



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
— TWICKENHAM —



Prospectus

Welcome

St Catherine's is a fully independent, all-girls Catholic school, which welcomes girls of all faiths and none, into a caring and vibrant community.

You only have to visit St Catherine's to see that our pupils are happy, confident, and enthusiastic girls. At St Catherine's we foster curiosity, creativity, and resilience, and our excellent pastoral care helps each girl to discover her own gifts and talents. In turn, the girls are inspired to contribute wholeheartedly to school life and this creates a very special place, where each girl feels she belongs.

Every year, as another group of assured young women leaves St Catherine's, we know that they take with them more than just their excellent academic achievements. Their time with us helps them to grow in knowledge of themselves and others, and they can then find their place in the world as young women of ambition, courage and compassion.



A message from the Head

St Catherine's is a place where the warmth of our community is felt the moment you walk through our doors. We are a school that celebrates the individual, where every girl is known by name, valued for being herself and encouraged to be exactly who she is, without apology. Many girls describe St Catherine's as their second home, and their peers as their second family. One girl described to me that St Catherine's is a place where "she can be herself, and not worry".

When an all-girls school gets it right, it becomes a place of joy. At St Catherine's, that joy is found in the freedom our pupils have to explore their world without the weight of stereotypes or social expectations. In our environment, there is no "ceiling" on what a girl can achieve. Whether she is a scientist, an athlete, an artist, or a leader, or all of the above, she is never limited by anything other than the reach of her own imagination. Here, girls take centre stage in every classroom, on every pitch and in every performance.

Our Catholic heritage remains the centre of our school. Our motto, *Non Verba sed Facta* (Not Words but Deeds), is not just a phrase; it is a way of life. We believe that a true education is one that looks outward. We promote service to others as a core value, teaching our girls that their talents are most meaningful when used to make a positive difference in the lives of those around them. We are a vibrant, caring community where girls find their voices and build the confidence to "set the world on fire," as St Catherine of Siena once said. I invite you to visit us and experience this unique atmosphere for yourself—a place where your daughter can be herself, grow in faith and kindness, and discover a future without limits.

Mr Andrew McCleave
Head





Our History

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

The Sisters of Mercy founded this Catholic school and named it after the great 14th-century reformer, St Catherine of Siena.

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, the Prep Department has been extended, and a new Sixth Form Centre has been built. In addition we added changing rooms and new facilities for Art, Photography, Food and Nutrition, and History.

The Science Block was upgraded and extended in 2016 and the Creative Hub was acquired as an additional Performing Arts space. The School looks forward to further planned developments as we continue to make the most of our modern and attractive site.

Our school motto, 'Non Verba sed Facta' (Not Words but Deeds), emphasises action and authenticity which can be seen in the girls' enthusiasm, and in their openness to deeper values as they become young women ready to serve and to lead.

Location

St Catherine's School in Twickenham benefits from a highly convenient and accessible location within the leafy suburbs of South-West London, making transport straightforward from neighbouring areas, the city, and from Surrey.

The school recommends the use of public transport wherever possible to ease congestion in the local area.



Twickenham is well-served by London's extensive public transport network. For a list of bus and train routes, please see our website.



Admissions

Prep School: Years 3-6 (Automatic entry to Year 7)

Parents and families are warmly invited to attend an Open Event or arrange a personal tour. Following your visit, please formally register your daughter for the Prep School. Registration initiates the next steps: a pupil visit and age-appropriate literacy and numeracy assessments. The application is finalised upon receipt of her current school reports and a reference. Pupils are encouraged to apply for one of our four Prep Scholarships.

Year 7

For Current St Catherine's Prep Pupils

The move from Prep to Senior School is a guaranteed and automatic progression. Internal assessments in December are for academic setting and Scholarship consideration only; they do not determine entry, allowing for a focused and seamless transition.

For External Applicants

Candidates from other schools are assessed based on a holistic review, which includes one-hour examinations in Mathematics and English, a review of their school reports and reference, and an informal interview. We seek girls whose gifts and talents align with the St Catherine's community ethos.

Sixth Form

Pupils currently in Year 11 at St Catherine's have an automatic place in our Sixth Form.

For External Applicants

Pupils wishing to study in the Sixth Form at St Catherine's usually achieve six GCSEs at grades 6-9. They generally gain a grade 7 in the subjects they wish to study at A Level; however, if a pupil shows aptitude and willingness in other ways, entry can be discussed with the Head via our Admissions Team.

In-Year Applications

Occasional places can become available in the Prep and Senior School. Please contact our Admissions Team to enquire about In-Year applications.



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.

