



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
TWICKENHAM

SIXTH FORM HANDBOOK





St. Catherine's School



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Johneen McPherson, Headmistress



St Catherine's welcomes you.

Our Sixth Form Centre boasts lovely views of the river and the School – it is a symbolic position for girls who are seen as leaders at St Catherine's.

Led by the Head Girl and her team, the Sixth Form have a special role as they help to create a community where each girl belongs. Younger girls look up to the Sixth Form, inspired by their confidence and achievements; they also know that senior girls will make time to help them.

This spirit is important at St Catherine's and each year we look forward to a new group of enthusiastic young women who will bring their individual talents, new ideas and personalities to the Sixth Form.

You will see in this handbook that we have a wide variety of A Level subjects. Our girls enjoy the challenge and support available in small classes and know that their teachers will do all they can to help them succeed. Sixth Form girls enjoy excellent facilities which allow space for dedicated and serious study, alongside a place to socialise and relax.

In the Sixth Form there are exciting opportunities to plan for the future and to make strong university applications. Girls are also encouraged to continue to develop their personal and co-curricular skills and to discover new strengths and interests as they prepare to find their place in the world.

Whether you are already at St Catherine's, or looking to join us from another school, we warmly invite you to visit our Sixth Form Centre and to speak to the Sixth Form team.

Charlie Stringer, Head of Sixth Form



The Sixth Form at St Catherine's School is rooted in serious academic study, balanced by plenty of joyful, sisterly camaraderie and underpinned by the Gospel values that are at the heart of our community.

This is the most exciting time in your school career as new freedoms open up and you start to make choices that will directly shape your future. In Year 11 you will select four subjects that you enjoy and play to your strengths. On entering Year 12 you will have the freedom to study independently, wear your own clothes and start to take on leadership roles within the school.

Whilst enjoying your newly found independence, you will also be fully supported by our dedicated teaching staff and excellent pastoral team.

This is a moment in your life when both you and your parents will need expert guidance and advice as you make decisions on higher education and your wider future. At every stage the Sixth Form Tutors and I will be on hand to help you.

Before fulfilling St Catherine of Siena's call to be the best that God intended you to be, you need to know yourself. Where better than in a relaxed environment of like-minded girls where you are free to be yourself? We are proud to be an all girls Sixth Form as it allows us to tailor every aspect of our provision to empower you to succeed.

The Journey

	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Autumn Term	<p>Initial A Level subject choices discussed with Head of Sixth Form</p> <p>Sixth Form Information Evening for parents and girls</p>	<p>Individual meetings to discuss Higher Education</p> <p>Introduction to Unifrog: university and careers online platform</p> <p>Start of EPQ</p>	<p>Personal Statement completed</p> <p>UCAS form sent</p> <p>Entrance exams and interviews for Oxbridge</p> <p>Initial offers received</p> <p>LIS: Interdisciplinary Project starts</p>
Spring Term	<p>GCSE mock exams</p> <p>Year 11 Parents' Evening</p> <p>A Level Subject choices confirmed</p>	<p>Careers and university preparation</p> <p>University visits</p>	<p>Mock exams</p> <p>Decisions on first and second choice university as offers come in</p>
Summer Term	<p>GCSE exams</p> <p>Sixth Form Induction Day in June for current and new girls</p>	<p>Internal exams for university predicted grades</p> <p>Oxbridge application preparation</p> <p>UCAS presentation for girls and parents</p> <p>UCAS personal statement preparation</p> <p>EPQ Submission</p>	<p>Revision, study leave, A Level exams</p> <p>Leavers' Formal</p>
August	<p>GCSE results</p>		<p>A Level Results</p>

Life in the Sixth Form

Form groups in the Sixth Form combine Years 12 and 13 together to encourage friendship, collaboration and the sharing of experiences across both years. Each Form is led by an experienced tutor whose role is to support your personal and academic challenges, as well as being able to guide you through your university applications. As in the rest of the school, there is tutor time every morning and afternoon and the tutor is the first point of contact for the girls, parents and staff.

As a Sixth Former, you are allowed to wear your own clothes to school and may acquire the privilege of taking some of your private study time off site. You are also allowed to go into Twickenham during your lunch break.

Our House system at St Catherine's incorporates the whole school, with the Sixth Form not only expected to partake in inter-house competitions, but also to take a leading role within their houses whether it be sports, assemblies or the much-loved summer cheerleading competition.

There is no such thing as a 'typical' St Catherine's girl. Every girl is valued, whether you're interested in academia, the arts or sport. We appreciate the contributions of the girl who chooses to work behind the scenes, as well as the girl who enjoys being centre stage. The one common denominator is that St Catherine's girls are kind and positive, with a strong work ethic and an enthusiasm for life.

Curriculum

At St Catherine's we believe that A Levels continue to provide the best form of academic structure and assessment for Sixth Form study, giving the best preparation for reading academic subjects at high ranking universities.

A Levels are specialist courses and it is important to keep some breadth at the beginning while you may still be a little uncertain about the academic path you wish to follow. In Year 11, you will select four A Levels for your Sixth Form studies.

The four A Levels that you choose will form the mainstay of your Year 12 experience. You will be taught in small classes by supportive, specialist teachers keen to share their academic passion. In return, we ask that you are organised and motivated to study.

The current A Level offering at St Catherine's

Art	English	Maths	Psychology
Biology	French	Further Maths	Philosophy & Ethics
Chemistry	Geography	Music	Physics
Computer Science	German	PE	Spanish
Drama	Graphics	Photography	Sociology
Economics	History	Politics	Textiles

During the Autumn Term of Year 12 you will be prepared for the AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This taught skills programme is designed to impart the key knowledge and skills required for successful independent research and study for your A Levels and at university. You will learn to plan your own research, identify source material and manage your time effectively.

