



**ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**

**CANDIDATE
INFORMATION
PACK**

**"I HAVE COME
THAT THEY MAY
HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT TO THE
FULL."**

JOHN 10:10



INTRODUCTION



Welcome to St James' Catholic High School - a school with a long tradition of providing outstanding education. We seek to educate our young people in the fullest sense of the word, enabling them to take their place in society as compassionate, caring, curious individuals who use their gifts and talents for the common good. Our academic results bear testament to our continuing commitment to excellence. We have a thriving Sixth Form that offers fantastic opportunities for our pupils to study and enhance their skills through excellent and innovative teaching. This enables them to gain the necessary qualifications and experience required to access university, further education and the careers of their choice. We offer our pupils a wide range of extra-curricular activities and our staff are encouraged to introduce new ideas or to get involved in existing opportunities, relevant to their own interests and experiences.

St James' is a wonderful place to work for many reasons. The words that staff most often use to describe us are "supportive" and "community". We are a diverse community of pupils, teachers and support staff who share a common vision inspired by the words of St John's Gospel - "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full". As Headteacher, my commitment to our staff and pupils is that they are given every opportunity to flourish during their time as part of our school community.



ANTHONY ELLUL
Headteacher

ABOUT US

OUR HISTORY

St James' Catholic High School was founded in 1934 when it comprised of 310 pupils and 10 staff. The school was formed to provide education for the large number of Catholic families relocating to North West London from the poorer areas of London's East End. Demand for places at St James' is such that the school was approached by the local authority to expand and now has 7 forms of entry. To accommodate the expansion, new buildings and facilities were added to the site. These include additional classrooms, a new fully equipped hall/performance space and a floodlit all-weather pitch.

LOCATION

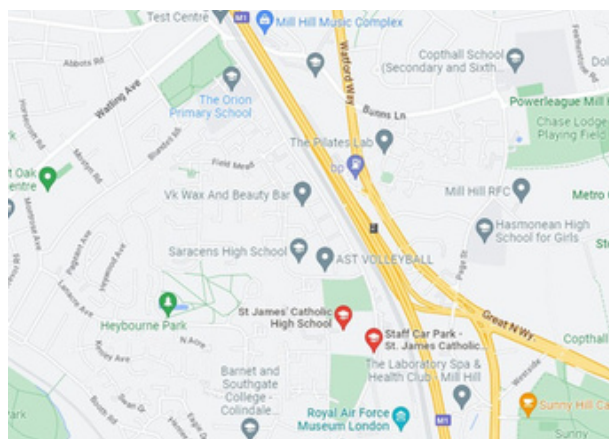
The school is situated in Colindale, North West London with easy access by road and public transport. The nearest underground station is Colindale, on the Northern line and the nearest overground station is Mill Hill Broadway, with both providing quick and easy access into central London. The local area is at the centre of a large and exciting regeneration programme, providing a high volume of new housing and enhanced facilities for the local community.

HOW TO GET HERE

BY ROAD: We are within quick and easy reach of the M25 Junction 23, the M1 (South) Junction 4 and the A1.

BY TRAIN: The nearest station is Mill Hill Broadway, which is part of the Thameslink Service, and is served by trains to and from St Pancras International, Farringdon and Blackfriars in Central London, and from Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire counties to the north of the school. From Mill Hill Broadway station, you can take a short bus journey on the 186 route towards the school.

BY UNDERGROUND: The nearest underground station is Colindale which is on the Northern line. The station is a 10 minute walk to the school.



VERITAS

Veritas - Excellence - Resilience - Integrity - Trust - Aspiration - Service

CURRICULUM

Our broad and balanced curriculum allows our pupils to progress in their areas of personal interests and strengths. Our curriculum is designed to allow pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the subjects taught and to encourage a life-long love of learning. All pupils study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and Religious Education at GCSE level. In addition, there is a wide range of GCSEs and vocational options on offer. There is a thriving extra-curricular programme to which all departments contribute. Our Sixth Form pupils study three or four subjects at Key Stage 5 and have the opportunity to pursue a broad range of enrichment opportunities, including the option to undertake the Extended Project Qualification.

All pupils study the following to GCSE level:

ENGLISH LITERATURE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



OUR FACILITIES

Our pupils and staff benefit from an exceptional range of learning and leisure facilities. These include well-equipped classrooms, labs, an auditorium, a masterclass area and a recording studio. We have great sporting facilities including a sports hall, a gymnasium, a sports field, a dance studio, a fitness suite and a floodlit all-weather pitch. We have activities for all levels of ability and a wide range of interests.



