



**ST JAMES**  
Senior Girls' School

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

St James Senior Girls' School is an independent, two-form entry, day school for girls aged 11-18. Our Prep School pupils transfer to us at Year 7 and we admit a further 25-30 pupils at 11+ from other schools. We moved to our current site in Kensington, Olympia in September 2001 and enjoy excellent transport links and facilities, including a self-contained Sixth Form Centre located nearby on the North End Road.

We offer an education which nurtures and enriches the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual development of our pupils. Our happy, united atmosphere provides the ideal environment for every girl to discover her own unique combination of strengths and talents and to 'be the best she can'.

St James girls are industrious, open-hearted and courageous; they work together, enjoying others' successes as well as their own. They achieve the highest academic standards and are also encouraged to develop strength through self-discipline and an ability to live according to an intelligent understanding of what is wise and true. Regular opportunities for stillness and quiet enable pupils to learn to be at ease with themselves, to appreciate the value of being fully present and to develop their ability to concentrate.

St James is not a denominational school but provides spiritual enrichment by drawing on the wisdom from our world traditions. Pupils are encouraged to enquire into the great questions of human existence and apply this wisdom to the challenges of daily life, sharing their findings with one another.

Our pupils come from a variety of spiritual traditions and none: this philosophical approach demonstrates how the wisdom at the heart of these traditions has the capacity to unite us all. There is no requirement for a pupil to adopt any particular doctrine or belief but she will be encouraged to live generously, honestly and with integrity.

Our teachers have excellent subject knowledge and give their time generously to support the well-being and development of their pupils. Relationships throughout the school are extremely positive and are characterised by a spirit of love, trust and mutual respect. Teachers enjoy free refreshments and lunches and access to confidential well-being/life-coaching.

The St James Schools were founded in 1975. The Prep School and Senior Girls' School share the same site at Olympia and the Senior Boys' School is located in Ashford, Surrey. The schools have grown significantly throughout the years and now have approximately 900 pupils between them. There are also several affiliated schools around the world.

We were inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in October 2019 and graded 'excellent' in all areas. You can view the report on the school website by following this link <https://www.stjamesschools.co.uk/seniorgirls/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/St-James-Senior-Girls-School-EQI-2019-11-15-DP-EQI.pdf>.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

The Geography department currently consists of three members of staff. We are committed to high standards of teaching and monitor the learning of pupils very carefully.

We aim to use varied resources and classroom activities in our teaching. The department is committed to providing opportunities for learning outside of the classroom, and all year groups now have at least one fieldtrip a year. We embrace the use of new technology in both teaching and learning. We are also keen to develop learning through investigations at KS3.

Year 7 pupils begin to develop their geographical skills and sense of enquiry with a focus on the UK. They study a variety of topics from migration to coasts.

Year 8 pupils study Europe through themes such as tourism, population and environmental issues. They continue to develop geographical skills, in particular interpreting maps and data.

Year 9 pupils begin the GCSE course and study the units Global Hazards, and Changing Climate.

Year 11 sit OCR syllabus B GCSE.

We follow the OCR specification at A2. Geography is enjoying increasing popularity in the school and we have a number of very enthusiastic pupils at all levels. Many of our leavers choose to study geography at university.

Results are very good at both GCSE and A Level. Despite the mixed ability range of the pupils, on average 85% have gained A\*-B at GCSE level over the past five years. At A2 level, 90% of girls have achieved A\*-B grade over the past five years.