In the Spring of Year 12 girls start researching their own EPQ (a 5,000 word extended essay) with the support of a designated supervisor. Each candidate chooses their own topic and title based on their own interests. For most girls this will lead to completing the Level 3 EPQ which is worth half an A Level and highly valued by most universities.



Beyond the Classroom

Enrichment

In addition to their A Level lessons, the girls' timetables include Core RE lessons, Physical Education and General Studies. These lessons add breadth and enrichment to the curriculum.

In RE, the girls consider and discuss topical philosophical and ethical issues such as stewardship (our duty to care for the environment).

General PE lessons include a range of different physical activities ranging from fun groups workouts like Zumba to team sports such as netball. There is an all-important element of choice in General PE, allowing girls some ownership of the activities.

General Studies combines elements of academic enrichment, university and career guidance, life skills, and PSHE. Activities include UCAS preparation, public speaking opportunities, outside speakers and student survival cookery.

In Year 12, girls will be given the opportunity to complete an EPQ. This will help them develop a useful range of extra study skills, helping to prepare for the demands of university work. In Year 13, the girls will be given the opportunity to complete an interdisciplinary projects, run by LIS, in the Autumn term.



School Leaders

Sixth Form is the bridge to the girls' future, and we encourage the development and growth of the girls as young adults and future leaders. Beginning with a leadership-themed induction day in Year 11, we encourage the girls to play an active part in the running of our Sixth Form and the wider school and to act as role models to the wider pupil body.

Throughout their time in the Sixth Form every girl is given the opportunity to make her mark as a leader. They are able to take an active role in the school committees and magazine editorial board. They can take a lead in co-curricular activities and have frequently founded their own clubs and societies. Most recently these have included Eco Society, Musical Theatre Club and Equalities Club.

Sixth Formers can be seen across the school whether they are in Lower School Form groups chatting to the younger girls, offering a helping hand in Chaplaincy or assisting the PE department with an after-school co-curricular club, you can find them everywhere.

In the summer of Year 12 the girls are invited to apply for leadership positions. We have a Head Girl team, who along with Prefects, House Prefects and the Committee Chairs take a lead in various aspects of life at St Catherine's.



Wherever a girl wants to go, we can help her to get there.

Whether she is considering an apprenticeship or aspiring to Oxbridge, we will provide the support she needs. With small class sizes and expert teachers, academic success is a given.

An emphasis is placed on ensuring that each girl receives the information that she needs to embark on the career of her choice. We subscribe to the Unifrog platform which is an incredible tool to support the girls as they research higher education and career options.

Sixth Formers have regular individual meetings with our Head of Careers and the Head of Sixth Form to discuss career choice and degree options. St Catherine's Sixth Formers receive personalised help with applying for work placements, choosing relevant university taster courses, writing their CV and personal statements and so on.

With a thriving alumnae network, we are also able to help girls to secure internships and work experience. We hold a biennial Careers Fair, where a wide variety of professions are represented. During this Fair, speakers introduce girls to a range of careers and work experience in fields such as Law and Medicine. The girls are encouraged to use this as a valuable networking opportunity, and many have found themselves with invitations to undertake work experience from connections made at the Fair.

The ongoing support provided by the Sixth Form team will give each girl the edge, whether this means offering mock interviews, pointing her in the right direction when researching universities or encouraging her to set up an academic society.

Typical University Destinations

Since our Sixth Form was established in 2010, our girls have progressed to a wide range of university destinations. From the sample of destinations below, you can see how we give girls the tools to achieve their ambitions, whatever they may be:

Recent University Destinations	
English and Classics	The University of Edinburgh
Medicine	University of Bristol
Earth Sciences	UCL
Medicine and Surgery	Newcastle University
Veterinary Medicine	University of Nottingham
Engineering	Imperial College London
Computer Science	University of Exeter
Marine Biology	University of Portsmouth
Psychology	Durham University
Music	Royal Academy of Music



Facilities & Pastoral

Facilities

An outstanding education requires outstanding facilities. Our Sixth Form is based in a specially designed Sixth Form Centre, enabling the girls to feel that they have an area to make their own.

They have a Common Room with comfortable furnishings and the facilities to make snacks, a silent Study Room and the new Sixth Form Library.

This enables the girls to balance their time between the studying needed to achieve their goals, and all-important downtime.

Of course, the Sixth Form girls also retain access to the wider St Catherine's site, including the swimming pool, sports field and the Senior Library.



Pastoral

Engaging with challenging A Level courses, taking greater ownership of academic studies with greater freedoms, and needing to think about the future whilst balancing a full co-curricular and social life, can make Sixth Form Life seem very busy and even, at times, overwhelming. At St Catherine's, the Head of Sixth Form, the tutors and wider staff are all there to support the girls as they progress through their final two years of school.

Our PSHE programme addresses the knowledge and skills we feel a young woman needs to face adult life in the twenty-first century and the Chaplaincy and the Independent Listener provide opportunities for you to share any problems in safe and supportive environments.

As a Sixth Form, we are large enough to be able to offer a full range of opportunities, but small enough to ensure that each girl is known and valued for who she is.





Robyn

WHAT A-LEVELS ARE YOU STUDYING?

Textiles, Biology and Chemistry

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

Veterinary Medicine or Fashion Design

WHAT LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ST CATHERINE'S SIXTH FORM?

There are many opportunities for everyone to be a leader in St Catherine's Sixth Form, from being in the Head Girl Team to being a House Captain. There are even positions available to be the Head of a Committee or have a Prefect role. Furthermore, even without a position you will still have the opportunity to start a society.

WHAT'S ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE STARTING SIXTH FORM AT ST CATHERINE'S?

