



*St. John's School Prospectus*





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*“Education makes a man fit company for himself”*

Welcome to a glimpse of St. John’s Prep. and Senior School.

St. John’s is a co-educational day school situated in a total of 28 acres of green belt countryside, taking pupils from the age of four years old up through the Seniors to G.C.S.E. and ‘A’ levels.

The school is on two separate sites. Prep. is separated from the Seniors by less than half a mile, yet we are one school.

As you turn over the pages of this prospectus, you will see in outline the main features of our school.



How far we have succeeded in conveying the spirit prevailing at St. John's is another matter. Our ethos – which means our character, customs and habits – cannot easily be passed to the reader through the limited medium of these pages. This is because as a school we have a multitude of tasks – often apparently conflicting.

The smiling faces in this prospectus, the scenes of football and other games are a faithful representation of our way of life here - indeed they are essential to an effective learning environment.

However, there is that other most essential side of schooling - the side that young people do not fully appreciate until later in life, but whose value will be recognised immediately by their parents and other adults. We are referring to the discipline which comes from a good education, namely: the ability to do what you have to do, when it ought to be done – whether you like it or not – and to do it well. Whatever else we do as a school to prepare our boys and girls for the world outside, this must be an indispensable aspect of a fine education.

There is also a third far less obvious role which as teachers we may play in the lives of children. We do not see St. John's as an institution with clearly defined limits. Rather it is a very active, living community which permeates the lives, attitudes and minds of its boys and girls. We, who have taken on the responsibility and privilege of teaching young people, do so conscious that from us a child may catch a dream. Who knows when something we say or do may open up the windows of a young mind to a particular road leading to a fulfilling future.

Finally, when we are asked what the school wishes for its pupils, the answer is firstly that the pupils should be taught well and secondly a quote from Oscar Wilde:

*“A school should be the most beautiful place in every town, so beautiful that the punishment for undutiful children should be that they be debarred from going to school the following day”.*



## *Aims*

### **Academic competence**

Through the study of the various disciplines, a child gains length, breadth, and depth of understanding as to the 'reason why' of things. His/her attitude and outlook then begins to harmonise that much closer to the realities of life.

Academic competence also brings commendation which in turn promotes a positive self-image. Once a child acquires the latter, there is no hurdle that he/she will not be prepared to tackle.

### **Social competence**

Today's children are tomorrow's adults. To cope with what lies ahead they need to develop their own value system and use it to guide their behaviour. We base our whole ethos on the generally recognised ideals of encouraging our children to develop sympathy and sensitivity towards the needs of those around them, which in turn helps them to acquire fine personalities, the ability to work well with fellow pupils and with colleagues later in life.

## *Basic Philosophy of the School*

### **What is expected from pupils:**

To care for each other.

To work as hard at their studies as they do at play.

To be brave (but always courteous) thinkers.

When dealing with a problem to ask this of themselves: 'how can I use my common sense to answer this question – rather than rely on my memory alone?'  
This should be a principle of learning right across the board.

### **What is expected from the teachers:**

In all we do at the school, to be guided by the following questions:

Are the contents of my lesson good?

Is the material relevant?

Is my teaching effective?

Through my teaching, am I inculcating in the pupil an interest in my subject and a fine attitude to learning?

Through my teaching, are my pupils learning good study habits, good learning skills?  
Do I reason with them, or do I simply spoon feed them?



## General Information

### End of Term Exams and Reports

At the end of the first and third terms of the academic year, tests and examinations are held in each subject to alert pupils and parents alike as to the rate of progress being made. The results are then included in the End of Term Reports which are compiled on every individual pupil and a copy sent to his/her parents.

The reports are then followed immediately with an appointment whereby the parents meet each of the teachers to discuss the report and the pupils' progress.

### Prep. Time

All pupils from the age of 7 upwards have Prep. Time. This means that at 3.15 when formal lessons end, there is a short break until 3.25. Pupils then return to class to do their homework for one hour until 4.30 under the Form Teacher's supervision. (Naturally, as the pupils enter the Senior School, they can expect to receive an increase in the work which will need to be completed at home, in addition to Prep.)

