



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

Founded over 75 years ago in 1941 by Miss Phyllis Burden, with just four pupils in the Rectory in Pewsey, St Francis School is now a thriving IAPS co-educational day prep school and nursery for pupils aged 0 to 13, with 280 pupils on roll.

In 1984 the school moved out of Pewsey village to Haybrook House (which now houses the Pre-Prep department and Little Saints Nursery), and the neighbouring Travancore House (the Prep Department) was acquired in 1990. The current school is situated in 17 acres alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal, in Wiltshire's picturesque Pewsey Vale, six miles south of Marlborough.



The school is certainly in good health – as confirmed by the observations of a team of inspectors from ISI, when they visited in October 2013. They graded all areas in Years 1 and above with the top grade of 'Excellent', and congratulated us on raising the standards in EYFS significantly, and in such a short space of time, from 'Satisfactory' to 'Good with Outstanding Features'. To achieve such accolades is testament to the fact that the school is moving forward effectively.

We are first and foremost a friendly, family school priding ourselves on being a happy and welcoming community. The main Reception Office is to be found in Travancore House along with the school's administrative offices and a dedicated meeting room. The Music Department, a Common Room for pupils in Years 7 and 8, and teaching/form classrooms are also in this building.

A purpose-built, three-floor teaching block (fittingly named the Burden Building after the school's founder) contains spacious general and subject specialist classrooms including an ICT suite, the Senior Library, a Food Technology area, an Art Room, and the Staff Room.

The school campus also includes the following facilities: a separate dining-room and kitchens; the Hemery Hall Sports Hall and Theatre (used for drama productions, music concerts and assemblies as well as for sport, and in the evenings by the local community for activities such as county cricket nets, badminton, tennis and scouts); an indoor climbing wall in the Hemery Hall; playing fields providing pitches for football, rugby, hockey, cricket, rounders and athletics and ample space for cross country; and a double tennis/netball court.

A further building, the Cannon Centre, was completely refurbished and developed over the summer holidays in 2016 to provide a modern Science Laboratory and a Design Technology Lab downstairs, and a Drama Studio upstairs.

After their time at St Francis School, pupils mainly transfer to Dauntsey's School, Marlborough College and Warminster School, as well as to other senior day and boarding schools such as recently to Bryanston, Eton, Milton Abbey, Monkton Combe, Pangbourne College, Sherborne, Stonar, and to St John's Academy in Marlborough.

The school, which is a charitable Trust with a Board of Governors, is a member of ISC and the Headmaster is a member of IAPS. Further details can be found on the school's website www.st-francis.wilts.sch.uk.

Whilst the school takes great pride in its history (several events were organised to celebrate our recent 75th Anniversary), there is also a focus on future development. A brand new Nursery building was opened in the grounds of Haybrook House at the start of the Autumn Term 2017, and this has already proved to be a very successful and thriving part of the school.