My advice is to take every opportunity available and get involved with school life! This will give you great experience whilst also looking great on your UCAS application. You will also have lots of fun and build friendships with people you may not expect, making great memories.

WHAT MAKES A SINGLE-SEX SCHOOL RIGHT FOR YOU?

The all-girls setting of St Catherine's has helped me to develop confidence and a strong work ethic. It also fosters a strong sense of sisterhood, where you can build lifelong friendships with like-minded girls.

WHAT KIND OF GIRL THRIVES AT ST CATHERINE'S?

A girl who aims high and is willing to work to her fullest potential; while also maintaining a kind and compassionate spirit.

HOW IS YOUR WELLBEING SUPPORTED IN THE SIXTH FORM?

The Sixth Form has a great support network of staff who are always available and willing to help you along the way. It's really comforting to have staff you can trust and feel comfortable around when you feel you need support.



Sophie

WHAT A-LEVELS ARE YOU STUDYING?

Music, Geography and German

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

Bachelor of Music in Vocal Studies (BMus) at a conservatoire.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE STARTING SIXTH FORM AT ST CATHERINE'S?

If you are wanting to complete an EPQ (extended project), make sure to complete it in the first year of Sixth Form. Also, I would recommend personally visiting universities and speaking to alumnae (who may have done the same course/are at the same university.)

WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT ST CATHERINE'S?

Definitely the school trips, such as the choir tour to Belgium and the Netherlands as well as the Edinburgh Fringe.

HOW IS YOUR WELLBEING SUPPORTED IN THE SIXTH FORM?

There are various outlets you can go to in need of advice, support and help, such as speaking to the Head of Sixth Form (Mr Stringer), your subject teachers, as well as other staff members such as Form Tutors.

WHAT SINGLE THING HAS ST CATHERINE'S INSTILLED IN YOU THAT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU FOR LIFE?

Making the most of opportunities and being proactive.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTED IN YOUR UCAS APPLICATIONS?

I had two different applications (both for university and conservatoire) and I was supported throughout both processes. For example, teachers checked personal statements as well as provided me with support and encouragement during the audition period.

Pupil Profiles



Emma-Jane

WHAT A-LEVELS ARE YOU STUDYING?

Sociology, Drama and Philosophy & Ethics

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

Business Management with a year in industry

WHAT LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE ST CATHERINE'S SIXTH FORM?

So many! House Prefects, Sports Prefect, Drama Prefect, Music Prefect, General Prefects, Committee Heads, 2 Deputy Head Girls and Head Girl.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE STARTING SIXTH FORM AT ST CATHERINE'S?

It's completely normal to feel overwhelmed at first - the jump from GCSE to A Level courses, a new environment, new dress codes and more freedom is a lot to take in! Have patience and soon enough you will adapt to the new routine.

Also, it's a great idea to ensure you are making revision notes for your subjects throughout the school year whenever you have finished a component. You will thank yourself for it when mocks and real exams come around!

WHAT MAKES A SINGLE-SEX SCHOOL RIGHT FOR YOU?

I feel more confident when contributing in class - everyone is so supportive and friendly.

WHAT KIND OF GIRL THRIVES AT ST CATHERINE'S?

One who is diligent, determined to succeed, committed to her studies, willing to give 110% in everything she does and open to trying new things.

HOW IS YOUR WELLBEING SUPPORTED IN THE SIXTH FORM?

The Sixth Form staff are a great support network. Whether it be academic or personal, they are super approachable and open to listen - you really trust them and feel comfortable talking to them about anything that is bothering you.

WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT ST CATHERINE'S?

Having more freedom and responsibility in school life, the opportunity to be role models to younger girls, fun events exclusive to the Sixth Form (like Afternoon Tea and running committees) and having a smaller year group.



Zoe

WHAT A-LEVELS ARE YOU STUDYING?

Biology, Geography, and Spanish

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY?

Physical Geography

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO SOMEONE STARTING SIXTH FORM AT ST CATHERINE'S?

Taking every opportunity available is important, as it will teach you many things, as well as giving you great experience that will benefit you in the future.

WHAT KIND OF GIRL THRIVES AT ST CATHERINE'S?

Any girl could thrive at St Catherine's. We are a welcoming community, where everyone is able to work to their full potential, through their own hard work and the support of the people around them.

HOW IS YOUR WELLBEING SUPPORTED IN THE SIXTH FORM?

The Sixth Form has a great support system of staff and pupils who are always available to look after you. The girls in the Sixth Form are very kind and comforting, and there are also tutors, the Head of Sixth Form, teachers and the Independent Listener, who are there to help you along the way.

WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT ST CATHERINE'S?

Sixth Form life at St Catherine's comes with a lot of fun points! From school events and trips, to day-to-day life, there is always something to enjoy.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SUPPORTED IN YOUR UCAS APPLICATIONS?

Since the beginning of Year 12, we have been encouraged to undertake activities that will prepare us for university and give us the best chances in our applications. We have also had regular talks as well as one-to-one sessions with the Head of Sixth Form, and subject teachers, to help us with our applications.

WHAT SINGLE THING HAS ST CATHERINE'S INSTILLED IN YOU THAT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU FOR LIFE?

St Catherine's has instilled the importance of community into my life. By leading through example, St Catherine's has shown me how important it is to feel safe and secure, which can be done by the people around you.



ART

This course will appeal to pupils who enjoyed GCSE Art and want to take their work onto the next level. Pupils who are imaginative, creative and have a desire to work independently will enjoy this course. These are often pupils who want to work with creative problem solving and are confident in making decisions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The A Level in Art is designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art.

The pupils will develop their work throughout the course, from a starting point of their choice, which they take on a personal journey alongside research and contextual investigation. They will write a personal study of a minimum 1000-word essay.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Pupils can apply for an Art Foundation year or apply directly to the universities. There are many Art and Design degree options available including Fine Art degrees.

