



Excellent 2020 13+ and 11+ Senior School transfer results for St John's boys

I am very pleased to report that both our Year 8 and Year 6 boys have performed impressively in their senior school transfer examinations. All twenty-six Year 8 boys achieved places at a senior school of their choice and are already thriving there. Twenty-eight Year 6 boys received confirmed offers for either September this year or September 2022. Please note that some of the Year 6 boys will not begin their entry process for Senior School until Year 7 and 8.

Year 8

Twelve of Year 8 were offered places at more than one school with nineteen receiving an offer from Merchant Taylors'; six John Lyon; four Berkhamsted; three St Alban's; one Aldenham; one Haberdashers'; one Harrow; one Mill Hill; one Radley College and one St Edward's, Oxford. This is a fantastic reflection on the efforts they have put in. Very well done indeed to every one of them! It is also an excellent advert for the School that Year

Year 8 Destination Schools	
School	Offered
Merchant Taylors'	19
John Lyon	6
Berkhamsted	4
St. Alban's	3
Aldenham	2
Haberdashers'	1
Harrow	1
Mill hill	1
Radley College	1
St. Edward's	1

8 are transferring to ten of the very best independent senior schools.

Worthy of special mention are the seven boys who achieved ten scholarships at 13+. Five boys were offered seven academic scholarships and three boys achieved the special scholarships: one for an all-rounder and two for sport. Our most able boys have performed very well indeed. Two of them were placed in the top three in the Merchant Taylors' Entrance Examinations and a third finished 8th; so three in the top ten overall at Merchant Taylors'. One of these also finished high up in the Haberdashers' field.

Our senior team had a particularly successful year. Henry Carpmael, Head Boy, achieved a Major Academic award from Merchant Taylors'. Andreas Georgiou, one of the Deputy Head Boys, was awarded a Major Academic Scholarship to both Merchant Taylors' and Haberdashers'. Oliver Southon, the other Deputy Head Boy, was awarded the Major All-Rounder Scholarship from Merchant Taylors'. Yusuf Parwez, who joined St John's in Year 7 from Bristol Grammar School, was awarded a Minor Academic Exhibition from Merchant Taylors'. Yusuf, Zac Addison and Richard Xu received Academic Scholarships from John Lyon. Zac and Charlie Saffer received Sport Scholarships to John Lyon and Mill Hill respectively. There were some other boys who were interviewed and tested at scholarship level.

Year 6

For the first time our Year 6 boys took part in the new entry process to secure a place at Merchant Taylors'

SCHOLARS AND LEAVERS

for September 2022. This involved three quarters of the cohort and I was extremely impressed with the boys' approach to this new entry system. Their performances overall confirmed their abilities. At this stage nineteen boys have been offered a place at Merchant Taylors' with a number of others on the waiting list. As always we said a fond farewell to some Year 6 boys at the end of the academic year. This year, eleven boys out of forty two moved on to their senior schools at 11+ and altogether twenty-eight Year 6 boys were given firm offers for September this year or September 2022.

Eleven of Year 6 were offered places at more than one school with nineteen receiving an offer from Merchant Taylors'; seven Haberdashers'; three Mill Hill; two John Lyon; two Dr Challoner's; one Eton College; one Immanuel College; one Old Swinford Hospital; one Pinner High; one Radley College; one St Alban's; one UCS; one Westminster

and one Wetherby. We are delighted with these performances and the range of destinations shows our aim to find the school where each child will continue to thrive.

Our most able boys performed particularly well. Five of them achieved nine scholarships. This was made up of five boys achieving seven academic scholarships and two achieving two music scholarships. Aarav Rajput achieved Academic Scholarships from both Merchant Taylors' and Haberdashers' as well as a Music Scholarship from Haberdashers'; Vivaan Chhabra achieved both Academic and Music Scholarships from Haberdashers'; Rohan Shinn achieved Academic Scholarships from both Merchant Taylors' and Haberdashers'; Albert Vasvari achieved an Academic Scholarship from Merchant Taylors' and Ansh Soni achieved an Academic Scholarship from Haberdashers'.