An All-Girls School

At St Catherine's, there is no such thing as boys' and girls' subjects. At St Catherine's, the best football player is a girl and the best mathematician is a girl! We are able to 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 School with a caring culture

We believe happy, secure girls learn best. At St Catherine's girls receive kind encouragement and tailored support from teachers who know them well. This allows them to grow in confidence, feel empowered to learn and succeed, and to pursue their academic and co-curricular ambitions with courage and enjoyment. Our caring culture is founded on Catholic Christian principles and we welcome girls of all faiths. Our happy community instills the key values of integrity, service, and self-worth.



A school that is just the right size

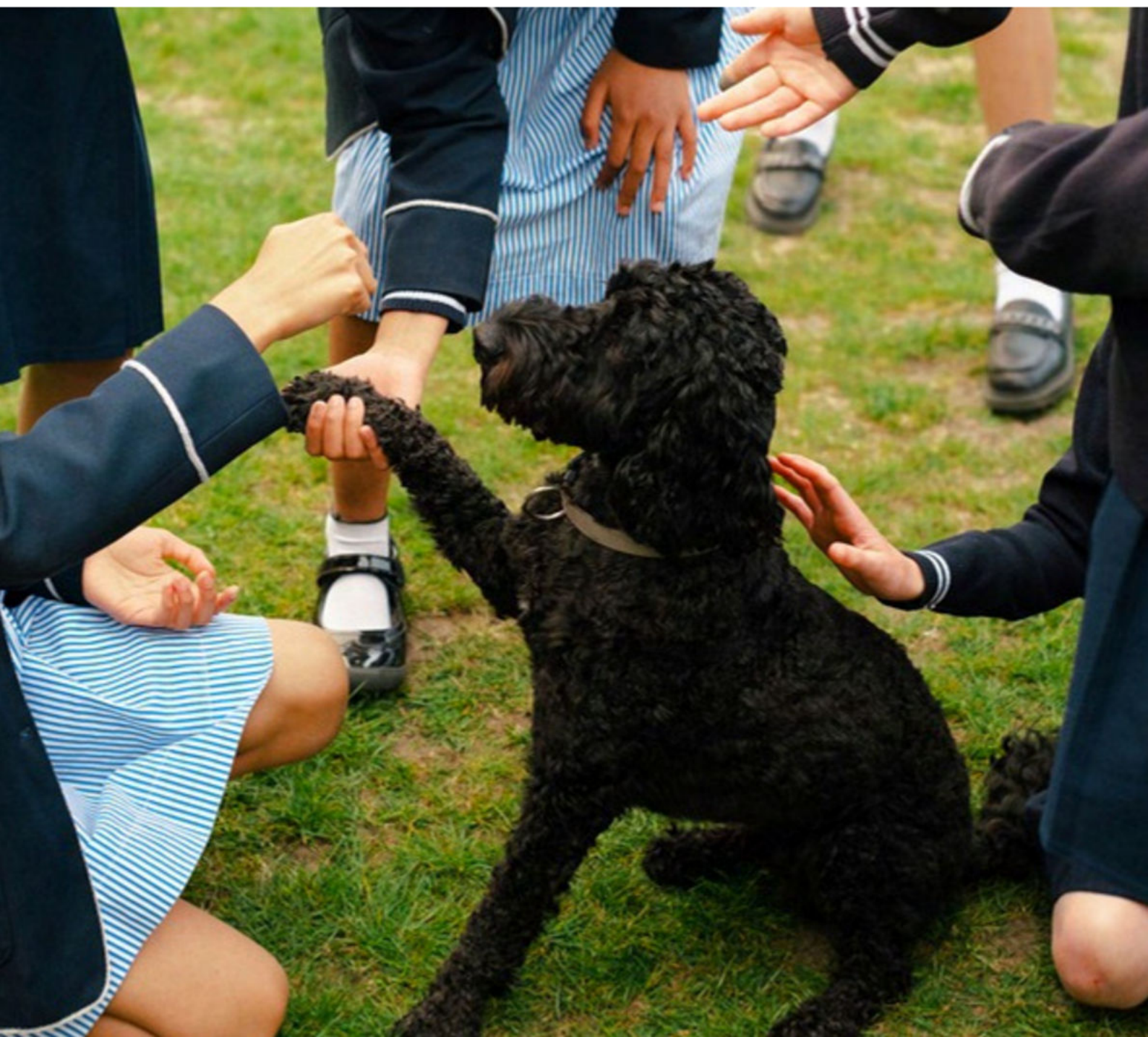
St Catherine's is big enough to offer a wide range of opportunities and small enough for us to know each girl. This means we can support and promote each pupil's academic progress and ensure she aims high. In doing this we are inspired by the saying of our namesake, St Catherine of Siena: 'Be who God 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, music ability, on the sports field, and on the stage.

