



**ST JAMES' CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**

VERITAS

**"I HAVE COME
THAT THEY
MAY HAVE LIFE
AND HAVE IT
TO THE FULL."
JOHN 10:10**



“LEADERS HAVE CREATED A NURTURING AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY WHERE PUPILS CAN THRIVE BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PUPILS AND STAFF ARE STRONG” OFSTED 2017

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL



**Carolyn Laws,
Headteacher**

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

At St James', our Catholic identity and ethos are at the heart of all that we do.

We seek to educate our young people in the fullest sense of the word, to enable them to take their place in society as compassionate, caring, curious individuals who use their gifts and talents for the common good.

In addition to our academic curriculum we offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits both during and outside the school day, as well as giving your child the opportunity to become involved in charitable fundraising and voluntary activities in the wider community. We want each child's experience at St James' to develop their personal qualities and their character as well as their academic achievements. It is important that our students leave us as young men and women of faith who can respond with integrity to the challenges of life in a fast-changing world.

In an increasingly secular society it is our mission as a Catholic school to bear witness by putting our faith into action. We are proud of St James' Dominican heritage, and the four pillars of the Dominican tradition – ministry, community, study and prayer – underpin every part of school life.

As Headteacher, my commitment to your son or daughter is that they are given the opportunity to flourish in every aspect – academically, socially, culturally and spiritually. We cannot do this in isolation and as a school we work closely with parents and carers to support all our young people in fulfilling their potential.

St James' is more than a school – we are a faith and learning community. We have the very highest aspirations for all our students and expect the highest standards in order that our school mission statement is a lived reality:

I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.

JOHN 10:10

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Students at St James' are known and valued as individuals. We know that children learn in different ways and progress at different rates. We secure a thorough knowledge and understanding of how all of our students learn and use a wide variety of teaching and learning styles to meet their individual needs.

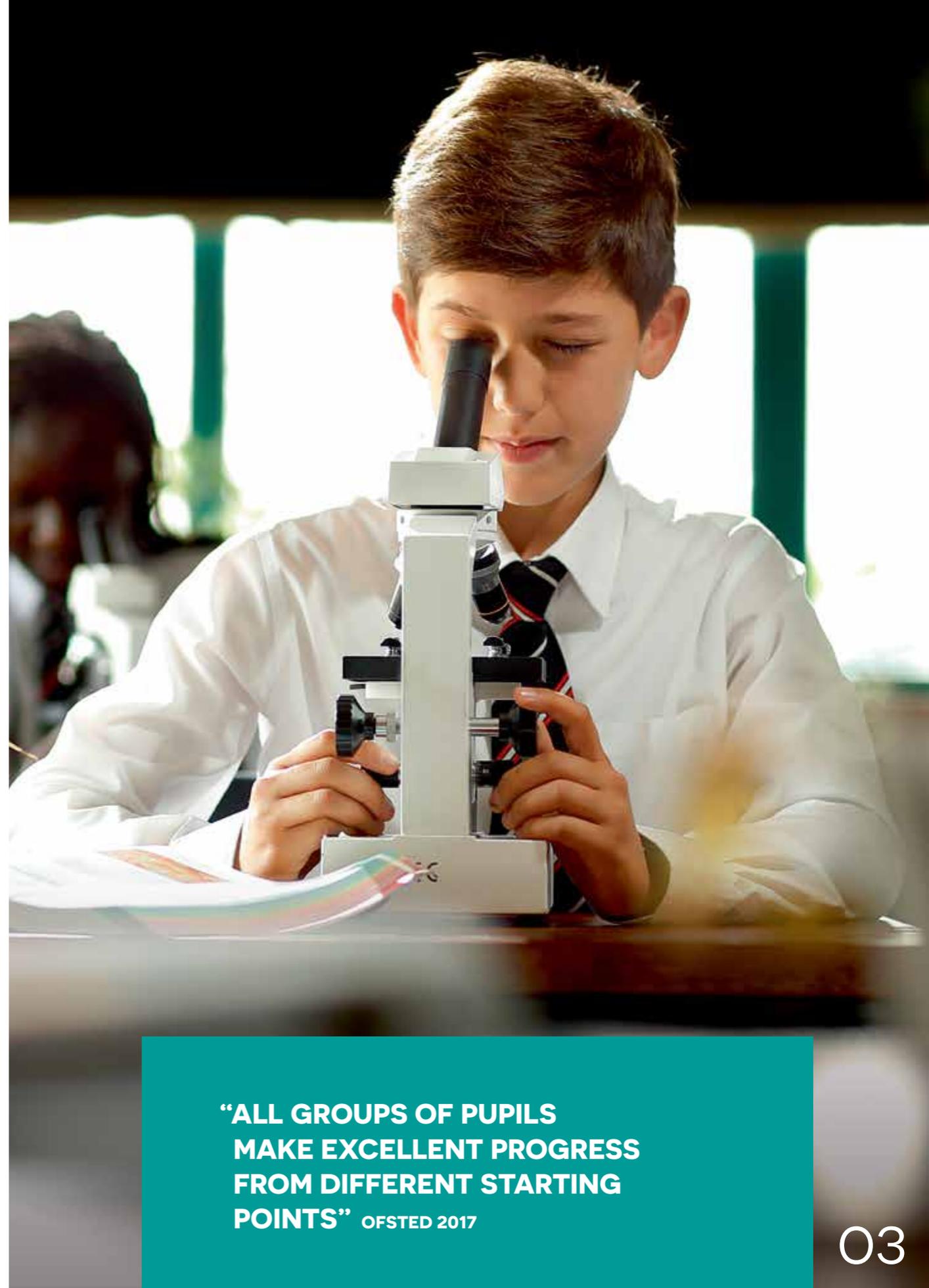
We offer:

- High quality teaching, by dedicated, expert staff, stimulating lessons and a rich and varied curriculum offering pathways for all.
- A dedicated member of staff responsible for provision of our Most Able students who co-ordinates curriculum enhancing-activities.
- In Year 7, a curriculum programme aimed at supporting transition as well as developing new study skills.
- The curriculum access and support team (CAST) work alongside subject specialists to ensure that all students access our curriculum.

