



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

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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, to enable 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 further their skills with excellent and innovative teaching, thereby enabling them to gain the qualifications and experiences for them to access university, further education and the careers of their choice.

We offer our pupils a wide range of opportunities to engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and our staff are encouraged to introduce new ideas or to get involved in existing activities that fit with their own interests and experiences.

St James' is a wonderful place to work for many reasons. The words 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 might 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



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.

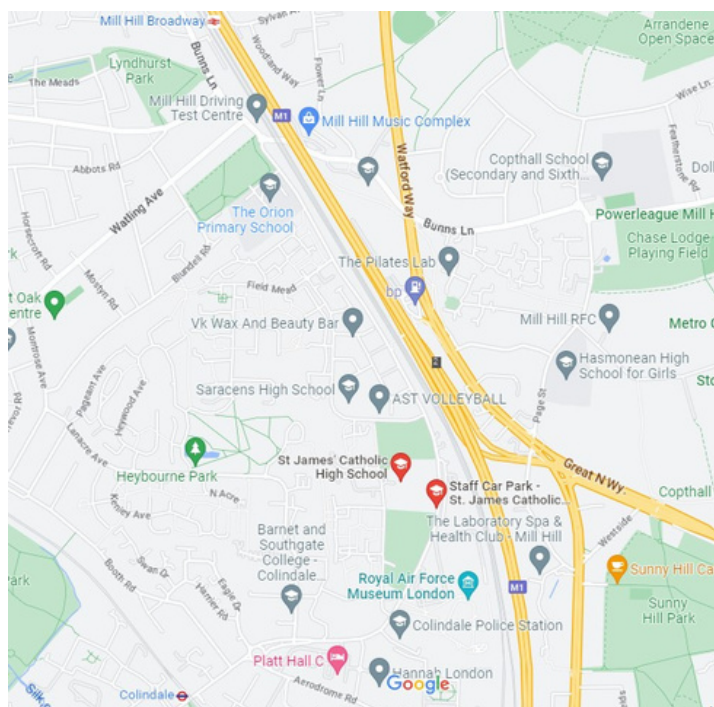
Demand for places at St James' is such, that the school was approached by the local authority to expand and now has 7 forms of entry. To accommodate the expansion, new buildings and facilities were added to the site. These include additional classrooms, a new fully-equipped hall/performance space and 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.



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 such as a large hall, a sports hall, a gymnasium, a sports field, a dance studio, a fitness suite and a floodlit all-weather pitch. We have sporting activities for all levels of ability and varying 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-curricula clubs and a variety of trips and out of school activities, including theatre and gallery visits.'





OUR STAFF

The staff are St James' greatest asset. Each member of staff plays a vital role in ensuring that our pupils have the opportunity to fulfil their potential academically, spiritually and socially.

We want to be sure that every one of our colleagues enjoys an equally fulfilling future. As a member of our community, your contribution to our success will be recognised and valued at every level.

Staff development is a high priority: we provide a varied programme of training and professional development for staff at all levels. You can also look forward to a great range of benefits that include: complimentary refreshments, pension scheme, employee assistance programme, on-site parking, childcare vouchers and access to our sports and fitness facilities.

We have a Wellbeing Group comprised of staff from various roles within the school. The group meet regularly to explore and develop opportunities to enhance the experience of staff and to provide social opportunities at St James'.

STAFF TESTIMONIALS

"Upon joining St James' in the Autumn of 2021, I was immediately made to feel part of a happy and welcoming staff community. The support I have been offered by my colleagues throughout my Teach First training has been second to none. They have enabled me to put my skills, experience and interests into practice both in and outside the classroom. It is a joy to come to work in a place where the VERITAS Values and Catholic ethos are so embedded in the daily life of school, within the curriculum and beyond."

VLERA AGOLLI - DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

"Since my first day, I have felt the welcoming and warm atmosphere that makes St James' so unique. Everybody supports each other to give our pupils the best opportunities in preparing them for the future. There are plenty of opportunities for professional development and the training we receive is outstanding."

JEAN SILVA - SENIOR TEACHING ASSISTANT

"I joined St James' Catholic High School in 2002. I have enjoyed every minute of working here and I have met many amazing people through the years. The caring and inclusive approach to staff and pupils is evident. Everyone that works here is very supportive of each other and you will definitely make friends for life."

KAREN CORBISHLEY - RECEPTIONIST

"I first joined St James' as a Teaching Assistant in 2015. Since then, I have been given the opportunity to develop my career, moving into the roles of Pastoral Support Manager, then Head of Year, before taking up my current role. I really enjoy supporting our pupils and am very grateful for the opportunities the school has given me to progress."

DANIEL O'BRIEN - RE TEACHER

"Having worked in three other London schools, I was immediately taken aback by the incredibly positive and nurturing culture here at St James'. The staff are friendly and open and share good practice at every opportunity. Pupils are enthused and engaged in their learning and their behaviour is excellent. I've always believed that teaching is one of the most rewarding careers and here at St James', I am reminded of that daily."

COSTA DYER - ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

OUR BENEFITS

CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

We recognise the importance of supporting you throughout your career, with programmes in place for middle and senior aspiring leaders, as well as 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 induction programme of CPD sessions. You will have weekly meetings with your assigned mentor and be given opportunities throughout the year to contribute to whole school initiatives.

PERKBOX

Access to a range of discounts and free offers.

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 for staff to learn from each other's practice, to socialise together and to support each other. Our Staff Well-being Group provides a forum to enhance the experience of our staff.

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 UNDERGROUND

The nearest underground station is Colindale which is on the Northern line. From the station the school is a 10 minute walk.

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 251 route towards the school.

CONTACT

For more information about the school, please refer to our website at www.st-james.barnet.sch.uk or call us on 020 8358 2800.

OUR LOCATION

St James' Catholic High School
Great Strand, Colindale,
London NW9 5PE

Telephone: 020 8358 2800
Fax: 020 8358 2801

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