"It is a widely accepted notion among painters that it does not matter what one paints as long as it is well painted. This is the essence of academicism. There is no such thing as good painting about nothing."

Mark Rothko



BIOLOGY

This course will appeal to pupils interested in Life Sciences. Pupils will develop their understanding and apply their knowledge of biology and evaluate data from experiments they carry out in the laboratory. They will develop a broad understanding of the functions and effects of Life Sciences on the outside world, as well as gain an appreciation of how Biology contributes to current medical advances.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

Development of practical skills in biology
Foundations in biology
Exchange & transport
Biodiversity, evolution and disease

Year 13

Development of practical skills in biology
Foundations in biology
Exchange and transport
Biodiversity, evolution & disease
Communication, homeostasis & energy
Genetics, evolution and ecosystems

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Biology is universally recognised as a valuable and versatile A Level by institutions and employers alike because of the transferable skills it develops.

"Don't dismiss science, because science does so much for us. If you feel uneasy about science, go and understand the science. Go and find out what's going on."

Sarah Gilbert



CHEMISTRY

This course will appeal to pupils with both academic and laboratory skills, those wanting to develop logical and analytical thinking, numeracy and creativity and, of course, those with a specific career in mind that requires it.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

Breadth in Chemistry (two sections)

Section A: multiple choice

Section B: structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills

Depth in Chemistry

Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills

Year 13

Periodic Table, Elements and Physical Chemistry

Section A: Multiple choice

Section B: Structured questions and extended response questions covering theory and practical skills
Synthesis and analytical techniques
Multiple choice
Structured response questions covering theory and practical skills.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Chemistry is universally recognised as one of the most valuable A Level subjects. It fosters many useful skills; for example, practical skills, independent learning and problem solving. As a result, Chemistry is accepted for a wide variety of careers and courses, for example: Education, Forensics, Health and Safety, Industry, Lab Work, Law, Consultancy, Media, Sales and Marketing and Medicine.

"I am among those who think that science has great beauty."

Marie Curie



COMPUTER SCIENCE

This course will appeal to pupils with an interest in computer programming, critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. Computers are an integral part of the modern workplace and there is a high demand for technical skills across many employment sectors. This course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology-related careers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pupils will learn about computer architecture, networking, data representation, data structures, software applications, algorithms and the impact of computers on society. Pupils will develop the necessary practical skills to enable them to complete a programming project, such as a revision app or a game.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

As well as appealing to anyone wishing to go on to study Computer Science at university, the course provides a foundation for various computer-related university degrees such as Software Engineering, Web Design, Computer Graphics and Business.

A qualification in Computer Science provides a range of career opportunities, most notably in the fields of computer software development, network management, cybersecurity, engineering, web design, banking and education.

"From phones to cars to medicine, technology touches every part of our lives. If you can create technology, you can change the world."

Susan Wojcicki, YouTube CEO



DRAMA

This course will appeal to pupils who are confident, diligent, creative and able to work both independently and as part of a team. It is an imaginative and exciting course covering a range of theatrical skills both on stage and behind it.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pupils will study two set plays and analyse the work of theatre makers in a live production that they will attend. They will also create a devised piece of theatre and perform extracts from three different scripts, using the style of methodologies of studied practitioners of their choice.

A LEVEL COURSE DETAILS

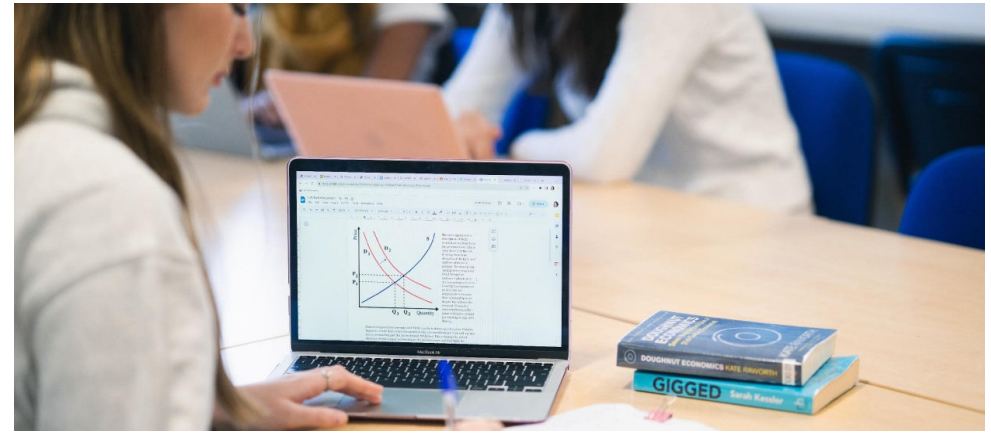
Component 1: Drama and theatre (written exam) 40%

Component 2: Creating original drama (practical) 30%

Component 3: Making theatre (practical) 30%

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Drama is a useful A Level for anyone considering a career in the performing arts, but also for anybody who is considering a profession involving teamwork, performance, or communication. Girls who have studied Drama have gone on to study in fields such as law, education, public relations, medicine, and advertising.



ECONOMICS

This course will appeal to girls who have an enquiring mind and would like to learn the reasons behind government economic decisions. If you have ever questioned 'why' when listening to the news and thought that you could make better decisions than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, then this could be the course for you. The course is assessed through a mixture of question styles, from calculations and data interpretation through to essay questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pupils will cover both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics looks at how individual markets work. For example, analysing why the government taxes some goods and subsidises others. Macroeconomics covers the economy as a whole. For example, you will learn about the reasons behind decisions on interest rates, benefit levels, trade policy and unemployment reduction.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Economics is a rigorous and traditional subject, and it is highly regarded by universities. You will have demonstrated your ability to write at length, as well as to analyse graphical and numerical data. The broad base of skills learned will ensure that you are desirable to the top universities, whether you would like to study an Economics-related degree or something else entirely.

