



**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 MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music department currently consists of the Head of Department. We are committed to high standards of teaching and attainment. In accordance with the ethos of the School, the department focuses on music which enriches and refines the intellectual and emotional development of our pupils: this causes us to draw mainly from the Classical tradition.

St James Senior Girls School has a very strong musical tradition. All pupils perform in our Christmas Carol Service and a large number in our Joint Summer Concert held with the Boys' School. We have a lively House Music competition and an annual Performing Arts Gala (held jointly with the Senior Boys' School). Senior and Lower School Musicals are performed biennially in rotation. There are many other opportunities for girls to perform, and we also have an annual Arts Week to encourage a greater number of informal opportunities for participation.

### **Class Music**

In Years 7-9, pupils follow a general music course with an emphasis on performance and composition. Music GCSE is offered to Years 10 and 11 (following the Edexcel syllabus), and AS/A2 to Years 12 and 13 respectively (following the Edexcel syllabus). Music is taught in a large music room equipped with keyboards and PCs which is situated next to our drama studio.

### **Musical Activities**

The music departments of the Senior Girls' and Boys' Schools collaborate in a biennial musical production. Past productions include *My Fair Lady* (2008), *The Sound of Music* (2010), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (2012), *The Wizard of Oz* (2015) and *Les Miserables* (2017).

The Music Department works very closely with the Drama departments in a Performing Arts Team and has recently put on *Oliver*, *Honk*, *Into the Woods*, *The Lion King* and currently *Mary Poppins* with the Lower School and *The Beggar's Opera* and *Dido and Aeneas* with the Senior School.

Currently the music groups running are: Chamber Orchestra, Wind Group, Guitar Group, Lower, Middle and Senior Choirs and Chamber Choir. These groups change to respond to the needs of pupils in each year. We collaborate with the Boys' School to mount productions of major choral works including Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Mozart's *Requiem* and the *Magic Flute* and Haydn's *Creation*.

### **Instrumental and Singing lessons**

We currently have a team of 14 peripatetic teachers who teach around 65 lessons after school including voice, piano, string, woodwind and brass.

Group sizes at GCSE and A Level vary from year-to-year. This year one girl is taking GCSE in Year 11, whilst another seven girls from Year 10 will take the examination next year. Currently ex-pupils have read music at Durham, Leeds, Aberdeen, Nottingham and the Royal Academy.