This ensures:

1. that the work is done;
2. the teachers know who did the work and will thus properly gauge the pupils' understanding of the topic;
3. that the bulk of the homework is over and done with, thus allowing a boy or girl to be free in the evening – free from the shadow of homework and from the poor parents' nagging to do the work.

Once it has been signed off by the Form Teacher, pupils are free to take all their books and work home with them in order to show their parents what they have been doing and to get that extra help if required.

### Admissions

Applications for a place at St. John's should be made on the form provided with this prospectus. On receipt of your application arrangements will be made for you to visit the school.

*Admission to the Prep. School* is via assessment. We shall invite children to spend half a day with us during which time the teacher will have an opportunity to learn about the child.

*Admission to the Senior School* is on the basis of interview, a verbal reasoning test (40 minutes) and a test in English and Maths (60 minutes).

Pupils entering the Senior School via the Prep. School do so on the basis of the Form Teacher's and Headmistress' recommendation.

### Uniform

A distinctive uniform is worn by all pupils. Further details are available from the school secretary.

### Regulations

The regulations of the school will be found on the reverse side of the Application Form.

## *Curriculum for the Prep. School*

A very strong emphasis is placed on the Three R's from the start. Children have a very beautiful environment in which to play but our major responsibility to parents is to ensure that each child becomes competent and confident in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Having said this we must add that subsidiary subjects are certainly not neglected. All children are taught:

**History**, which is a study of humanity in action.

**Geography**, which gives a child breadth of vision to see himself and peoples of the world in perspective.

**General Science**, which introduces the children to the basic principles of Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

**French**, which begins at four years of age. In the first year spoken French dominates lessons. The language is then slowly introduced in its written form and the children are encouraged to join our French library club.

**Music**, to bring out and enhance the aesthetic side of a child's nature. Our Music department organises

two events each year when all pupils perform either on a theatre stage or the catwalk! The school has an excellent choir and a music club.

**Dance**, another opportunity to develop confidence. Dance is taught as part of the curriculum and all pupils participate.

**Speech and Drama**, a compulsory subject which is taught as part of the curriculum. All pupils sit LAMDA examinations from the age of six onwards.

**Literature**, still telling men's hearts of men centuries dead.

**Art and Craft**, to develop manual dexterity, a sense of beauty and achievement (craft includes embroidery).

Also, our pupils are given an introduction to the world of CDT from the age of six. By the age of seven they are capable of constructing complex designs of their own.

**Chess**, a compulsory subject at St. John's. We dedicate one period a week to training our pupils to play chess well. A chess club meets once a week.

**PE and Games**, taught by a specialist. From the age of seven onwards all pupils take up football, netball and tennis.

**Swimming**. Children start to swim at five years of age.

At St. John's we regard this sport as a real life saver as well as an excellent form of exercise and fun. Hence, we introduce this at a very early age. Although the activity is supervised by the staff of the school, the children are taught in safety by the pool's swimming instructors.

**Other activities**. Skiing trips are arranged for all pupils. The school regularly arranges visits to places of interest for the child's education and development, for example: the Royal Maritime Museum for the Pirates Exhibition; the British Museum for Greeks and Romans; the Saxon Village at West Stow; pond dipping at Capel Manor and workshop experiences at the National and Tate Art Galleries.

At the age of eight onwards, all pupils attend a combination of education and physical activities week where I.T. and Geography skills are developed further.





## Curriculum for the Senior School

### Core curriculum subjects for Lower and Seniors

ENGLISH	GEOGRAPHY
LITERATURE	R.E.
HANDWRITING	MUSIC.
SPEECH (LAMDA)	ART
MATHS	DRAMA
PHYSICS	COMPUTER SCIENCE
CHEMISTRY	NEWS AND VIEWS
BIOLOGY	P.E
HISTORY	GAMES
LAW	SWIMMING every other week
FRENCH	BOARD GAMES
GERMAN	ASSEMBLY

**Handwriting**, which continues at the Senior School for the first year, but alternates weekly with **News and Views**, a current affairs period during which the teacher expresses his or her view and then encourages the pupils to agree or disagree.