"Capitalism is destroying the planet. The two old tricks that dug it out of past crises - War and Shopping - simply will not work."

Arundhati Roy



ENGLISH LITERATURE

This course will appeal to pupils who enjoy literature in its many forms, relish a discussion, have a keen intellectual curiosity, and know that clear communication is vital in today's world.

Do you like to lose yourself in a book, but know that you can find yourself there, too? English Literature is an important and engaging subject, introducing you to a world of new ideas and new ways of thinking.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Edexcel course offers a range of enjoyable and stimulating texts.

Year 12

Two prose texts, a modern drama and one selection of modern poetry.

Year 13

One Shakespeare play and a further collection of poetry.

You will also complete a coursework essay in which you compare an aspect of two texts; this is where you can follow your own interests.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

English Literature is widely recognised as a valuable and versatile 'facilitating' subject at A Level because of the transferable skills it develops. It can enhance an application to medical school, to law and business degrees, to other Humanities subjects and languages, as well as to English, Journalism, and many other degrees, courses and careers.

"If you don't like someone's story, write your own."

Chinua Achebe



GEOGRAPHY

This course will appeal to pupils who enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment, and who are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a balanced course covering both human and physical geography including cutting edge issues such as migration, climate change and globalisation.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Geography at university is a very broad based degree providing many transferable skills. Geography degrees offer above average graduate employability generally and are suited to jobs in ecology, economic development, urban planning and many other areas.

"I am a citizen not of Athens or Greece, but of the World."

Socrates



HISTORY

This course will appeal to pupils who have a keen and active interest in the subject and are independent learners. The depth and breadth of the subject means there is a lot of background reading to be done.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Over the two years of the course you will study a British History unit, worth 25% of your total mark, a non-British unit, worth 15%, a thematic study of a period of around 100 years, worth 40%, and complete an independent coursework essay of 3000-4000 words, worth 20%.

We currently teach The Early Tudors 1485-1558; Spain 1469-1556; and Russia and its rulers 1855-1964. Content may change and is reviewed annually.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Studying History provides a student with skills which are not confined to the study of the past. Analysis skills are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making.

Well-qualified History graduates have no difficulty in getting good jobs in a very wide range of occupations - in business and finance, in public administration, in journalism and broadcasting, in teaching at a number of levels, or in research-based careers of various kinds.

"History is being invented in vast quantities... it's more important to have historians, especially sceptical historians, than ever before."

Eric Hobsbawn



MATHEMATICS

This course will appeal to pupils who truly enjoy Mathematics. It is a challenging but interesting course and the student's numerical and algebraic skills must be of a very high standard. Pupils need to relish problem-solving and be prepared to persevere when solutions are not obvious.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pupils will develop an understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes, develop the ability to reason logically, construct mathematical proofs, understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of Mathematics can be connected.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

An A Level in Mathematics is not only useful for all those interested in the Sciences, Business and Economics, Medicine and Geography, but it also provides a broader education for those interested in Arts subjects. It is an essential requirement for engineering degree courses. Choosing Mathematics at an advanced level opens many career opportunities and an A Level Mathematics qualification is highly regarded by universities.

"Students shy away from Maths, but in reality Maths is the best friend of man."

Shakuntala Devi



FURTHER MATHS

Further Mathematics can only be studied in addition to Mathematics. It is a demanding course that requires a capacity for abstract reasoning as well as very strong algebraic skills. However, it is highly rewarding for those who choose to pursue it.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Further Mathematics is an A Level qualification which both broadens and deepens the mathematics covered in A Level Mathematics.

You will be required to demonstrate the ability to draw together different areas of your knowledge, skills and understanding from both Further Maths and Maths to include problem solving, proof and mathematical modelling.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Further Mathematics is not an essential requirement to study Mathematics at university; however, it would be extremely useful and it is recommended that Pupils who want to study for a degree in Mathematics should choose Further Mathematics.

Anyone who is considering a degree in a mathematically related subject such as Physics or Engineering would also benefit from studying Further Maths.

“Mathematics is the language with which God wrote the universe.”

Galileo



MUSIC

This course will appeal to pupils who are making good progress in singing, or on their instrument, up to and beyond Grade

6. They will have a fascination for all kinds of music from J.S. Bach to Kate Bush and will be keen to develop their composition skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The three basic requirements are to record an 8-12 minute recital, to compose two pieces of music of your own and to analyse 18 specially chosen set works, as well as to become familiar with a range of related wider listening. The set works are examined in an end of course paper that requires comparative and analytical essay writing, listening questions and some musical dictation.