Meet Arthur

Arthur, a black Cockapoo, assists in fostering a warm and friendly atmosphere across the school. Affectionately known as our 'Head Boy,' he has been a wonderful addition to the community.

It is widely recognised that pets help lower stress levels and encourage empathetic social development. Arthur provides a welcoming point of contact for all, proving especially effective in helping younger pupils build the confidence necessary to flourish in their new environment.

While Arthur is a beloved member of St Catherine's, we maintain rigorous standards regarding hygiene, safety, and allergies. Interaction is always supervised and entirely optional, ensuring that the school remains a comfortable, inclusive, and happy environment for every child.





Prep School

St Catherine's Prep begins in Year 3, and Key Stage 2 is our speciality. We truly know and understand these pivotal years, specialising in an all-girls environment because we know it allows girls to flourish without limits.

In our Prep, girls take bold academic risks free from gender stereotypes. We believe that by keeping girls in a nurturing Prep environment, we safeguard their childhood, allowing them to build profound resilience and self-assurance. This explorative, fun, and engaging phase of learning and discovery is where we actively nurture inquisitive minds, creating friendly, ambitious pupils who are empowered to embrace their authentic selves, to take risks without fear of failure, and to be confidently curious.

Rooted in our values-led ethos, our overarching philosophy is the unwavering belief that every girl is an individual who is herself a unique gift. In a world where young girls face ever-increasing social pressures, we provide a sanctuary where diverse academic, musical, sporting, creative, personal, and spiritual talents are deeply celebrated. Our dedicated teachers ensure that every girl feels genuinely seen, valued, and understood.

Our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning shines brightly through our commitment to active learning. While our broad and balanced curriculum is firmly rooted in the foundations of the National Curriculum, we are proud that our teaching is never restricted by it. Instead, we design stimulating, challenging tasks that inspire pupils to become active participants in their own learning and take genuine ownership of their progress. In our safe, happy atmosphere, girls learn to work seamlessly both independently and in collaborative groups, developing exceptional critical thinking, organisational, and communication skills.

To support a more personalised journey, we use cognitive assessments at the start of each academic year. These insights are instrumental in identifying hidden potential, allowing us to hone our teaching strategies directly to individual learning styles and abilities.

A St Catherine's education is uniquely rich and varied. The specialist instruction our girls receive in French, PE, Music, and Swimming is further enhanced by Computing and Food and Nutrition lessons in the Senior School. Beyond the classroom, our busy, purposeful days are filled with exciting trips and residential adventures that build lifelong memories and character.

We understand the demands on modern working families. Our exceptional wraparound care includes Breakfast Club from 7:30am and an after-school club until 6:00pm Monday to Thursday and 5.00pm on Fridays. For our Year 6 pupils, dedicated homework supervision until 5:00 pm ensures they head home to their families entirely homework-free.

Automatic entry to the Senior School means our girls avoid the unnecessary pressure of the 11+ process. Instead, they grow up knowing they are already deeply valued members of the wider school community, perfectly prioritising their emotional wellbeing as they confidently transition into Year 7.





Senior School

Throughout the Senior School, girls are supported and encouraged to strive in all areas of the curriculum, making brilliant new discoveries about themselves and the world in which they live. At St Catherine's we inspire our girls to develop a lifelong love of learning. We achieve this through our small class sizes, passionately committed staff, and a broad curriculum that offers a robust foundation of academic subjects alongside vibrant creative options.

Lower School (Years 7, 8 & 9)

The aim of the first three years in the Senior School is to provide a broad, balanced academic foundation which will stretch and challenge all pupils, perfectly preparing them for the specialised subjects they will take at higher levels.

All girls study English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, Spanish, Religious Education, Geography, History, Music, Drama, Art, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, Swimming, and Computer Science. Pupils also benefit from a weekly PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lesson. This dedicated time allows them to learn about and discuss personal relationships, health and safety, and careers, alongside vital political and social issues.

Middle School (Years 10 & 11)

During Year 9, girls are closely supported and guided through the Spring Term as they make their tailored GCSE choices.

In Key Stage 4, all pupils study a core of seven compulsory subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double Award Science (encompassing Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), Religious Education, and a Modern Foreign Language. In addition, each girl chooses three further GCSE subjects to pursue from a wide range of options, including Geography, History, French, Spanish, Music, Drama, Art, Photography, Textiles, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, and Computer Science, alongside a non-exam option of Study Skills.

Academic Excellence & Achievement

Our ambitious approach ensures pupils consistently achieve their absolute academic potential. Year-on-year, our pupils secure fantastic GCSE results, with the overwhelming majority of grades awarded at the very highest levels. These exceptional outcomes are a true testament to the continuous hard work, ambition, and dedication shown by both our pupils and staff.

