



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 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 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 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.



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INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English department currently consists of the Head of Department, plus three English teachers including the Deputy Head (Academic). We are passionate about our subject and we try to communicate this enthusiasm through the finest texts available, from Chaucer to the present day. We are committed to high standards of teaching and monitor the learning of our pupils very carefully.

English Language and Literature is taught from Year 7 to Year 11 and girls are set by ability from Year 7 onwards. Only English Literature is offered at A Level. We organise a range of whole school competitions throughout the school year, including the Debating Competition, the Public Speaking Competition and the June West Poetry Speaking Cup. We also appoint a student to be the School's Poet Laureate.

We include project work in the younger year groups: Year 7 do a Shakespeare project and Year 8 a poetry project.

We follow the AQA syllabuses at GCSE level for English Language and English Literature in Year 11 and the new WJEC, Eduqas specification for Year 10. At A Level, we follow the new WJEC, Eduqas specification. Many leavers have gone on to study English or English related courses at University.

Results are very good at both GCSE and A level.

The English department works with the Library to run reading intervention schemes. Pupils in Years 7-8 keep Reading Logs and complete book reviews every half term. Other schemes include Reading Buddies, STAR Reading Challenge, Book Club and the '16 before 16' initiative. Involvement with these schemes, or extra-curricular clubs such as Creative Writing, Debating or Public Speaking would be welcomed. The department also runs trips to theatre productions, exhibitions and lectures and each member of the department is expected to support these extension activities.