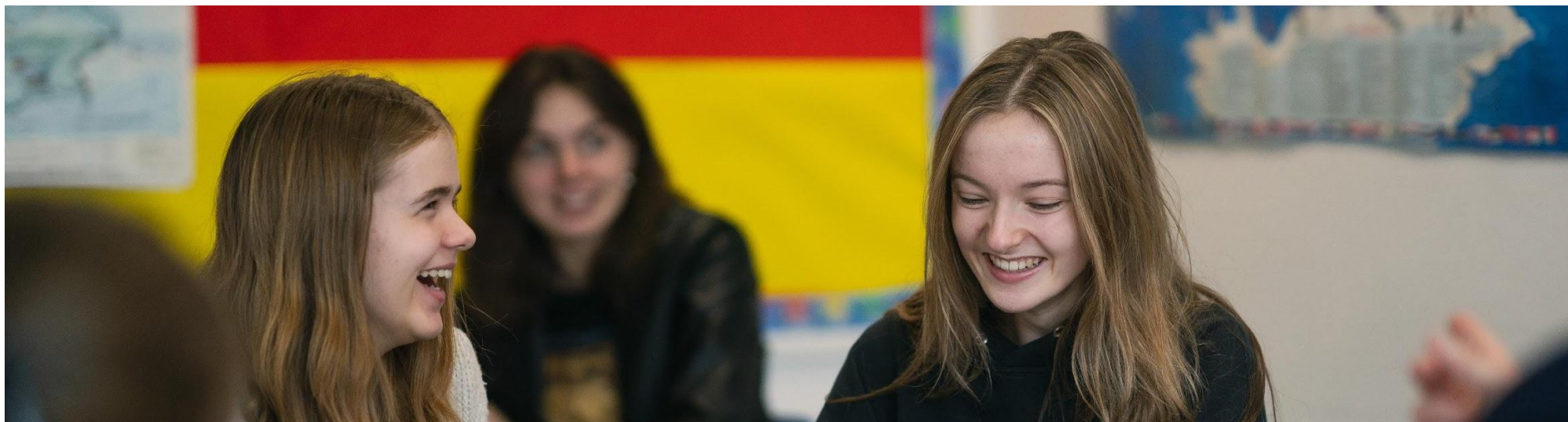
POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Music is an enriching study at university and can lead to a performing career, conducting, film composition, musical theatre, publishing and concert or artist management.

Even if you do not pursue music after A Level, it has always been highly respected by university admissions officers and employers, as it is understood that the skills required to succeed are formidable. It is also a valued talent to bring to any college and, indeed, to take with you through life.

“To study music, we must learn the rules. To create music, we must break them.”

Nadia Boulanger



MFL: FRENCH, SPANISH, GERMAN

An A Level in a Modern Foreign Language should appeal to good communicators, to pupils interested in foreign literature, history, culture and thought, to pupils who are able to identify logical patterns and apply them to new situations and to pupils who wish to keep a wide range of university pathways open and would like access to a wide variety of possible careers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

Aspects of Francophone/Hispanic/Germanic-speaking society: current trends.

Artistic culture in the Francophone/Hispanic/Germanic world.
A literary text or a film.

Year 13

Multiculturalism in the Francophone/Hispanic/Germanic-speaking society: current trends.

Aspects of political life in Francophone/Hispanic/Germanic society.

Individual Research Project (to be devised by you with discussion and advice from your teacher).

A literary text or a film.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Modern Foreign Languages are regarded as “facilitator” subjects by British universities, which means that they tend to be highly regarded by university admissions staff and can be used to access a wide range of university courses.

An additional language can give you a competitive edge in both your education and your career. Aside from a purely language degree, a language can fit with absolutely any other subject to form a joint degree.

An additional language will prove essential for a career in language teaching, translating and interpreting. Other career paths where languages would be an asset are: finance, law, sales and marketing, transport, tourism and leisure, public sector and international organisations including the UN and EU.

Research shows that UK graduates in modern languages have one of the lowest unemployment rates and, given that over 60% of British trade is with non-English speaking countries, they have a head start on other potential employees, particularly for any company that carries out international business.

“One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.”

Frank Smith

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography will appeal to pupils who have an eye for the world and the camera to record it. They will usually have taken Photography at GCSE and explored the initial potential of Photoshop. They will be pupils who are imaginative, creative and with an interest in the opportunities through digital manipulation. They are often pupils who want to work with creative problem solving and a need to make a statement or tell a story visually.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The A Level in Photography is designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to the subject. The pupils will develop their work throughout the course from a starting point of their choice that they take on a personal journey alongside research and contextual investigation. They will write a personal study of a minimum 1000-word essay.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Pupils can apply for an Art Foundation year or apply to the universities directly. There are many Art and Design degree options available including Photography and Film degrees.

"In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality."

Alfred Stieglitz



POLITICS

Politics will appeal to pupils who have an interest in the drama that is happening everyday in this country and around the world, as we have seen with Brexit and Trump. The subject is also about people and arguments so there is always something intellectual to debate.

A Level Politics mixes a strong theoretical academic challenge with a very applied real world appreciation of life. It also provides the opportunity to develop important skills, particularly communication and the ability to argue clearly and confidently.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

UK political parties, elections, democracy and media

UK government: Prime Minister, Cabinet, Parliament and judiciary

Year 13

Political ideologies: conservatism, liberalism, socialism, nationalism
Global Politics / International Relations: the role of the UN, war in human history, human rights, rise of populism

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Career options available for those who have studied politics include law, media, local or national government, journalism, Civil Service, think tanks and lobbying companies.

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies."

Groucho Marx



PSYCHOLOGY

This course will appeal to pupils who are interested in the study of people's behaviour, performance, and mental operations. Psychology also refers to the application of the knowledge which can be used to understand events, treat mental health issues, and improve education, employment, and relationships.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pupils learn how to predict, understand, explain, and control behaviour.

Year 12

Social psychology
Cognitive psychology
Biological psychology
Learning theories

Year 13

Clinical psychology
Criminological psychology
Child psychology
Health psychology
Psychological skills

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

If you choose to study Psychology at university, there are many different areas which you can choose to focus. These include health, clinical, educational, research and teaching, occupational, counselling, neuro, sport and exercise, and forensic.

Careers based on the study of Psychology are wide ranging and include chartered psychologist, psychotherapist, social worker and counsellor. Careers for Psychology graduates interested in the education sector can take a number of different paths. They can work within social services to help support learning in the community at all ages, or within the prison sector to provide support for young offenders.

"If you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life."