**Chess**, a compulsory subject at St. John's. We dedicate time during the week to teach our pupils to play chess well. A chess club meets once a week.

**Archery**, which takes place as a special activity during the Summer term.

**Computer Studies**, where pupils are prepared and entered for the R.S.A. exams in this subject.

**P.E. and Games**, with frequent football and netball matches between St. John's and other schools.

### G.C.S.E. Subjects

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	HISTORY
ENGLISH LITERATURE	LAW
MATHEMATICS	FRENCH
LATIN	GERMAN
PHYSICS	GEOGRAPHY
CHEMISTRY	I.C.T.
BIOLOGY	ART
	P.E.

A detailed description of each of the above options is available on request. In addition, Drama and Music are compulsory, although not assessed at G.C.S.E.

**Visits**, at least three are arranged every year for each class. Visits may be related to a particular topic being studied or simply for general interest. Recent visits have included guided tours of the Houses of Parliament; The Royal Courts of Justice; the National and Tate Galleries; various departments of the British Museum; Mount Pleasant Sorting Office; Capel Manor's Nature Centre and various stately homes.

Once a year we have at least one major trip abroad – either to France or Germany or a ski trip to Italy.

Every class will be taken to see at least one West End play per year.

### Sixth Form 'A' Level Subjects

PURE MATHS	ENGLISH LITERATURE
PHYSICS	HISTORY
CHEMISTRY	GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
BIOLOGY	GEOGRAPHY
FRENCH	ART
ECONOMICS	GERMAN
FURTHER MATHS	I.C.T.

- \* Focus is on gaining entry to the upper division universities.
- \* Small classes.
- \* Progress closely monitored by the Headmaster.
- \* Progress report every half-term.
- \* All willing Sixth Formers can take it in turns to run the school tuck shop at a reasonable profit for themselves.





The main building of St. John's Senior School is a Grade II listed Mansion within a 23 acre of Green Belt estate.

## *A day in the life of St. John's*

*8.30 a.m.*



St. John's welcomes every pupil, every morning. This tradition was established from the first day of the School.







*Rush hour!*

*8.45 a.m.*

On this site there used to be a hunting lodge used by Queen Elizabeth I when hunting in Enfield Chase. (The word 'Chase' is directly connected with the hunting activities of the past.)





So, Sarah, plant your  
garden and decorate  
your soul.



## *Starting at the Prep. School*

*8.55 a.m.*

St. John's was established in 1988 in St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Palmers Green. In 1989 we moved to our present premises in the Ridgeway and in 1993 the Senior School was established a little further along the Ridgeway at North Lodge.







The school years turn our young ones from small children with limited physical and emotional control of themselves, into settled personalities with opinions and emotions at least partly under their own control.

It is our desire to help them make this part of their growing up as exciting and constructive as possible, so that they may eventually come to lead full and happy lives.

### *Starting in earnest*

*9.00 a.m.*











*A fruitful morning*

*9.50 a.m.*









*The last efforts before lunch*



*11.00a.m.*









“A school should be the most beautiful place in every town, so beautiful that the punishment for undutiful children should be that they be debarred from going to school the following day”.

*Oscar Wilde*



*Lunchtime!*

*12.35 p.m.*





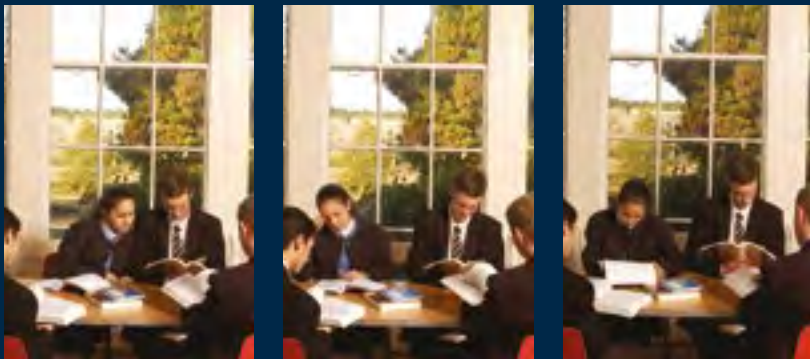




In the latter part of the 19th Century, it became the home of Sir William and Lady Gundry and then it passed to the Marchioness of Ely.

