



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM





Welcome

“You only have to visit St Catherine’s to see that the pupils within its walls are happy, confident, enthusiastic girls.”

Welcome to St Catherine’s.

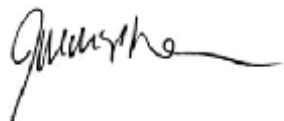
We are extremely proud of our happy, confident girls. Education at St Catherine's fosters curiosity, creativity and resilience and our excellent pastoral care allows each girl to be known as an individual, and so helped to find her own gifts and talents.

In 1914 the Sisters of Mercy founded the School, and named it after St Catherine of Siena. Although we are now fully independent, the sisters’ emphasis on action, and on the riches of strong, all-girls’ education is a valuable heritage, and one which blends easily within our commitment to academic success for girls of all faiths, within our warm, thriving Christian community.

The idea that learning is something to engage with enthusiastically and passionately begins in Prep, where experienced and energetic teachers promote the girls’ personal, spiritual and academic development. In the Senior School and the Sixth Form, this bespoke attention continues and our prospectus will give you a taste of the success the girls enjoy in their co-curricular pursuits, and in their public examinations.

Each year, as another group of assured young women leave St Catherine’s, we know that they take with them more than just their excellent academic achievements. Their time with us will have helped them to grow in their knowledge of themselves and others, and it is this openness that will help them to find their place in the world and to be people of courage and compassion.

We look forward to welcoming the next generation of St Catherine’s girls and hope that you will visit us soon.



Johneen McPherson

Headmistress





Our History

The story of our School began in 1914 in a house on Twickenham Green called St Catherine's.

The School moved to the present site of Pope's Villa in 1919, with its buildings and grounds on both sides of Cross Deep, joined by the underground passage known as Pope's Grotto.

The Lawn was purchased in 1948. The ground floor was used as School Kitchens and Dining Room, and the First Floor for the teaching of Domestic Science.

A pre-fabricated Hall was built and paid for entirely by the parents in 1954.

In 1991 the Sisters of Mercy moved out of St Catherine's and the School became independent.

Over recent years we have had an extension to the Prep Department, and built a new Sixth Form Centre. In addition we added changing rooms and new facilities for Art, Photography, Food Technology, and History.

In 2010 St Catherine's played a special part in the visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to St Mary's University.

Our new dining facilities were opened in 2011.

In 2014 we celebrated our Centenary.

The Science Block was upgraded and extended in 2016 and the School looks forward to further planned developments as we continue to make the most of our modern and attractive site.



Key Features

“St Catherine’s is a caring community in which every pupil is friendly, known, and warmly encouraged to explore her gifts and talents.”



A Catholic School

Our Catholic ethos is warmly offered to girls of all faiths, and we welcome all into our friendly Christian community. A Catholic school encourages girls to understand service and integrity, and to grow together as they appreciate their own unique value.

This is all linked to our emphasis on **excellent pastoral care** and to the encouragement, support and challenge that the girls receive from teachers who know them well. This care works alongside academic and co-curricular ambitions because happy, secure girls learn well and enjoy all the activities on offer.



A girls' school

At St Catherine’s, there is no such thing as boys’ and girls’ subjects. In fact, we like to say the best hockey player is a girl and the best artist is a girl! We tailor our provision to reflect our pupils’ needs and interests, and encourage their creativity, risk-taking and resilience.

There are many opportunities for the girls to discover leadership skills and to develop their goals and ambitions. This means they step out into the world, and into a variety of competitive university courses, with **confidence and self-knowledge**.



A small school

We like to think that St Catherine's is just the right size: big enough to offer a wide range of opportunities and small enough for us to know each girl. This means we can support and promote each pupil's academic progress and ensure **she aims high**.

In doing this we are inspired by the saying of our namesake, St Catherine of Siena: ‘Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire’. This is a fitting way to think about how the School assists each individual so that she realises success in her learning, on the sports field and on the stage.





