new environment full of new students, staff and prospects.

Fortunately, I settled in really well and got along with all my peers and teachers. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. It really felt like I had been there since year 7.

For my A-levels I chose, Applied Science, Psychology and Health and Social Care. Each of the subjects I chose have contributed towards where I am today; studying foundation clinical science at the University of Bradford.

If it wasn't for the immense support and motivation from all my subject teachers and the sixth form team, I wouldn't be where I am today.



Chris Johnson – Class of 2017



What subjects I studied:

English Language, PE, Psychology, BTEC Level 3 Sport and at one point, Biology.

Why I chose HF6:

Numerous reasons really. Having studied at the school from years 7-11, I thought it would be better to stick to an environment I knew along with teachers that I knew well and teachers that knew me well. This had its benefits as they knew my strengths and weaknesses. My social group played a role in my choice too as a majority of my peers were staying on. Location played a minor role, I was close enough to the school where I didn't have to get up at 7am. That was a big deal breaker for a then 16/17-year-old me.

What my experience was like in sixth form:

Mostly positive. Academically, I had a real rollercoaster ride in my first year, any staff members that remember me will know exactly what I mean. To cut a long story short, I did 3 years as my first year didn't go as well as planned and it was a tough journey to climb back up. The support of both the teaching and non-teaching staff really played a pivotal part in helping me put my disappointment behind me and eventually succeed. On a social point of view, you get to see friends and potentially others you didn't necessarily associate with in school become closer and develop into young adults, while sharing in their success.

Any tips for current year 11's:

If sixth form is something you're thinking of doing because you don't know what else to do, I'd say think long and hard. I would recommend getting A-Levels or BTEC's to anyone but you have to have the commitment and desire to work. Don't just assume you'll do well because your GCSE's were good, that's the mistake I made - complacency is not the strategy! I guess what I'm trying to say is, work hard and you will succeed; you'll be given the foundations, you just need to build on them. Even if you do decide on sixth form and you don't know what to do, do not fear, I know lots of people that were in that situation and have gone on to get degrees. Sixth form is the starting point of life after education.

Where am I now:

I am currently a full-time Masters student at Leeds Beckett University studying Exercise Physiology looking to specialise in Cardiovascular Physiology. I did my Undergraduate degree at Leeds Beckett as well in Sport and Exercise Science. University was and still is the best years of my life (well pre-COVID).

Little side note: I was never 'top of the class' (apart from when I was literally the only class member). My grades were average but with hard work you can achieve whatever you wish to (Cliché I know).

Good luck in your endeavours!

Maisie Vickers – Class of 2020

I have recently left Holy Family after completing my A levels. I studied Psychology, Biology and Health and Social Care. I have always known I wanted to be a midwife, so it was a fairly simple decision deciding which subjects to do as it was the ones I found the most interesting.

I initially left Holy Family after completing my GCSEs and went to a different post 16 provider. I wanted a different experience and to try something new, somewhere else, but the lack of structure meant that I wasn't as successful as I'd hoped to be. I returned to Holy Family a year later, so have really completed a 3 year sixth form.

I loved my time at Holy Family; I've always felt it was my second home. The staff are amazing and so supportive, always there to listen and give a helping hand. They are always pushing you to be the best you can be, especially with the whole process of applying to Uni. It can be really overwhelming and stressful time, but the sixth form team help you every step of the way. At the time it doesn't always feel like it's in your best interest but it is, they really do care.

Being head girl was a fab experience and I loved my role. It pushed me out of my comfort zone with public speaking and it has enabled me to have the confidence to recently take part in a government campaign (job help/ make a difference) to talk about my job in adult social care at the moment. I have spoken to journalists and narrated/ produced a job advertisement video to encourage young people to join the care sector. Not an opportunity that comes around often so it was a privilege to be a part of.

I achieved a D*(HSC), B (Psychology) and a D (Biology) which is a great score for UCAS (120 points) but unfortunately I did not meet the requirements for midwifery as its super competitive. Although I was offered adult nursing from three Universities which is great but not what I wanted. I do believe everything happens for a reason so I shall be reapplying for my midwifery degree again for 2021, after completing a course this year to get me those extra points (fingers crossed) and carrying on with my job as a carer in the meantime keeping me busy.



Niamh O'Connor, Alex Greenwood and Lucy Sheriff – Class of 2020



My name is Niamh O'Connor and I left Holy Family Sixth form this year after getting a Distinction in both Applied Science and Health and Social Care and B in Geography. Thanks to the support of all the sixth form staff I was accepted at my first choice University to study Adult Nursing. I'm going to be honest, sixth form is hard, but I can honestly say I would have never got through it if it wasn't for my teachers and the rest of the sixth form staff. A-Levels can be a lot of work, but the teachers I had really supported me, not just in lesson times but during their own time too. I always enjoyed the lessons and I really miss being a part of the holy family sixth form atmosphere. Sixth form really is some of the best years of your life, so don't take it for granted because if it wasn't for sixth form I would never be where I am today!

My name is Alex.

I am a former student at The Holy Family Sixth Form, I left In March 2020 with an unexpected ending. My time may have been short-lived at sixth form but in no way did it shorten the enjoyment from my time here.

I studied English Literature, Psychology and BTEC Sport. In which I received grades A, B, and a Distinction. Without the help of the sixth-form team and subject teachers I would not be where I am today, studying Psychology at my first choice University in Newcastle.

For as long as I can remember I have never known what I have wanted to do after A-levels, so when it came to decisions around university applications, I was not the easiest of students to help. Nevertheless, the UCAS support I was given was so helpful in finding the right course and university for me. Equally if university is not the option for you there is plenty of support surrounding apprenticeships and various alternatives.

There is a jump from GCSE to A-level, one that I would say to be prepared for when considering any sixth form. It is nothing to be concerned about, as long as you are motivated to do well and work hard in sixth form, I see no reason why it should be a problem. In sixth form you are given the freedom and independence for your own studies, the staff and teachers are always around should you need any extra support or help or feel you need advice on how you can improve your performance in a specific subject. I was always asking my teachers to mark extra essays and go through things I couldn't understand which massively helped me in the long run with my a-levels.

HF6th provided me with many memories and in retrospect, were some of my best school years. From the Social Science trip to Poland to just spending every day with your friends, it really is time that you can never get back. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at sixth form, if I could go back and restart my HF6th journey I would!

My HF6 experience- Lucy Sheriff

To begin I had chosen to study BTEC Sport, Applied Science and Psychology. I can say that I did genuinely enjoy studying these three subjects, even with the amount of work that was required for each one. Aside from the subjects you will have the best team behind you to help with any issues you have. With the amount of tears I cried they always knew what to say and how to help me get back on track.

Even with Covid I still managed to come out with a C in Psychology, Distinction* in Btec sport and a Merit in Applied Science. These grades have enabled me to continue my education to study Sport and Exercise Science at Leeds Beckett University.

Going from being a sixth former to now a Uni study, I can honestly say that if you really want to go to university you need to put the work in because the workload doesn't get any smaller, (Well mine hasn't any way!)

Just want to say a huge thank you to all the sixth form staff as we didn't really get the opportunity to do it properly because of Covid. Uni is going well, well sort of. I've got so much work to do it's unbelievable, but I've met so many amazing people since being here and we're having a blast even with the restrictions.

