



ST JOHN'S
A MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL



Encouraging excellence since 1920



St John's dedicated staff and approach to learning has given our boys a fantastic start combining academic achievement with the chance to try new experiences.

Current parent

Choosing a school for your son is one of the most important decisions you will make and that choice will undoubtedly help shape his personality and future. I am very pleased that you have chosen to consider St John's and hope this prospectus will give you a sense of what is important to us, what it is like to be part of St John's and what our boys gain from their time here.

Our school is a happy, vibrant and successful community where every boy is treated as an individual. They achieve excellent academic results and we aim to extend and develop their talents and interests so that they can grow in confidence and fulfil their potential.

Good manners, thoughtfulness, awareness of others and a sense of community are strongly supported by a contemporary curriculum and the very best learning resources and methods. Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and offer a wide range of clubs, activities and educational visits to cater for our boys' interests.

Owned by the Merchant Taylors' Company, our thirty-five acre site provides excellent facilities inside and outside the classroom. Our experience tells us that the partnership between the Company, home and school contributes to our boys' well-balanced education and I sincerely value the working relationship we have with parents.

Our prospectus is, above all, an invitation to come and see the school in action and you are warmly invited to visit St John's to meet our boys and staff and see for yourself all the many opportunities on offer.



S. Robinson

Sean Robinson
Headmaster

Nursery

Our Nursery gives the boys time to explore, investigate and develop new skills in a happy, caring and secure setting. The emphasis is on socialising, communicating and developing their motor skills. They are taught by professionals who ensure that the curriculum is suited to each boy's unique needs.

The Nursery is self-contained within our Pre-Prep department where the children benefit from excellent facilities including our own forest area. In addition to the main teaching rooms they have a large covered soft floor playground with zones for different types of play.

The nurturing environment prepares the boys and encourages their confidence in readiness to progress through the school. Parents see staff on a daily basis and meet regularly to discuss their son's progress at consultation evenings.





Pre-Prep Department (Reception, Years 1 & 2)

The Pre-Prep is where boys build the foundation for their futures. At St John's we make their introduction to more formal learning enjoyable and stimulating. Good manners, independence and high standards of behaviour are reinforced.

Learning in Reception is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage and boys in Years 1 and 2 follow a curriculum including Mathematics, English, Science, History, Geography, Computing, Art and Design. The central person in the childrens' life is their class teacher supported by a teaching assistant. They have specialist staff for Music, Physical Education, Games and Swimming and get an early introduction to team sports and on-stage performances.

The Pre-Prep offers bright and attractive classrooms and abundant play areas in a modern, secure, purpose built development allowing the boys room for growth and discovery both indoors and out. We take full advantage of our extensive grounds which allow the boys to explore and learn independently.

A variety of after school clubs are available for boys from Year 1 and there is a range of educational trips including a Year 2 residential trip and workshops for all the boys to enjoy.

The Pre-Prep has fostered a passion for learning in our boys while providing a nurturing and supportive environment. Overall, a perfect introduction to school life.

Year 2 parent



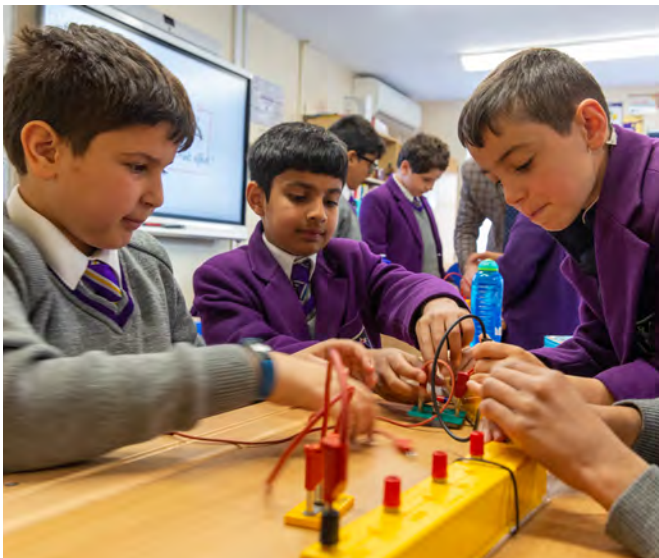
Junior Department (Years 3 & 4)

At the age of seven the boys progress to the Juniors. They are allocated Houses, receive their House ties and begin to wear blazers. New boys who join us in Year 3 integrate easily with our own Pre-Prep boys in bright and welcoming classrooms.