Early Years and Prep

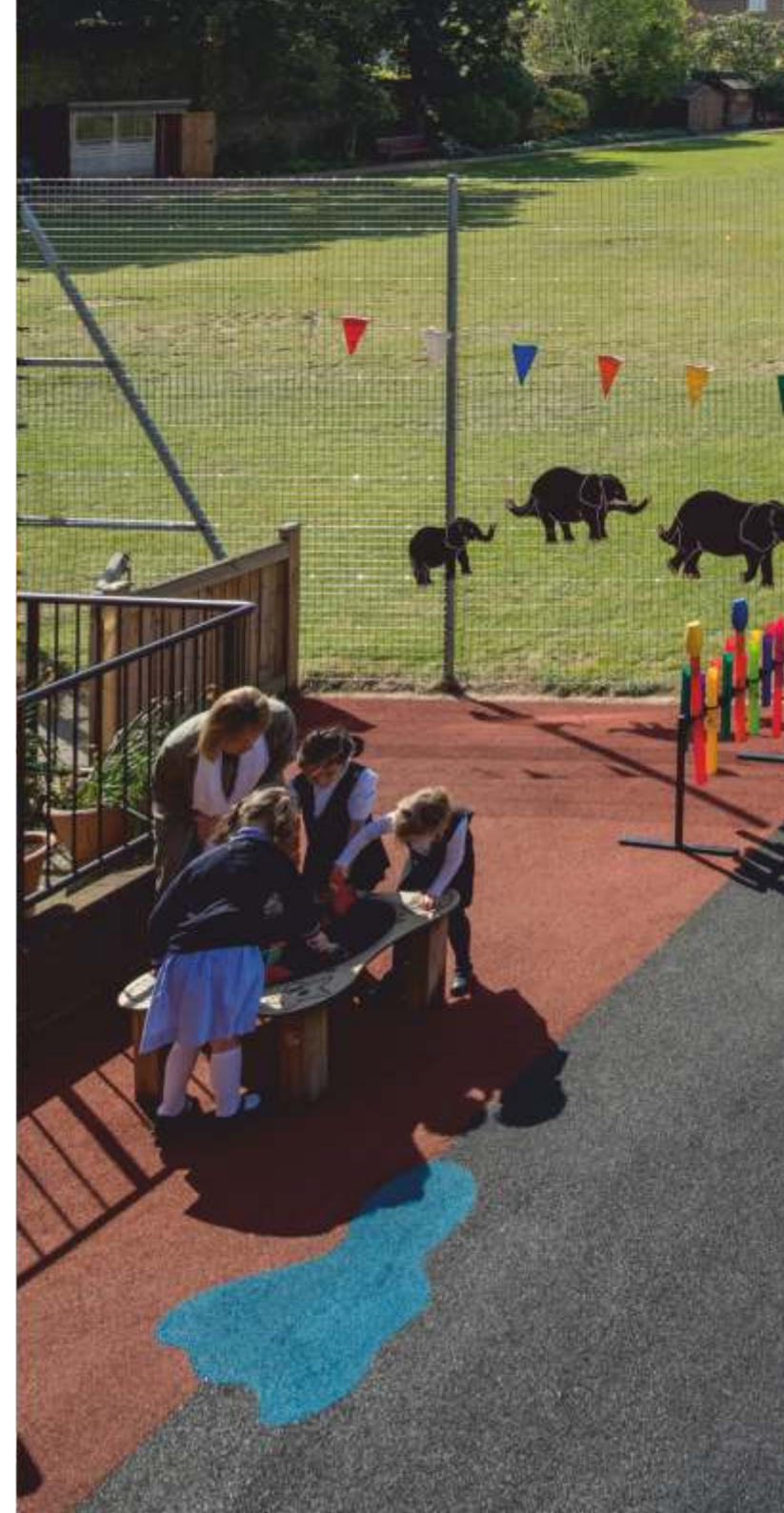
“Work hard, have fun and be kind, always.”

Central to everything that we do in Prep it is our belief that every child is an individual with different strengths and talents. Our broad, balanced and challenging curriculum ensures that all pupils make excellent progress academically, while ensuring that they thrive in a nurturing and caring environment.

In Early Years, our pupils benefit from a child-centred approach to learning and a rich mix of child and adult directed activities.

Emergent skills in literacy and numeracy are developed and extended through a variety of teaching approaches and the curriculum is rich in Science, Humanities, Creative Arts, Languages and Food and Nutrition. Our days in Prep are certainly busy, purposeful, and happy.