Abraham Maslow



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

This course will appeal to pupils studying both Sciences and Humanities as it focuses on both philosophical and ethical questions in addition to Christian theology.

COURSE CONTENT

In Year 12, pupils study some of the classical arguments for the existence of God as well as the Problem of Evil and Religious Experience – giving consideration to how these issues may present challenges to religious belief. In ethics, pupils will explore key ethical theories (Natural Law, Situation Ethics and Virtue Ethics) and consider how they are applied to issues such as embryonic research, abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia as well as animal rights. The Christian theology section considers Christian sources of authority, beliefs about God and the afterlife, as well as Christian ethics and expressions of religious identity (Baptism and Eucharist).

In Year 13, the topics of Religious Language, Miracles and Life after Death are considered in Philosophy. The Ethics Unit moves on to the study of Meta-Ethics, Free Will and Moral Responsibility and Conscience. The Theology element of the course considers contemporary issues of Christianity and gender issues, science, in addition to the challenges of secularisation and religious pluralism.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Post A Level, pupils taking Religious Studies can go on to study a wide range of degrees both in humanities and science. Past pupils have moved on to degrees in Law, Business Studies, Psychology, Midwifery, Dentistry, Art and Design, to name a few.

"Philosophy begins in wonder."

Plato

Subjects



PHYSICS

This course will appeal to pupils who want to develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for Physics, including developing an interest in further study and careers in Physics.

A Level Physics pupils develop and demonstrate a deeper appreciation of the skills, knowledge and understanding of 'How Science Works'. They also develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of Physics and how they relate to each other. Pupils must enjoy mathematics and problem solving.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

Measurements and errors
Particles and motion
Waves
Mechanics and materials
Electricity

Year 13

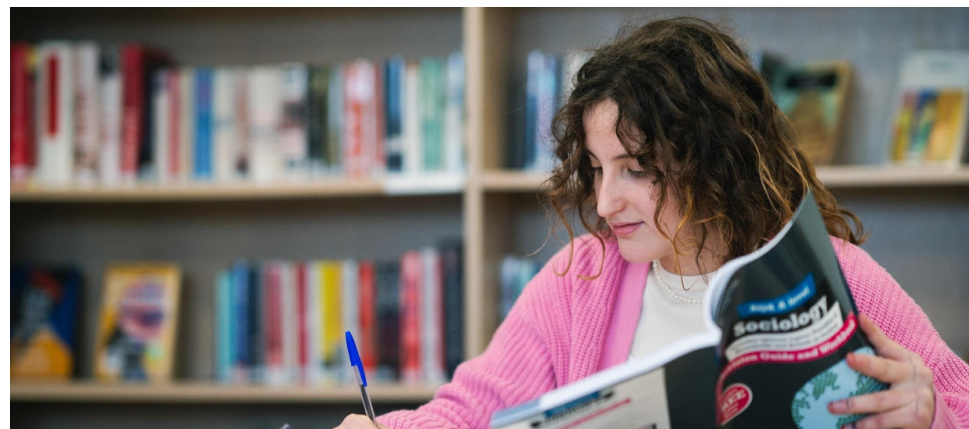
Deeper study on the sections above, plus:
Further mechanics and thermal physics
Fields and their consequences
Nuclear physics

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

A Level Physics leads to a variety of careers, not just in Physics and Engineering. Possible careers that lead on from this are: Climatologist, Medical Physicist, Naval Architect, Oceanographer, Ergonomics Expert, Radiographer, Geophysicist and Audio Technician... the possibilities are endless.

"There is no science in this world like Physics. Nothing comes close to the precision with which Physics enables you to understand the world around you."

Neil de Grasse Tyson



SOCIOLOGY

This course will appeal to pupils who want to know how society works. It examines the relationships between social groups and the social issues, inequalities and root causes of social problems such as poverty, discrimination, and inequality. By understanding these issues, we can be more informed and better equipped to make positive changes in our society.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Year 12

Pupils will study the purpose of education and its impact on society as a major socialising institution. We explore the discrepancies of exam results between different ethnic, social and gender groups, as well as UK policies implemented to address these imbalances. Pupils also study the changing structure and role of the family and issues such as the domestic division of labour and changes in childhood.

Year 13

Pupils explore the role of religious beliefs on social behaviour and the religiosity of different social groups within the UK and USA. Crime and deviance is a detailed study of the nature of crime with the UK and governmental strategies used to define and overcome it.

Throughout Year 12 and 13, theory is used to inform how we look at each social area, such as the perspectives of Marxists and Feminists. Students also examine research methods used as evidence for sociological findings.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Sociology is an A' Level that complements any further career that works with people and many of our students have gone onto careers within Law, Civil Service, Police, Teaching and Journalism.



SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course will appeal to pupils who already have a keen interest in performing, watching, and coaching sport and provides a foundation for specialist study. It may appeal to pupils wishing to pursue higher education in physical education, sports science, sports rehabilitation, sports physiotherapy, sports medicine, sport biomechanics or sports studies.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course contains reference to physiological, anatomical and psychological factors which underpin effective performance and training. It also involves the study of physiological concepts, nutrition, biomechanics, drug testing, rehabilitation and the effect that technology has on sport.

Year 12

Pupils study the following topics:

Applied anatomy and physiology, Skill acquisition, Sport and society, Exercise physiology. Pupils will also be assessed in one sport (performer or coach) from a range of activities. Pupils also complete a study related to the analysis and evaluation of a performance.

Year 13

Pupils will continue developing knowledge taught in Year 12, and in addition look at contemporary physical activity and the role of technology in sport, advanced physiology and biomechanics.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Many pupils go on to pursue careers in sports physiotherapy and rehabilitation, teaching, coaching, sports development, recreational management or move into the health, leisure and fitness industry.



