

**Sixth Form Open Evening October 2022 –
Transcript of the Heads' Introductions and Student Senior Team Speeches
*Choice, Opportunity Success***

Welcome - Mr Nick Law

Good evening to all of you this evening and welcome to The Robert Carre Trust. My name is Nick Law, Executive Headteacher of the Trust and Head of Carre's Grammar School. I have with me Josephine Smith, the Head of Kesteven and Sleaford High School, and together we are delighted to welcome you to the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Open Evening. In the next few minutes, we hope to give you a flavour of what studying as part of the SJSF is all about with a little help from those who know best – the students.

Many of you will already know the schools and have picked up a feel for them. For those that have not, tonight is an opportunity to talk to staff and students; find out about A Level study, BTecs, CTecs, and ask questions.

We want you to leave feeling well informed and surer about what it is you want to do after GCSEs. We hope we can help you find out about the different courses, their entry requirements, and the next steps you need to take if you would like to study with us.

I hope very much that you will be able to fit in time to visit all three schools this evening. If you choose to study in the SJSF you will have access to over 50 courses across 3 sites, which is the broadest offer you will find in anywhere in the county. Across the two schools in the Robert Carre Trust (RCT) these are mostly A Level courses, but we do offer other courses and most of our students will study 3 subjects over 2 years and access 5 hours of teaching time in each subject per week. The Extended Project qualification worth UCAS points and DofE programmes are available and are encouraged. Across the Trust we have had some outstanding results and students who have a fantastic array of skills. We know that universities and employers really value these things, and it is no coincidence that our students go onto some of the top Universities, top apprenticeships, and top jobs.

So what is the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form about?

Firstly it is about **Choice**:

- Academic
- Vocational
- Flexibility
- Majority of combinations can be accommodated (e.g. 3 MFL, drama, computing, range of Art, Science, Sports qualifications ...all delivered by specialists)

And then it is about **Opportunity**.

The students will talk to you about some of the opportunities they have here, but all three schools are absolutely committed to making sure that Sixth Form is a time of personal growth, and good fun with lots of chances to discover new strength

And of course, the SJSF is about **Success** and that means success for all.

It is a real privilege to help young people to achieve their aspirations – and we endeavour to help students achieve in whatever forum.....day in day out we help them achieve the absolute best grades of course, but just as importantly we aim to help all our young people find personal satisfaction and pride in what they do.

Welcome – Mrs Josephine Smith

We are always looking for ways to help SJSF students love learning whether that is in the classroom on the sports field, on stage, as part of a musical ensemble, at work experience placements or taking part in the various leadership roles for which they can sign up.

We are expected to deliver exam success and do for ALL our students. Our academic success places us high in both county and national rankings. We are proud of their achievements.

Typically, over 85% of Robert Carre Trust students go on to university the vast majority being accepted into their first choices. Every year we have students who go on to Oxbridge and/or Medicine or Veterinary Medicine degrees. Many select Russell group universities to continue their studies.

The landscape is shifting for young people though and many of our students choose alternative routes, earning a salary whilst they gain professional qualifications via sought after apprenticeships, other enter employment... some even develop their own businesses. We have close local links with the Armed Forces – and our students are placed perfectly for careers in any of the Services.

Some of our students choose to travel for a year before studying further – we are here to advise and counsel whatever their ambitions....but also, to make sure that doors are kept open, so the world really is their oyster.

Some of you may be sitting here excited about the next challenge beyond GCSEs and rigour of post-16 study, whilst other may be nervous about meeting the criteria for A level study. The beauty of the range of courses across the SJSF means there is something available here for everyone. Our different pathways and our entry requirements make post 16 study with us attainable for everyone. You will hear Mr Smith and Miss Chant talk more about that in just a moment.

Finally some of you may want to find out more about choosing a base school for sixth form. This is a decision you need to think carefully about. Whatever base you choose you are likely to study across more than one site. Sometimes where you study depends on the options you choose –Psychology is only taught at the High School only for example whilst A level Sport or English Language will only be taught at Carre's. Where subjects are taught at both schools you are likely to learn at the base school you choose unless your options don't fit.

Your base school is also where your tutor base will be and where you will get any support out of lessons if you need it.

At the High School form time is in separate Year 12 and Year 13 tutor groups. At Carre's you will be in mixed Year 12 and 13 forms. Staff in your base school will write your university or apprenticeship references, and you will access study spaces in your free lessons at your base school.

Whichever school you base at, Sixth Form will offer a lot more independence, freedom and opportunities than Year 11. In many ways the transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form probably feels a little bit like the step up from primary to secondary school did, whether you move base school or not.

