

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St James Senior Girls' School is an independent, two-form entry, day school for girls aged 11-18. Our Junior School pupils transfer to us at Year 7 and we admit a further 20-25 pupils at 11+ from other schools. We moved to our current site in Kensington, Olympia in September 2001 and enjoy excellent 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.

The St James Schools were founded in 1975 for girls and boys from 4-18 years of age. The Junior 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 950 pupils between them. There are also several affiliated schools around the world.

St James Senior Girls' School was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in Autumn 2016. You may view the report on the school website.

**For further information, please visit our website: [www.stjamesgirls.co.uk](http://www.stjamesgirls.co.uk)**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The MFL Department is small and supportive (currently four teachers); we work collaboratively, share resources and best practice. Communication and positivity are key. We are a dynamic and creative department and we aim to make the study of French and Spanish as enjoyable as possible. We believe that accuracy and a good command of grammar and vocabulary are central to a learner's ability to manipulate the language in order to express what she wants to say, but creativity and imagination are also emphasised. The main aim of the department is to enable each girl to achieve her full potential and we monitor everyone's progress carefully. At St James, we have an excellent relationship with our pupils: whilst we expect a lot from them, we also work very hard to get the best out of them.

### Curriculum

The secondary school starts in Year 7 at St James; by Year 8, all girls have studied some French, Latin and Sanskrit; some will have studied Classical Greek.

All girls learn French from Year 7 until the end of Year 9 and many carry on their studies to GCSE. Up to Year 9 we use the 'Studio rouge' as our main textbook, as well as a wealth of 'home-made' material.

Some pupils start Spanish in Year 8 and many carry on their studies to GCSE. The textbooks for KS3 are currently ¡Viva! 1&2.

### GCSE

Pupils sit the AQA GCSE for both languages in Year 11 and we use the AQA GCSE Higher Tier Studio and Viva Schemes of Work.

Emphasis is placed on improving the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing as well as on the understanding of the necessary grammar, which includes a range of tenses. We also have a 'mission' to reach beyond the textbook, and to promote cultural awareness and a sense of fun.

Pupils are encouraged to communicate in the target language as much as possible.

We have an increasing number of girls choosing to study two modern languages up to GCSE and some of these continue with both languages to A Level. From Year 10 onwards, we encourage girls to take part in an exchange or to do an immersive summer course in the country of their choice. This usually arranged privately but with the department's help.

### CPD

Every year, all members of the department attend a number of training courses which assist the development of the department. These are encouraged and a generous budget is available.

*If you have any question or query about the position, please feel free to email the Head of Languages, Mylène Chaudagne, at [m.chaudagne@sjsg.org.uk](mailto:m.chaudagne@sjsg.org.uk)*