TEXTILES

This course would appeal to anyone who has an interest in Art, Design and Textiles. The course will be tailored to the strengths and interests of the individual pupils. Some candidates like to follow a fashion-based route and others a more Fine Art direction.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to Textiles. Pupils will research artists and designers relevant to their study, both historical and contemporary, embracing a range of ideas and processes. The course covers a wide range of techniques and approaches to art, fashion, dyed, printed and constructed textiles. The pupils will develop their work throughout the course from a personal starting point. They will write a personal study of a minimum 1000- word essay.

POST A LEVEL OPTIONS

Pupils can apply for an Art Foundation year or apply directly to the Universities. There are many degree options available in creative and technology based degrees. There are many routes available to work in the fashion and textile industries.

"We built our fashion around three fundamental concepts: Sicily, tailoring, and tradition. Our dream is to create a style which is timeless, and to create clothes with such a strong personality that whoever sees them can instantly say without a shadow of a doubt: this is a Dolce & Gabbana."

Dolce & Gabbana

DO I HAVE TO ATTEND EVERY LESSON?

Pupils are expected to attend every lesson and honour commitments they have made to co-curricular activities.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR SCHOOL UNIFORM?

No – in the Sixth Form we expect our pupils to follow the St Catherine's Sixth Form Dress Code. Sixth Formers are allowed to wear jewellery and make-up.

CAN I LEAVE THE SCHOOL PREMISES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

During breaks and at lunchtime girls may leave the school site so long as they have signed out at Reception. The privilege to leave the school site during Private Study is linked to your overall attitude and academic progress.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED?

We believe communication is key to each girl's success and tutors will be in regular contact with parents, especially if there is a concern. Grade sheets are sent to parents and they receive full and detailed written reports. Sixth Form Parents' Evenings take place twice each year.

HOW MANY LESSONS WILL I HAVE FOR EACH SUBJECT?

Pupils receive six 45-minute lessons per week for each subject. Pupils also have one RE lesson, two General Studies lessons and one PE lesson per week. There is an expectation that pupils undertake a further six hours study per subject, per week.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE ST CATHERINE'S SIXTH FORM?

The opportunities are only limited by the imagination of the girls themselves. As well as having a Head Girl team who have real responsibility in the school, we have a Prefect Team to support various aspects of school life. Girls can also set up subject societies, organise charity events and run clubs or support sessions for younger girls. At St Catherine's, every girl develops leadership skills.

HOW IS LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM DIFFERENT FROM YEAR 11?

Girls will choose a small number of subjects to study, so they can really focus on their academic passions. Class sizes are small and teachers treat the girls as the young adults that they are. Girls have their own Common Room, Study Room and Library. Girls also have the opportunity to be real leaders in the school.



Co-Curricular Clubs & Siena Society

Co-Curricular Clubs

We believe in the importance of producing well-rounded girls who are confident, brave and independent but who are also able to work well with others. Co-curricular activities are essential for developing these skills, as well as for providing some much-needed space from the demands of A Level study. Through participating in these activities, girls can maintain healthy minds in healthy bodies, make new friends, enhance their UCAS statements, and just as importantly, have fun and enjoy their school days.

Our Sixth Form termly trips are a highlight of our school year. The girls provide important input into deciding on the trip, and in the past they have chosen theatre trips to the West End, a London Eye visit and a river cruise. These trips provide a real opportunity for laughter and bonding for the whole Sixth Form.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is also popular, and girls are given full preparation for this. The Gold Award in particular is a huge achievement, and girls come back from this fitter, more resilient and with firmly-cemented friendships.

The girls enjoy their weekly PE sessions. During these sessions, the emphasis is on having fun and being active, so girls who are not naturally sporty need not worry. With a wide range of activities being offered, such as Zumba, bench ball and self-defence, Sixth Form PE is not just about traditional team games. For those who do enjoy team games, we have a Sixth Form Netball Team, and there is also a lunchtime Running Club led by the Sixth Form. Girls are encouraged to suggest and run any additional clubs that they would like to. We encourage the girls to be active members of our wider community through volunteering and engaging in charity fundraising.

One thing that is always certain is that life at St Catherine's is busy and fulfilling. The girls are encouraged to take the lead, take a risk, try something new and to be a participant rather than just an observer!



Siena Society and other Speaker Events

At St Catherine's, we believe in the power of inspiration. We regularly invite speakers to our school who are experts in their fields. The girls are able to hear inspiring stories and also have the experience of listening to lectures and asking probing questions – invaluable practice for university life! In the past, we have welcomed speakers from the fields of medicine, law and engineering, as well as from those who are experts in Oxbridge admissions.

Parents and Alumnae are very welcome to come and talk about their areas of expertise. As well as our evening Siena speakers, we also welcome speakers to St Catherine's as part of our General Studies programme. This programme includes RSE, drugs, alcohol and mental health, with the aim towards preparing the girls for adult life and to make informed choices.

Admissions at 16+



Entry Requirements

Girls currently in Year 11 at St Catherine's do not need to apply to join the Sixth Form. They each have an automatic place, conditional upon their GCSE results. St Catherine's Sixth Formers generally gain a grade 7 in the subjects they wish to study at A Level; however, if a pupil is close to this level and shows aptitude and willingness in other ways, entry can be discussed with the Headmistress.

Scholarships

St Catherine's offers Sixth Form scholarships in the following categories:

Academic	Art
Drama	Music
Siena	Sport

The deadline for application for all scholarships is the first Monday in November of Year 11. All exams and assessments are held in the final week of November in Year 11. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications by the end of the Autumn Term.

Bursaries

A small number of means-tested bursary awards are available to those girls who show good academic ability.

Photo Gallery







ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
— TWICKENHAM —



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