But please do not take Mr Law's and my word for it. I am delighted to introduce you to 4 of our Year 13 students, based at both schools in the Trust, who can share their experiences with you.

Students....

Angus Taylor

Good evening everyone. My name is Angus Taylor. I am Head Boy here at Carre's Grammar School and I study Maths, Further Maths, Physics, and Chemistry A levels in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form.

I have been a student at Carre's since year 7 and whilst years 7 and 12 are definitely different, I believe that, in a sense, the fresh start is what makes them quite similar. Beginning my new chapter of Sixth Form study last year, I couldn't help but get that nostalgic feeling that took me back to starting at Carre's in 2016. New uniform, new people, new structure but the most prominent difference, I was now treated like an adult. Teachers and the Sixth Form staff alike reflect this increased feeling of maturity, with greater personal support outside of lessons coupled with the implementation of independent study periods where you yourself choose how to make use of your time.

When I used to think of Sixth Form, I had a vision of an environment solely orientated around academics, with a focus on attaining high A-level grades, but here in the Robert Carre Trust we are provided with the environment to develop as people outside of our studies. An example of this is our enrichment on Wednesday afternoons where periods 4 and 5 are dedicated to you attending a weekly activity of your choice. From rugby and football, to debate club and Uni admissions preparation, I am certain there will be something for every student across the Trust.

The focus of most Sixth Form colleges nowadays seem to be based on attendance at University after A-levels, but in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form, we receive advice and guidance about the many alternative pathways such as degree level apprenticeships, employment and options for careers in the military, supported through external speakers and signposting through informational emails. Equally, if you decide that university is the right option for you, you will be given advice and mentored by members of staff to find the right steps, upon completion of your courses.

From my own personal experience undergoing early application to University, I can say that the Sixth Form provided me with plenty of assistance through the process so that I didn't feel rushed or pressured to make quick decisions, as I was prepared well in advance. The Sixth Form leadership team alongside my form tutor and subject teachers, many of whom are graduates from those leading universities, supplied references, personal experience, critical feedback for my personal statement and focussed assemblies to give guidance on how to navigate and utilise UCAS.

Some of you may be nervous in beginning a new chapter at a new school but I can assure you, at this Sixth Form, there is no need to be. No matter which school you are based at, what your hobbies or interests are, you will have an amazing experience here throughout the two years of your studies in the Robert Carre Trust.

Our Sixth Form provides an environment in which the staff have a genuine interest both in your results as well as your well-being, creating the perfect working environment for you to achieve all of your desired academic successes. If you're prepared to apply yourself, listen to advice and guidance and take advantage of the opportunities available to you, you will find

that the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form will equip you to be successful in your life beyond Sixth Form.

Molly Joyce

Good evening everyone, my name is Molly, and I am Head girl of KSHS. I have been here throughout my secondary education and now take History, Geography and Music at A level. I would like to talk to you about all the extra bits you will get to enjoy whilst being a part of this amazing sixth form. Although, you will be spending 15 hours per week in your lessons, 10 hours of your week will be spend doing something different. Whether that be in a supervised study session, a free period or in what we call enrichment. Enrichment is a 2-hour slot on your Wednesday afternoon that everybody has free. This can be used by yourself to choose one of the many options provided by members of staff around the sites. During my enrichment I took part in the music enrichment, but there is so much on offer. From debate club to cooking and sports, there are many opportunities to make new friends or start something new and out of your comfort zone.

VESPA has been built into the core sessions and form times to aid students in creating a motivated and positive mindset. It provides time for you to reflect on your schoolwork life balance and helps create ways to manage this effectively.

Another huge part of this sixth form which I am certain you will all want to hear about is the school trips. I am sure many of you have been on school trips throughout years 7-11 covid permitting and year 12 and 13 are no different. In year 12 alone I was lucky to go to the Tower of London for a history trip and more notably Boston and Skegness for geography. All jokes aside, the sixth form gives many trip opportunities such as trips to London for the Art and Drama departments and Nottingham for photography. As well as a fun day out with all your friends it also allows you to deepen your understanding of your subject.

One huge opportunity that myself and fellow students speaking tonight have taken the advantage of are the positions of responsibility you can take on whilst being a part of sixth form. From personal experience being a part of the senior team has given me so much more confidence as well as an appreciation for everything teachers do for every single student. There is a range of positions which everyone has the option to take. All three schools have a senior student team, however, there are other ways of being involved. You will speak tonight to our subject prefects who are ready and waiting to tell you all about their subject and why you may want to take it at A level. House captains and Well-being Ambassadors are just a couple more roles which I would highly recommend being a part of.