Year 6 pupils especially enjoy their year of leadership at the top of Prep. They grow in confidence as they look forward to the Senior school, for which they have automatic entry.







Senior School

“The teachers instill a sense of confidence in us that makes us want to succeed.”

Throughout the Senior School, girls are supported and encouraged to strive in all areas of the curriculum, and to make new discoveries about themselves and about the world in which they live.

Lower School (Years 7 & 8)

During the first two years in the Senior School, the girls are offered a broad and balanced curriculum which includes Mathematics, English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Computer Science, Music, Art, Drama, Physical Education, Swimming, and Food and Nutrition. The girls also have a weekly PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lesson where they learn about and discuss personal relationships, health and safety, and careers, as well as political and social issues.

Middle School (Years 9, 10 & 11)

During Year 9, the girls are supported and guided as they make their GCSE subject choices. Girls study a number of compulsory subjects: Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, the three Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, Religious Studies. They also choose three more from a wide range of option subjects.



Curriculum

Subjects available at GCSE:

Art	Food & Nutrition	Music
Biology	French	Photography
Chemistry	Further Mathematics	Physics
Computer Science	Geography	Physical Education
Drama	German	Religious Studies
English Language	History	Spanish
English Literature	Mathematics	Textiles





conducts



A
Scientist
is
YOU!

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Sixth Form

“Embrace the experience! It will go so quickly so make the most of every moment.”

The Sixth Form at St Catherine’s is a place of academic rigour, where girls are encouraged to develop their thinking and to stretch themselves. At the same time, we offer a supportive and nurturing environment, enabling each girl to feel confident and ambitious about her learning and her future. Our Sixth Form is a real community; it is a happy, good-humoured place where each girl can come of age, both intellectually and socially, and can do this at her own pace.

It has been well-proven that girls thrive in a single-sex environment, enabling them to pursue their academic goals and develop personal and co-curricular skills, and the Sixth Form has been especially tailored to meet the needs of young women in today's society.

We offer a wide range of academic subjects and all of the co-curricular opportunities that you would expect from a high-achieving school. However, as a relatively small school, we are uniquely placed to offer individual attention to each girl as she studies and as she prepares for university and her future career.

There is no such thing as a typical 'St Catherine's girl' - all are valued equally whatever their strengths and aspirations, and we are very proud of our friendly, dynamic and personable young leaders.





Chaplaincy and Ethos

St Catherine's is a school rooted in God's love and a commitment to nurturing young people. While many of our pupils are Catholic, or Christians of other denominations, we warmly welcome girls of all faiths and see the diversity of our community as a particular strength. We encourage the girls to explore deeper values and we see belonging and friendship as especially important.

The faith life of the School includes prayers, Masses and special liturgies, and the girls' creative participation is always evident; they are compassionate and engaged. Girls of all ages are offered an annual retreat, and the School Chaplain organises themes and experiences to suit each age group, and also offers other activities through the year.

At St Catherine's we see the focus on social justice as a very important part of education. We aim to help girls to appreciate the world they are in, and to be well-informed, thoughtful and brave as they respond to inequalities and injustices. The pupil-led Charities Committee provides a platform for the girls to make sure that their passionate responses lead to initiatives and change. Girls also enjoy the opportunities for service offered through the Duke of Edinburgh programme, Sixth Form Core RS, and in other events and activities throughout each year.





School Library and Facilities

Pupils and staff at St Catherine's enjoy excellent facilities, which are continuously updated and renewed to ensure learning resources are contemporary and purposeful.

The Prep Department enjoys its own well-resourced and attractive library. The Senior Library at St Catherine's is a sanctuary for quiet study and homework; it includes books, journals and monitored web-links. It also has a careers area where students can access university prospectuses and information on requirements for pursuing different careers.

The Librarians offer reading themes, events and book clubs; they promote participation throughout the day and in competitions, and support activities like the Young Reporter Programme.

Extended Day Provision

We offer an extended day for pupils to help busy parents.

Our Breakfast Club takes place in the Dining Room and opens every morning at 7:30am. Breakfast is available until 8:25am. This facility is available to all girls.

Our After School Club runs every day from 3:30pm to 6:00pm for all Prep girls.