Years 3 and 4 are taught in the Junior Building where most of their lessons are delivered by their own class teachers supported by a teaching assistant. The class teacher continues to be the central person in the boys’ lives. Specialist teaching is given in French, Computing, Music, Art, Design and Technology, Swimming and Physical Education.

The boys are encouraged to become more independent and self-motivated. In the Juniors they start to take responsibility for organising their belongings and homework schedule. In return they are rewarded with house points for academic work, good behaviour and consideration for others.

Outside the classroom a range of extra-curricular activities is available including drama, choir, chess and arts and crafts. Year 4 also benefit from a multi-activity residential trip.



Senior School (Years 5 to 8)

At this stage our boys are taught by specialist subject teachers and take advantage of the subject-specific areas which include a state-of-the-art Science laboratory and Design and Technology workshop, a dedicated and fully equipped Music department and a spacious Art studio. They learn English and Mathematics in smaller groups which allows us to give the boys greater attention. We teach a wide and stimulating curriculum which exceeds the National Curriculum requirements. The boys begin a Latin course in Year 6 and have more opportunities to be involved in our extensive extra-curricular programme.

We prepare our boys to transfer to senior independent schools. The great majority are prepared for entry to the local day schools and some sit Common Entrance for boarding places.

Year 8 enjoy an enriched post-exam curriculum which includes a business enterprise course, cooking, debating and community work. Boys in Years 6 to 8 also benefit from residential trips to Northumbria, Normandy and Devon.



The quality of pupils' achievements and learning is exceptional. Pupils of all needs and abilities, including the EYFS, are extremely successful in their learning.

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2016



Pastoral Care

St John’s is a supportive, nurturing and inclusive community and visitors to the school often comment on the positive atmosphere. Attention to pupils’ wellbeing and high quality pastoral care are central to our ethos, underpinning everything we do. Along with a diverse range of co curricular clubs, we provide every opportunity for St John’s boys to develop a natural, social confidence and a caring approach to life.

The House System, which includes a variety of regular inter-house competitions and activities, encourages teamwork and loyalty. The boys work together across the age groups to achieve shared aims.

Extra responsibilities are given through our Prefect system, School Council and Eco-Council, allowing pupils to instigate many initiatives and local community projects. We believe that being involved in charitable efforts adds an important dimension to the boys’ educational experience.



“ *The quality of personal development of all the pupils is excellent, reflecting the School’s aims to create a friendly and caring atmosphere and high standards of behaviour.*

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2016



Sport and Physical Education

Every boy is encouraged to get involved in sport and enjoy physical activity and teamwork. Our main sports are rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics coached by specialist teachers.

St John’s has extensive facilities for physical education. We have four rugby pitches, three cricket grounds, an athletics track, a cross-country course and a pitch and putt golf course. The all-weather playing area provides hockey and football pitches in the winter and six tennis courts in the summer. Our Centenary Sports Hall is well equipped for basketball, badminton, volleyball, indoor cricket and gymnastics. Boys also benefit from the swimming and hockey facilities at our sister school, Merchant Taylors’.

From the age of seven, boys take part in a programme of inter-school matches in our main sports. We enter national competitions in rugby, athletics, swimming and golf. School fixtures are also played in basketball, cross-country, tennis and golf. Our senior rugby, cricket and hockey squads regularly tour abroad to countries like Italy, Grenada, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

“ *My mum and dad chose St John’s because of the facilities, but I think the way we play sport is the most important thing. Everyone tries their best and we all work as a team.*

Year 6 boy



Music

Music plays a central part in the life of the school and even the very youngest boys have the chance to perform regularly. From the Nursery upwards they are taught in our well-equipped department and many learn to play a variety of musical instruments. All boys start learning the recorder in Year 2 and every boy leaves St John’s able to read music.

There are many opportunities to join choirs, orchestra, the wind band, brass ensemble, drum club and other groups.

We put on an extensive programme of concerts both in and out of school. Every year our boys have the opportunity to join older musicians from Merchant Taylors’ School in a concert at the Company’s livery hall in the City.