On that note, I would like to encourage all of you to take this new chapter of your life with an open mind. As cheesy as it sounds, being a part of SJSF is a chance for you to grow as a person and making the most of your time here will allow you to do that. I wish good luck to all of you this year and hope you achieve your full potentials.

Thank you so much for listening, please feel free to catch me at any point tonight and I hope you enjoy your evening.

Gabriella Bijster

Hello, my name is Gabriella Bijster and I hope you have all found tonight's open evening useful. I moved to Sleaford Joint Sixth Form at the beginning of year twelve, and I was apprehensive about the changes that come with moving to a new area and school. As well as making the leap from year eleven to year twelve, I was leaving all my friends in York and

moving to Lincolnshire. I was absolutely terrified but I was also surprised to find that there was a community, both at my base school and through the collaboration between the three schools in the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form. I can recall one instance where, at the start of term, I was unable to find Sainsbury's where I was being collected to go home and appreciated other students who were happy to help me and to give me directions. I also found teachers and support staff really helped me to settle in at my base school and in my lessons, which was incredibly helpful when navigating so much change.

I found that teachers at both schools really supported me with my mental health, something I hadn't received before, as well as a group of students who welcomed me so quickly. There are systems and levels of help and support no matter what your issue may be, from support with mental health or help needed with a subject that was harder than you anticipated, and support with future applications and life skills.

As well as the wonderful mental health support at the schools, there are also a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that had never been accessible to me before. Enrichment activities include sports clubs, debate, music, cooking and many more to choose from. I was able to step into a newfound confidence that came from something so simple as being allowed to voice my opinion to my teachers and peers.

Genuinely, when I first came to just look around The Robert Carre Trust I was shocked. There was a certain level of care and attention to everything at the school that had never been known to me. In all honesty, I only really looked around the school because my dad really wanted me to. So, I did, and I looked around with my jaw essentially on the floor because I was shocked that this was an actual option for me, and I couldn't be more appreciative that I am here.

If the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form seems like the place for you then I would advise that you consider applying. I made the right choice by applying to my base school and being part of the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form and am excited to complete my Sixth Form journey here. Thank you very much, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.

Josh Jones

Good evening everyone, my name is Josh. I have been a student at Carre's since year 7 and I study English Language, History and Spanish at the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form. I hope to study law with Spanish at university after my final year at school. My job tonight is to give you an insight into what it is like to study at all three different schools at the sixth form: Carre's, the High School and St Georges and how this can be beneficial. Of course, studying at all three sites is subject to the options you take and many of you will end up having either two, or all three lessons at your base school but I'd like to assure you that studying at all three schools is both exciting and rewarding and nothing to worry about. I will take you through my initial journey, how I adapted to life at all three schools, and how this can relate to you.

One of my first lessons in year 12 was a history lesson at the girls' school. At the time, I had never been to the High school and, as a result of the walk from Carre's and my inexperience at the school, I turned up late to my lesson. As I walked in, there were 25 girls, many of them I didn't know, staring at me and with only one other boy in the class, my teacher, Mr Dennis said "I assume you're Josh". I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Of course, at first, it was a daunting experience, but I made new friends in my class very quickly and I am grateful for my two teachers at the High School who were both understanding and helpful, and made the academic transition smooth to say the least.

As for St Georges', where I study Spanish, being in a class of just four has allowed me to make close friendships with the other members of my class and communicate with my teachers much more which is essential for anyone taking a language. I would also say that, whether the class has 4 people, 10 people or 30 people in it, the teaching will always be excellent at any of the three schools.

One other thing I was worried about when choosing my options was the walk between schools: How long would it take? Where are the schools? Would there be others making the same walk as me? Well, firstly, the walk from Carre's to the High School, is around 10 minutes although I always give myself 15, after my first history lesson. St. Georges is situated in the middle, with both schools just off to the right of the main road. Often, you will have friends who are in the same option block as you and therefore, you will be able to walk between schools with them. However, even if not, you will be surprised how easy it is to make friends from your classes, who will have similar timetables.

When I was sat in your seat, just 2 years ago, I was set on studying at Carre's; it was where I had spent my last 5 years, I was familiar with the styles of teaching and many of my friends were there. However, studying at all three schools provides a variety of teaching methods and classroom environments, which are testament to the success of our joint sixth form, a sixth form which I'm proud to be a part of.

If there's one point I think you should take from what I've said tonight, it is that you should choose the right course, regardless of the school you will be studying at. All three schools work together to create a challenging but enjoyable environment and it is important to choose the subjects which you have an interest in.

If anyone has any queries about studying at multiple sites or you just need directions to the schools for tonight, please don't hesitate to ask me!