




ST MARY'S CALNE





*A boarding and day school for around
350 girls aged 11 – 18, where each individual
girl is at the heart of everything we do.*

WELCOME

**ST MARY'S OFFERS A VIBRANT, DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT
THAT BRIMS WITH OPPORTUNITIES BOTH WITHIN AND
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.**

A phrase I hear over and over again from our girls is that our community feels like 'one big family'. This is a place where your daughter will feel more than just supported, she will be appreciated and understood by friends and teachers alike. She'll have the opportunity to discover and nurture her own great talents and experience new things, people and places that enrich her understanding.

The girls' academic progress here is excellent and they make a smooth transition to the university of their choice.

Equally important is that St Mary's girls become life-long learners, acquiring the knowledge, skills and resilience to be empowered for the future and ready to take their place in the world.

The school has great traditions and is proud to be a vital part of the local community. St Mary's buzzes with activity, ideas and inspiration, and it's a privilege to be part of it. I hope that we shall see you and your daughter in school very soon so you can experience it for yourselves. I very much look forward to meeting you.



DR FELICIA KIRK

BA (*University of Maryland*), MA (*Brown University*), PhD (*Brown University*)

DISCOVER

**AT ST MARY'S, GIRLS EXPLORE THE WORLD,
LIVE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES AND DISCOVER THEIR OWN
TALENTS THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES.**

Imagine surveying for turnip-tailed geckos in the rainforests of Montserrat... performing in a professional theatre in Bath, Edinburgh or London...exhibiting your artwork in a London gallery...or transforming children's lives by building a school in the glow of a Zambian sun. Every day at St Mary's brings new adventures that inspire our girls to be the best they can be. In the classroom, exceptional teachers bring lessons to life, fuelling the girls' love of learning and inviting them to inquire, challenge and be life-long, independent thinkers.

Beyond the classroom, the sky really is the limit. During their time here, girls could be fencing at Crystal Palace, starting up a business, polishing their serve at Vilas Tennis Academy in Palma, tearing up the pistes,

staging a musical, performing at RADA... whatever they'd like to try, we go the extra mile to give them the opportunity. This is a time to experiment freely: the girls don't have to be experts, just willing to engage. Almost every student participates in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, developing leadership and teamwork skills while having loads of fun along the way. Our Challenge and Adventure programme for the younger years offers similar experiences, from windsurfing and kayaking to map-reading and camping. It's the stuff of precious memories that last a lifetime.

We know every girl is capable of extraordinary feats, insights and wisdom, possibly beyond what they even imagine. All they need is the opportunity to shine – and that's what St Mary's is all about.

ENRICHED LEARNING

The trips here are incredible: Bude, Enrichment Week trips, Florence, Florida, Paris... there are too many to cite! — Rosie





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THRIVE

**ST MARY'S FOSTERS A SUPPORTIVE, CARING ENVIRONMENT,
CREATING A REAL HOME FROM HOME FOR THE GIRLS.**

At St Mary's, every girl feels the support and care that comes with being part of a close-knit, nurturing community. Our seven boarding houses are organised by age, so girls form close friendships with their peers very quickly. We also have Companies that cross all age groups, allowing the girls to make friends across the school through suppers and competitive events. The pastoral care is outstanding: the House Staff know the girls well as individuals and are there to support and to listen to them. Every girl benefits from one-to-one weekly meetings with their tutor, who is able to help with any academic or personal matters.

Personal development is of paramount importance. Our wellbeing programme focuses on five themes: Emotional Health, Positive Relationships, Gratitude and Altruism, Healthy Living, and Positive

Thinking. Girls explore these in diverse ways: regular workshops cover emotional resilience, anti-bullying, study skills and more; mindfulness courses help the girls to focus and sustain their attention in the present moment, supporting their emotional wellbeing, and our delicious meals promote healthy eating.

The boarding facilities are superb, from comfortable dormitories in the younger years, to private en-suite bedrooms and communal kitchens for our Sixth Formers. We go to great lengths to ensure that day girls feel as welcome and included as boarders, and they can arrange to stay over for up to three nights each week. This safe, friendly environment gives our girls the freedom to be themselves and embrace new challenges. It's just part of what makes St Mary's unique.



A HAPPY ENVIRONMENT

The pastoral care is superb; the House Staff, teachers and tutors are warm and supportive. — Mila



This safe, friendly environment gives our girls the freedom to be themselves and embrace new challenges. *It's just part of what makes St Mary's unique.*

ACHIEVE

OUR GIRLS' ACHIEVEMENTS ARE REFLECTED BOTH IN THEIR OUTSTANDING RESULTS AND IN THEIR LESS TANGIBLE YET INVALUABLE PERSONAL SUCCESSES.

Everything we do at St Mary's – every lesson, match, cultural trip and performance – is geared towards the same end: to inspire our girls to do their best and relish the process of learning.

All of our teaching staff care deeply about this, which is why they give every girl the support they need to make breakthroughs in their understanding and experience the personal satisfaction this brings. The girls' academic results reflect this. Over the last five years, our girls have achieved on average 70% A*-A grades at A Level. Nearly all of our girls go on to Russell Group universities and, on average, 15% of our girls are awarded places at Oxbridge each year.

Students at all-girl schools are more likely to study and perform well in Maths, Science and

Languages, and we are particularly proud of our girls' achievements here. This year, 35% of our girls chose to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects at university.

These academic results are indicative of a deeper, qualitative fulfilment that's at the heart of what's on offer at St Mary's. Here, the focus is firmly on encouraging every girl to develop all aspects of her character and to acquire transferable skills which will set her up well for life. Their successes range from volunteering at a local Special Educational Needs school, to overcoming fears and stepping out onto a stage, zipwire, or podium. The cumulative effect of these personal triumphs is to inspire self-belief and curiosity that stays with our girls throughout their lives.