Central to this success is our excellent Value Added score, which reflects our commitment to ensuring every individual makes outstanding personal progress throughout their time with us.

Our successful learners consistently look forward to the challenge and excitement of Sixth Form studies, backed by the nurturing care, support, and dedication of the St Catherine's teaching community.





Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at St Catherine's represents the defining chapter of a student's journey, marking the transition from pupil to a vital pillar of the school community. As the most senior members of the school, these young women act as the architects of the school culture and serve as the role models younger pupils look up to every day. Whether they are leading their Houses to victory, spearheading sustainability initiatives on the Eco Committee, or providing a compassionate ear as a Big Sister to a Year 7 pupil, the Sixth Formers are the heartbeat of our school - their commitment to service ensures that the core values of kindness and action remain central to school life.

In this all-girls environment, the school removes the ceiling on a student's potential, allowing them to grow into confident leaders who are never afraid to be themselves. St Catherine's girls take centre stage, learning to lead with empathy and integrity. This sense of responsibility is matched by an exciting breadth of experiences outside the classroom, where a wide variety of trips and co-curricular opportunities broaden their horizons and build lifelong memories. Within the Sixth Form, every girl is seen, heard, and empowered to take full charge of her own narrative.

Academically, the experience is defined by smaller class sizes that allow for a truly personalised approach to learning. The staff know each student deeply as individuals, teachers provide tailored support and bespoke advice that caters to specific strengths and ambitions. This individualised teaching ensures that students are seen as scholars whose ideas are valued and challenged. The school works closely with each girl to navigate A Level choices and future pathways, ensuring they are both intellectually and emotionally prepared for the world beyond St Catherine's.

Our Sixth Form is a place of joy, intellectual curiosity and deep-rooted friendship. St Catherine's prides itself on creating a close-knit community where young women thrive and develop the resilience needed for the future. By the time they leave the school, these students possess the confidence and character to lead in whatever field they choose, carrying the spirit of the school with them as they step into their next great adventure.

University Destinations

We are incredibly proud of recent cohorts who have secured an impressive breadth of study disciplines at excellent institutions. These have included the following courses and destinations, as examples:

Courses:

Applied Psychology (Clinical)
Biology
Business & Management
Chemistry
Economics and Finance
English Literature and History
Finance, Accounting and Management
French with Management Studies
History of Art
Management for Social Change
Marine Conservation
Mathematics
Philosophy
Sociology and Social Policy

Destinations:

UCL (University College London)
The University of Edinburgh
King's College London
University of Warwick
University of Bristol
University of Manchester
University of Bath
University of Exeter
Durham University
University of Leeds
University of Nottingham
Cardiff University
University of York
University of Southampton
Royal Holloway
University of Plymouth
Bath Spa University





Chaplaincy and Ethos

St Catherine's is a school rooted in 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 none, 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, and through other events and activities throughout each year.

Extended Day Provision

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

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.

While Homework supervision is provided for Senior pupils, our After School Club runs every day from 3:30pm to 6:00pm for all Prep girls. All girls are supervised by qualified, experienced staff and enjoy a variety of creative activities.

The Senior Library at St Catherine's is a sanctuary for quiet study and homework; it includes books, journals and monitored web-links.

There is a careers area where pupils can access university prospectuses and information on requirements for pursuing different careers.

The Librarian offers reading themes, book recommendations, multiple events throughout the year and book clubs for various year groups. Participation in a wide-range of activities and competitions is encouraged, like the Young Reporter Programme.





Co-Curricular

St Catherine's has an extensive co-curricular programme, encompassing sport, other physical activities, music and drama. 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. Our girls are also involved in service in the community.

The activities offer an important opportunity for our pupils to develop their skills and to experience competition and teamwork. Clubs 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.



School Community, FOSC and Alumnae

St Catherine's has a vibrant, happy school community, which is especially celebrated at our annual St Catherine's Day in the Summer Term (as shown in the photograph above, of family members on this festive day).

FOSC was formed in 1976 to fund-raise and provide extra equipment for the School and its pupils and staff. Many of our parents are members of The Friends of St Catherine's School (FOSC) which plays successful role in fundraising and relationship-building. The FOSC committee welcomes contact from parents and invites all families to join in the activities and fundraising events.

We take great pride in celebrating the bright futures pioneered by our Leavers. The St Catherine's Alumnae Association provides invaluable, lifelong benefits, fostering a supportive global network that follows our pupils as they embark on their professional and personal journeys.

Through our annual social events, past pupils can network, participate in fundraising, and engage in community initiatives alongside current students. The journey that begins in the classroom continues for a lifetime, sustained by a network of alumnae who share the values of ambition, courage, and compassion.



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