



ST JAMES
Senior Girls' School

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St James Schools were founded in 1975 for girls and boys from 4-18 years of age. Although girls and boys are educated separately, the Junior School shares the same site at Olympia, where the Senior Girls are also located.

The Senior Girls moved into the newly acquired school building at Olympia in September 2001. The school has grown into a two-form year group throughout, with pupils from 10-18 years of age. Our Junior School pupils transfer at Year 6 and we take in another 20-24 pupils at 11+. The Senior Boys' School is in Ashford, Surrey. The schools have grown significantly throughout the years and we now have approximately 950 pupils between us. There are also several affiliated schools across the world.

The Senior Girls' School aims to provide an education which would draw out and magnify those treasures which are innate in every individual, but awaiting expression. In order to do so we seek to provide an environment which enriches the intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the pupil in an atmosphere which supports unity and is conducive to the happiness of all. We would wish to inspire our pupils with a love for the finest aspects of human life so that they themselves may develop the inner strength to live honest, dignified and magnanimous lives, employing their talents creatively for the benefit of humanity.

Girls are not encouraged to compete against each other, but rather to work together, delighting in the achievement of others as much as in their own. A St James girl will be industrious, open-hearted and courageous. She will be encouraged to develop strength in self-discipline and the capacity to hold firmly to her intelligent understanding of right principle in all situations.

Our teachers are men and women with expertise in their subjects but, in particular, they are chosen because they have the capacity to devote themselves to the well-being and development of their pupils and are prepared to serve it to the full.

Good care of our pupils depends upon unity of approach between school and home. The principles of the school need to be supported by the parents also. Prospective parents would need to like what we stand for in order for their daughters' development to thrive. We consider close communication between school and home to be of paramount importance with regard to each girl's welfare.

St James Senior Girls' School was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in Autumn 2010. You may view the report on the school website.

For further information, please visit our website: www.stjamesgirls.co.uk

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The department is committed to making the study of history relevant and useful in order that young people may better understand the world around them.

We believe that the study of history leads to a more sophisticated and coherent understanding of respective societies, helping to forge an awareness of national heritage, as well as of the political and economic problems and challenges facing us today. An historical background provides key skills such as the ability to analyse, to reason critically, to debate and argue, to communicate effectively, as well as providing the historical perspective needed to make balanced and informed judgments.

The department currently consists of the Head of Department and one other full-time teacher. History is taught as a compulsory subject in forms until the end of Year 9 in a broadly chronologic manner: beginning with the Ancient World (Year 6), through the Middle Ages (Year 7), the Tudors, the Reformation and the Renaissance (Year 8) and onto the Age of Empire and Revolution (Year 9), culminating in a week-long trip to the Great War battlefields of France and Belgium at the end of Year 9.

Furthermore, history is a popular choice at GCSE. We are currently following the OCR Modern World syllabus, specializing in modern German, Cold War and American history. We also enjoy a strong showing at A Level - again, choosing units from OCR's History A specification, focusing on modern Britain, Russia and Germany.

The department also seeks to promote a diverse approach to history: we want our pupils to also recognize some of the varied perspectives that people will have of history: from Black History to Women's History, as well as history from the perspective of the child. We also share close links with the teaching of Citizenship within the wider school and are committed to ensuring the delivery of core British values in our teaching and learning.

Trips and visits:

Year 6: British Museum

Year 7: The Tower of London + Museum of London (with Classics)

Year 8: Westminster Abbey

Year 9: Bath (with Classics) and World War One Battlefields in France and Belgium

Year 10: Bletchley Park (with Maths and ICT)

Year 11/12/13: Conferences