In recent years our musicians have enjoyed great success in local music festivals and outstanding individuals have won music scholarships to senior independent schools.



Drama

Performing on stage develops confidence and teamwork. Boys take part in dramatic productions at all ages with several performances each year. Not only do the boys act but they also assist with stage management, musical accompaniment and scenery.

Visits to the theatre start in the Nursery and are arranged regularly to complement the curriculum.

I have seen a quiet, shy little boy flourish into a confident performer in drama and music – it has been a real joy.
Year 7 parent





Design & Technology

In the well equipped and modern Design and Technology workshop boys have the opportunity to work collaboratively with a wide range of tools, machinery and resources including a 3-D printer, sublimation printing facilities and a specialist CAD/CAM embroidery machine.

Through a variety of projects, boys from Years 3 to 8 are able to gain and use knowledge of different processes and techniques. They are encouraged to think and interact creatively in problem-solving activities, both as individuals and as members of a team, becoming increasingly independent as they move through the school. Design and Technology at St John's fosters and channels natural curiosity whilst challenging boys and encouraging them to find appropriate solutions to design challenges.



Art

Art education engages, inspires and challenges pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create. As pupils progress through the school, they develop a more rigorous understanding of art and gain practical skills.

Our Art curriculum provides a range of opportunities for each year group to discover and hone their drawing and painting and work with mixed media to create mosaics, collage, textiles, clay sculpture and printing. Boys produce excellent art work in the classroom and then in the specialised art studio. We showcase and celebrate their creativity through clubs, competitions, displays, exhibitions and throughout our school publications.





Centenary

2020 was St John's centenary year when we were able to celebrate 100 years of boys' education. The world and the school have changed enormously since 1920, as we learned from a book specially-produced for the occasion. It is a testament to our whole community over the years that such a significant milestone has been reached. Many of St John's traditions date back to the foundation of the School. These include our motto and school song, an annual Carol Service, prize-giving and a history of dramatic and sporting occasions. Parents look forward to our triennial Summer Ball and our alumni enjoy keeping in touch at the special days we organise for our past pupils, some of whom are current parents, or even grandparents.



Vitam impendere vero, the School's motto reminds us to be true to ourselves and to each other. As the St. John's community of teachers, pupils, governors and parents stay true to that ethos it will be ready to embrace the future, whatever that brings.

S Robinson, Headmaster





A Legacy of 100 years

We commemorated our Centenary with an investment in two new spaces which benefit all the boys at St John's. Our beautifully designed and fabulously equipped Centenary Sports Hall provides a significant boost to boys physical education. With retractable seating, artificial turf and nets for cricket, automated basket-ball hoops, an amazing sound system, the new sports hall provides amazing opportunities for our staff and boys.

Thanks to the generosity of the Merchant Taylors' Company and the St John's Association, we were also able to commission a castle-inspired bespoke tree house in which generations of boys will be able to let their imaginations run wild.



We recognise the importance of academic achievement but we also know that developing life skills from an early age is vital to the boys' futures. We hope that they develop a love of learning for its own sake, we encourage them to think about their place in the community, to listen to those who may not always share their opinions and to be generous friends.

Chair of Governors



Admission

Most boys join us in the Nursery (3+) in the September following their third birthday or in Reception (4+) after their fourth birthday. Admission is by assessment which is designed to ensure that each boy is ready to cope with the challenges ahead. Boys also join in the Junior Department (7+) and in Year 7 (11+). Assessments include written tests and an interview. Assessments for each admission group are held:

- 3+ Early November
- 4+ Early January
- 7+ Late November
- 11+ Throughout the year

A Personal Invitation

You are most welcome to come and see our school at any time of the year. Please telephone for an appointment and we will be delighted to arrange a personal tour with the Headmaster. We invite you to come and see at first hand why generations of parents have trusted St John's with the education of their boys.





ST JOHN'S
A MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL
for boys aged 3-13

Potter Street Hill
Northwood,
Middlesex
HA6 3QY

Telephone: 020 8866 0067
Facsimile: 020 8868 8770
Email: office@st-johns.org.uk
Website: www.st-johns.org.uk
Twitter: @stjsnorthwood

St John's School Northwood Ltd
Registered in England No 3411518 Charity Number 1063738
A Merchant Taylor's Educational Trust School