OFSTED MARCH 2022

Inspectors noted that pupils are ‘respectful and polite to staff, visitors and each other.’ They spoke highly about the education on offer at our Sixth Form, ‘Teachers’ expert subject knowledge is particularly noticeable in the Sixth Form.’ Inspectors also mention that our pupils’ benefit from a range of extra-curricular clubs and a variety of trips and out of school activities, including theatre and gallery visits.’



OUR STAFF

Staff are St James' greatest asset, and each member plays a vital role in supporting pupils to fulfil their academic, spiritual and social potential. We are committed to ensuring all colleagues feel valued and supported, with contributions recognised at every level.

Staff development is a priority, with a varied programme of training for all roles. We also offer a range of benefits, including refreshments, pension schemes, an employee assistance programme, on-site parking, childcare vouchers, and access to sports facilities. Our Staff Wellbeing Group meets regularly to enhance staff experience and provide opportunities to connect.

STAFF TESTIMONIALS

"St James' has always been a very welcoming community, from when I first started my ECT journey. I was provided with great support and mentoring during my ECT years, with training scheduled into my timetable and the sharing of experience and expertise from established colleagues. After my ECT years, I was quickly promoted to Head of Department, which was initially daunting, but I was well supported in this role too. Through strong relationships with my team, my Line Manager and other colleagues, I have been provided with help to manage my workload and have also been supported with my wellbeing throughout. All of this has given me the confidence and skills to succeed."

Alanna Amado | Head of Social Sciences

"I first joined St James' as a trainee with the Teach First programme in 2023. During my time at St James', I have been supported by all members of staff in developing my career in and out of the classroom. I am grateful for the opportunity to support our pupils and to work with colleagues who are incredibly supportive."

Henna Ashra | Head of Social Sciences

"I first joined St James' in September 2024 as Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attitudes. From the very start, I felt at home because of how welcoming all members of staff have been. There is a clear, shared sense of support across the school, both for one another and for the students, which I have really valued since joining."

Shaun Wills | Assistant Headteacher

"I joined St James' in January 2024, having moved from South Africa. In a short time, I have grown enormously and feel I have become a much stronger teacher due to the support of my department. I have been given many opportunities to develop my career, both within the department and on the pastoral side, including taking on the role of Second in Charge and working as the Mental Health Coordinator for the whole school. I am really happy at St James' and very grateful for the opportunities I have been given."

Marique Terblanche | 2i/c Business & Economics, Mental Health Coordinator

"I joined St James' in September 2025 as Head of Department for a creative subject. St James' provided me with a new staff induction programme, which supported me with all the procedures and policies. The Teaching & Learning Team has been fantastic in helping me settle in, and I have been made to feel very welcome as a new member of staff."

Natasha McMahon | Head of Art

"I have been working at St James' for three years. Even though I live quite a distance away, St James' feels like family to me. From senior staff to Year 7 students, everyone contributes to the school community. Recently, I was promoted from Teaching Assistant to SEMH Mentor/TA, which reflects how the school recognises hard work."

Konstantinos Lafazanis | SEMH Mentor/TA

OUR BENEFITS



CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

We support you throughout your career, with programmes for aspiring middle and senior leaders and opportunities to take on additional responsibilities.



FREE ON-SITE PARKING

There are ample parking spaces to accommodate all staff.



ECT SUPPORT

We provide a bespoke CPD induction programme, with weekly meetings with your assigned mentor and opportunities throughout the year to contribute to whole-school initiatives.



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

This is provided through Education Support and provides a wide range of support to assist staff in their well-being.



FREE SPORTS FACILITIES

Access to the fitness suite use of sports facilities and equipment.



EASY ACCESS

We have easy access by public transport, whether it be bus, train or underground.



FINANCIAL

We offer competitive salaries at all levels. All staff have access to the benefits of either the Teachers' Pension Scheme or Local Government Pension Scheme.



COMMUNITY

Everyone is valued. We provide opportunities to share best practice, socialise, and support one another. Our Staff Well-being Group offers a forum to further enhance the staff experience.



ST JAMES' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Great Strand, Colindale NW9 5PE

Tel: 020 8358 2800

Fax: 020 8358 2801

Email: admin@st-james.barnet.sch.uk

www.st-james.barnet.sch.uk

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