SUCCESS

There is a real culture of learning and achievement. — Rosanna



Every girl is given the support they need to make *breakthroughs in their understanding* and experience the personal satisfaction this brings.





St Mary's is a happy,
purposeful and flourishing
community, thriving on
respect, encouragement,
friendship and a
dedication to excellence.

BE INSPIRED

*My teachers have been instrumental in inspiring me and
encouraging me to go further. — Sophie*



CONNECT

**CONNECTING WITH IDEAS, FRIENDS, TEACHERS,
TECHNOLOGY AND OUR WORLD: IT'S WHAT UNDERPINS
EVERYTHING WE DO AT ST MARY'S.**

We learn so much from the connections we make. That's why at St Mary's, we place so much emphasis on our girls forming close, positive relationships – both with each other, and with staff as well. Here, teachers really get to know the girls, so they're able to teach in a way that suits each pupil's way of learning. Staff across departments take the time to connect with each other, sharing new insights and research, and fostering innovation in learning.

This cross-pollination of ideas amongst our teachers applies to students as well. Our girls are constantly challenged to be interdisciplinary thinkers, making connections between subjects and turning the knowledge they acquire into new, pioneering ideas of their own. As part of their learning, we encourage them to use technology in a thoughtful way – not simply as a library

or social network, but as an opportunity to connect more deeply with research, thought leadership and institutions.

Beyond the school walls, we connect with business and industry, local communities, universities and schools from around the world – from musical collaborations with local schools, to partnerships and exchanges with schools as far flung as Africa, Australia and the US. The Calne Girls' Association connects girls to an invaluable support network of alumnae offering advice, work experience and more. Our many cultural trips and charity projects – from performing in Paris to supporting a primary school in Nepal – allow our girls to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to thrive wherever they are and become responsible global citizens.



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EXPRESS

**EVERY GIRL HAS A VOICE. AT ST MARY'S THEY
DISCOVER HOW TO DEVELOP IT AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES
FREELY, FULLY AND CONFIDENTLY.**

There's a huge emphasis on self-expression at St Mary's. Music, Art and Drama are core elements of the curriculum that help to foster creativity, team work and a strong personal presence that's invaluable in the wider world. Every girl gets to experience performing, whether as part of a group in an ensemble, choir, orchestra, play or debating team, or as a soloist. Music often fills the corridors here, and we're proud of the many choirs, quartets, bands and orchestras that perform both in school and out. In recent years, our musicians have delighted audiences in Paris, Florida and New York, while closer to home they have partnered local schools to give fundraising concerts for the Calne community. Collaborations with world-class composers such as Tommy Hewitt Jones and Will Todd give our girls a 'masterclass' experience that's priceless.

The artwork around the school is testament to the sheer talent of our pupils and our Art School includes studios for sculpture, printmaking, painting, photography and multimedia projects. Girls can study for LAMDA drama qualifications and, together with RADA, we have developed a unique course on communication and presentation skills that stands our Sixth Formers in good stead as they prepare for university interviews. Girls can also hone their debating skills – whether in class or outside as part of our Model United Nations programme.

However our girls choose to explore their own creativity and self-expression, the challenge of pushing beyond their comfortable boundaries gives them a confidence and conviction that stays with them long after they've left school.

CREATIVITY

I love creative projects like the musical because they are so inclusive. I get so much out of it and it feels like a different way for my mind to work. — Hannah



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VENTURE

OUR GIRLS LEAVE SCHOOL AS CONFIDENT GLOBAL CITIZENS, FULLY EQUIPPED TO THINK FREELY, ACT INTELLIGENTLY AND SEIZE THE BEST IN LIFE.

At St Mary's, girls are taught how to think rather than what to think, to be inquisitive and ask challenging questions. This emphasis on independence grows as they move through the school, so that the Sixth Form acts as a practice ground for the next stage in their lives. There's a greater emphasis on self-directed study with opportunities to undertake their own, student-led research, just as they would at university.

All of our girls go on to further education, and our Going Further Week offers a taste of this, with seminars, lectures and university visits. We offer practical cookery and wellbeing courses so that the girls leave with the skills they need to thrive, wherever they are. Each girl's Director of Studies works with her on her UCAS application and Oxbridge applicants benefit from a unique programme to prepare them for interview. Our exceptional Careers Programme comprises a number of events throughout the year including the Inspiring Women in Leadership Conference and a Careers Fair

at which girls can question and learn from employers about their field of work. Our Bright Futures Committee is very active: they have established relationships with leading companies and regularly host events so that their peers can learn more about industry and commerce. Another highlight is the Sixth Form Lecture Programme in which we invite speakers into school to present on a broad range of interesting topics; alumnae from a diverse range of careers also come back frequently to share their insights, answer questions and offer advice. This is just the beginning of an exciting journey and we continue to offer the same level of careers support long after girls have left school.

Girls aren't pushed at St Mary's, rather, they're inspired to take giant leaps themselves. Many Sixth Formers choose to take on leadership roles, whether as prefects or by running organisations such as the Geography Society. By the time they leave, our girls are confident, skilled and resourceful young women. We're proud of every one of them.

A NEW HORIZON

I'm looking forward to having exciting new experiences and meeting new people. I've really enjoyed my time at Calne and the highlight has been the UVI Form. It has provided me with a close-knit bunch of friends, has helped me develop life-long skills and has created many fantastic memories. — Rebecca



I feel immensely grateful that my daughter will always look back on her school days with great happiness and an enormous sense of achievement, having made wonderful friends and fantastic memories.

Parent of 2015 Leaver



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