The girls are supervised by qualified, experienced staff and enjoy a variety of creative activities. Homework supervision is provided for older pupils.

“Pupils of all ages show excellent self-confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem. They learn to think for themselves, make their own choices and decisions and to persevere.”

ISI Report 2016





Co-Curricular

St Catherine's has an extensive co-curricular programme, encompassing sport, other physical activities, music and drama. Our girls are also involved in service in the community. The broad range of experiences we are able to offer outside the classroom allows our pupils to learn, to have fun and to develop new and productive relationships with their peers.

The activities offer an important opportunity for our pupils to develop their skills and to experience competition and teamwork. Activities may vary from season to season and from year to year, and depend also on the interests of the pupils and teachers at the school.

Every pupil belongs to one of four Houses: Bronte, Cavell, Nightingale and Pankhurst. The house system includes a variety of activities and competitions, and plays a vital role in School spirit and ethos.

Prep Co-Curricular	Senior Co-Curricular	
Tennis	Biathlon/Triathlon	Science Club
Netball	Ski Fitness	Art Club
Karate	Swimming	Textiles Club
Swimming	Cross Country	Photography Club
Ballet	Netball	St Catherine's Singers
Junior Hip Hop	Trampolining	Siena Singers
Art	LAMDA	Orchestra
Creative Writing	Dance Club	Drama Club
French	Food and Nutrition	MUN (Model United Nations)
Cubs	Sixth Form Societies	Duke of Edinburgh
Choir	Debating Society	Food Club
Craft Club	Literature Club	Homework Club

Drama

Drama is an important part of life at St Catherine's. Every year the School puts on a major Senior production and a Prep production. In addition, pupils enjoy performing in smaller plays and in the Shakespeare Play Festival. This popular and lively part of school life also offers girls the chance to get involved in staging and design.



Music

Music plays a significant role at St Catherine's and boasts a comprehensive programme of events throughout the school, ranging from major concert performances to informal events. The repertoire for these events is always diverse and exciting.

Many of our girls take individual music lessons. There is the opportunity for every pupil to follow her musical interests and develop her talents. Our wonderful peripatetic teachers go to great lengths to support their pupils, often accompanying them in performances at our popular concerts.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

From Year 9 upwards pupils have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Award is a challenging programme of activities which enables the girls to learn new skills, help others and experience adventures. To achieve an award, they have to complete activities in four categories: Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Expedition.

There are many benefits to be gained from participation in the scheme including gaining a sense of responsibility, learning new skills like problem solving, presentation and communication, building self confidence, learning to work as part of a team and learning to give to others in the community.

Sport

At St Catherine's we believe that providing a wide range of opportunities in sports for pupils of all abilities is important for health, fitness and well-being, as well as creating the sense of achievement and value that active participation and successful competition bring.

Our laden trophy cabinet is evidence that individuals and teams regularly achieve notable success in sport across a broad range of activities and national competitions including hockey, netball, swimming, rowing, athletics, biathlon, equestrian and cross-country. We are proud to be ISA Regional Champions in several sporting events.

Debating

St Catherine's Debating Society is a popular co-curricular activity. The school runs a House Debating Competition and the pupils compete in national competitions. The girls enjoy learning the skills required to speak in public, the art of reading an audience's reactions, the willingness to hear another's arguments and to think on their feet in formulating a response.



FOSC and School Community

St Catherine's is a vibrant, caring community rooted in the Catholic tradition. The Friends of St Catherine's School (FOSC) is a very important part of this community.

FOSC was formed in 1976 to fund-raise and provide extra equipment for the School and its pupils and staff.

The FOSC committee welcomes contact from parents and invites all families to join in the activities and fundraising events.





Alumnae

Each year we enjoy celebrating the achievements of our Leavers with formal and social events, and we are very proud of the bright futures they step into. These are some of the comments from recent Sixth Form girls:

“Sixth Form is about believing in yourself and working hard - reaching your potential is important.”

“Being in the Sixth Form at St Catherine's taught me how to be an adult. I realised I wasn't a girl any more, I was a young woman.”

“Take every opportunity that you are given with open arms in the Sixth Form; it will stand you in good stead for the future!”

“At St Catherine's any girl has the ability to thrive within the School's diverse environment. The girls at St Catherine's are embraced.”





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