At St James' it is our policy to ensure that students:

- Maximise their true academic potential and enjoy their educational experience.
- Make a positive contribution in terms of decision making, developing relationships and building individuals' confidence and resilience.
- Are able to learn in a safe and secure environment. This means a zero- tolerance approach to any disruption of learning, bullying or harassment.
- Are prepared for employment and a fulfilling life. We place great emphasis on our life skills programme and have built strong links with local businesses and universities, as well as with schools in other countries.

Our Catholic faith is the basis of everything we do and permeates the school community and the curriculum. Religious Education plays a central role in encouraging the growth and development of students' faith and there are numerous opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.



**“ALL GROUPS OF PUPILS
MAKE EXCELLENT PROGRESS
FROM DIFFERENT STARTING
POINTS” OFSTED 2017**



DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE PERSON

Students are successful when they feel secure and happy at school. The safeguarding of students is of paramount importance to our whole community.

We expect all members of our school to show respect and consideration for one another at all times. Our expectations of and for our students are extremely high. We are firmly committed to individual excellence, ensuring that all students, irrespective of their ability, make better than expected progress.

We are, therefore, justifiably proud of the many successes and achievements of our community.

We work hard to make sure that everyone feels safe, valued and welcome.

We offer your child:

- Wide ranging support from teachers, support staff, peers, junior leaders and Sixth Form mentors ensuring students feel safe and supported and giving them the confidence to flourish.
- Opportunities to engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, ensuring that our students develop the leadership skills and characteristics that will help them as 21st century learners
- Fundraising is a core part of school life and our students do all that they can to support a diverse range of worthy causes. We also show our commitment to the community by opening the school to the public for a range of activities and our students and teachers regularly share their talents with other schools in the area to support festivals and leadership initiatives.
- Parents are actively encouraged to share their expertise with us for students' benefit and to become involved in the life of the school through the Friends of St James': FOST.



“PUPILS DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENT ATTITUDES TO LEARNING. THEY ARE KEEN TO DO WELL IN THEIR STUDIES, WORK VERY HARD AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR WORK. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY MAKE EXCELLENT PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THEIR TIME AT SCHOOL.” OFSTED 2017

STUDENT VOICE & STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students know that they have a voice that is heard and valued at St James'. One of the core 'Student Voice' activities is the School Council. Each form group elects representatives who meet regularly to discuss a range of issues affecting school life. This process teaches the students about the importance of citizenship and democracy.

The views of our students are taken very seriously. They are involved in fundraising work, interviews for staff vacancies and meet with senior staff on various committees. Student Voice is helping to inform whole school policy on issues ranging from our school vision, the curriculum, teaching and learning strategies, the liturgy and spiritual life of our school and the development of healthy lifestyles.

St James' provides an education which combines academic excellence with the development of the whole person. Our aim is to develop students spiritually, academically, morally, emotionally, culturally and socially, so that they are well-equipped to face the many challenges of the 21st century.

We aim to provide students with an educational experience which is broad, balanced, relevant and challenging and which reflects our distinct mission and identity. The curriculum has been designed to be relevant and responsive to students' needs, interests and skills by providing flexibility and choice. Our curriculum provides clear pathways through all key stages and includes exciting vocational opportunities.

St James' is fortunate to have a highly qualified, dynamic and enthusiastic teaching staff who adapt their teaching techniques to suit all abilities and who challenge and motivate students to succeed.

A wide range of technology and resources support an engaging and vibrant learning experience for all.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards, and we have seven fully equipped computer suites, a music recording studio, extensive playing fields and specialist curriculum teaching bases to support students' effective learning and enjoyment.



“STUDENTS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT THE SUPPORT THEY RECEIVE, THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO THEM AND THE HIGH STANDARD OF TEACHING.” OFSTED 2017

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



We are aware that a great deal of valuable learning takes place outside the classroom. Staff at St James' give generously of their time to ensure that there is a wide range of enrichment and extra curricular activities, as well as trips and visits to suit each student.

Students may participate in a variety of sports both at lunchtime and after school. Other extra curricular activities include Homework Club, Performing Arts, Chess, Art, Debating and Public Speaking to name but a few. The Learning Resources Centre is open for students at break-time, lunch-time and after school. We want to give everyone in our community every opportunity to grow and develop into self-sufficient, lifelong learners.



OUR HISTORY & MISSION

St James' was founded by the Dominican Sisters in 1934 to provide Catholic secondary education for children in the parishes of north-west London. Today, the school maintains its Dominican traditions and continues its role in the mission of the Church. The four pillars of Dominican life – ministry, community study and prayer, underpin our ethos and are reflected in our mission statement: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

St James' is increasing toward being an eight form entry, co-educational Catholic high school meeting the needs of young people aged 11 – 18. Throughout its history, St James' has always sought to enhance the life chances of those who come within the compass of its influence.



MIXED CHOIR. ST JAMES SCHOOL - BURNT OAK. JUNE 1953.

"ALL STAFF HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PUPILS IN THEIR CARE AND ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING THEM ACHIEVE HIGHLY" OFSTED 2017



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