*To the Seniors*

*1.05 p.m.*



Quieter moments in private study.







Oliver Cromwell used the site as his headquarters for a while during the English Civil War in the 17th Century.



*Classes begin*

*1.40p.m.*



- Biology
- Computer Science
- Chemistry
- English
- Geography
- General Science
- Literature
- Maths
- Physics











What does the school motto 'Res Ipsa Loquitur' mean?

Res Ipsa Loquitur means "the thing (or the matter) speaks for itself".

Everyone likes and needs to be appreciated and this is perfectly reasonable.

We may help promote this appreciation by the things we say about ourselves. However, it is the fruits which we ultimately produce that speak louder than any words and this is the essence of our motto. It applies to us all – to the teaching staff and to

the boys and girls of St. John's. In the end, however hard we blow our own trumpet, whatever may be said about us – good or bad – there is no way of escaping the inescapable, uncompromising 'res ipsa loquitur' – the thing speaks for itself! This must be what really matters in the end.

- Art
- Drama
- French
- German
- History
- Law
- Music
- R.E.

*Classes continue*

*2.30p.m.*



There is a little pond on the estate known as the "Doomsday Pond" because it is recorded in William the Conqueror's Doomsday Book after his conquest of England in 1066.









In the 1920s it became a Prep. School known as Kilvington Hall. It remained a school until the Second World War.

## *Out in the fresh air*

2.45 p.m.



- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Archery     | Hockey             |
| Athletics   | Netball            |
| Basketball  | Outdoor activities |
| Board Games | P.E                |
| Cricket     | Swimming           |
| Football    | Tennis             |







*Indoor activities*

*2.55 p.m.*





The house was demolished during the late 18th Century (the period of the French Revolution) and the present four storey Grade II Mansion was built in its place with additions from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The building is part of the "Open house programme" which is concerned with buildings of historical and architectural interest.







*Time for a break*

*3.20p.m.*



Break comes around  
three times a day:  
10.40am (20 minutes)  
1.40pm lunchtime (1 hour)  
3.20pm (10 minutes).









*The last hour of the day*

*3.30p.m.*

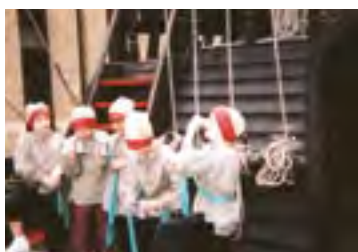




Skiing abroad  
Tudor workshop  
Fencing  
Autumn walk



*Events throughout the year*



School Fireworks Night



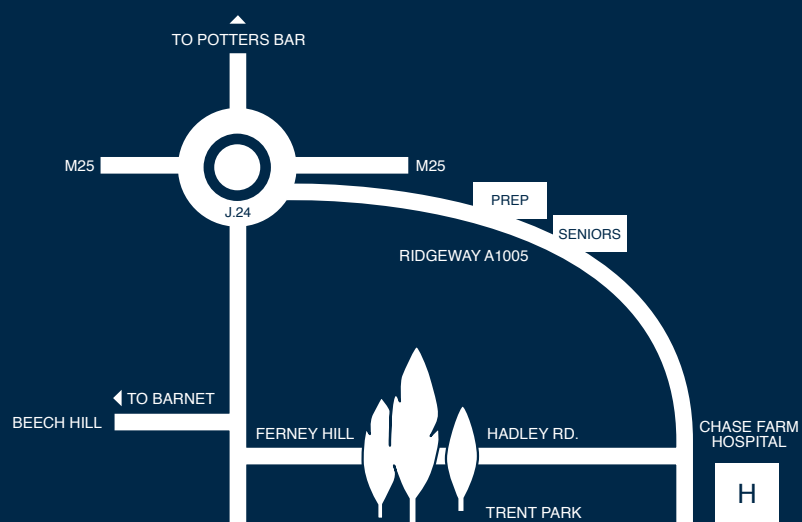
*The last hour of the day*



Designed by Two By Two  
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*The end... before the start of another day*



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