

## **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 SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science at St James Senior Girls' School is a vibrant, popular subject. Practical experiments which girls do themselves, as well as demonstrations, play a central role in our pupils' education from Year 7 to Year 13, in biology, chemistry and physics. We believe that hands-on, direct experience of science is the best way of generating enthusiasm, stimulating enquiry and deepening pupils' appreciation of nature.

Our well-managed, efficient, attractive laboratories are therefore essential to the education of the girls and the success of the Department. The four laboratories are run by the Laboratory Technician with an assistant, under the direction of the Head of Science.

The Science Department consists of: the Head of Chemistry, a chemistry teacher (who also teaches physics), the Head of Biology, a biology teacher, the Head of Physics and two part-time science teachers. Relations between members of the Department are harmonious; the atmosphere is happy and there is a spirit of close co-operation within and between the three departments. Our laboratory technicians are very much part of the Science Team.

The Department is forward-looking and actively engaged in a wide range of extra-curricular initiatives. For example, we have had Ambassadors in Science and we run a STEM club. Girls take part in major national science competitions and attend talks from visiting experts. We also run a number of internal competitions to widen pupils' outlook in science. A number of visits and field courses are arranged for the girls in all year groups at various times of the year.

Year 7 study General Science.

Year 8 take introductory courses in the three sciences.

Year 9 take preparatory courses for IGCSE in the three sciences.

Years 10 and 11 opt for one, two or three sciences or Single Award Science, and take IGCSE exams. Year 12 and 13 may opt for A Level courses in one or more of the three sciences.

Numbers at A Level are always very healthy and we usually timetable two groups for chemistry and biology to accommodate the demand.

Many of our girls go on to study science-related courses at university including medicine, biochemistry and veterinary science.