Nineteen scholarships were achieved for 2020 Year 8 and Year 6 as follows:

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Merchant Taylors'

Henry Carpmael Major Academic Scholarship
Andreas Georgiou Major Academic Scholarship
Yusuf Parwez Academic Exhibition
Aarav Rajput* Academic Scholarship
Rohan Shinn* Academic Scholarship
Albert Vasvari* Academic Scholarship

Haberdashers'

Andreas Georgiou Major Academic Scholarship
Aarav Rajput* Academic Scholarship
Vivaan Chhabra* Academic Scholarship
Rohan Shinn* Academic Scholarship
Ansh Soni* Academic Scholarship

John Lyon

Zac Addison Academic Scholarship
Yusuf Parwez Academic Scholarship
Richard Xu Academic Scholarship

ALL ROUNDER SCHOLARSHIP

Merchant Taylors'

Oliver Southon

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

John Lyon

Zac Addison

Mill Hill

Charlie Saffer

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Haberdashers'

Aarav Rajput*

Vivaan Chhabra*

*Year 6 Scholars



M.S. Robinson, October 2020



100 years & counting

This year St John's marks one hundred years since its foundation in a Pinner vicarage. A great deal has happened in that time as St John's has relocated on three occasions and gone from being a family-run establishment to become part of the Merchant Taylors' family of schools.

It is fair to say that the events we had planned have not quite happened as we had hoped although the occasion has been marked in some very special ways. The first and, as it turned out, only live event was a commemorative service at Emmanuel Church. Sadly a planned dinner at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Summer Ball and an Old Boys Day and Pageant all fell victim to Coronavirus although they will be rescheduled when the situation allows.

One big event which we are looking forward to is the opening of our Centenary Sports Hall (more on p5). This will happen after half term and will be another red letter day in the School's history.

In January we launched a commemorative book, *The Boys on the Hill, an Illustrated History of 100 Years of St John's School*. This impressive volume tells the story of the School from its foundation just after the First World War, its survival when the

bombs started to fall again, its move to the current wonderful site and the agreement to become part of the Merchant Taylors' Educational Trust. With rare photos and interviews with Headmasters, staff and boys from every decade we learned about the events and individuals that have shaped St John's over the last century. Those one hundred years have witnessed unprecedented changes and the School has responded to take advantage of new opportunities open to today's children and young people.

When St John's was founded, the curriculum was quite limited and boxing was one of the main sports. Pupils today receive exposure to the widest range of subjects including access to technology which simply was not available until recently. Sporting opportunities include hockey on an all-weather pitch and golf on our very own pitch and putt course.

What have not changed, however, are the values of respect, kindness and hard work which have been expected of St John's boys from its very earliest days. These values have underpinned the success of generations of pupils and seen many of them go on to achieve at the highest level at Senior school and beyond.



Learning and living in bubbles

Creativity, commitment and lots of cleaning have kept St John's open and delivering something close to normal in these challenging times

St John's, along with every other school in the UK, followed government instructions and shut its doors to all but the children of key workers just before the Easter break. However, while the rest of the country was trying to get used to the lockdown, staff at the School were busy throughout the holiday preparing for online lessons as soon as the summer term started.

We followed a regular teaching timetable and staff also set challenges and other fun activities to keep boys engaged despite not being physically on site. As instructed by the government, our Nursery Reception and Year 1 boys were back for the final few weeks of term along with boys from Year 6. Now everyone is back to school and making the most of it.

Each year group is treated as a bubble, there are hand sanitisers everywhere and the boys have never been so clean. Lessons are all back to normal although there is a lot less movement around the School than usual. Most importantly, pupils have been eased back into full time education again with staff very aware that some of them will find that

tiring or stressful.

It has been very interesting to work out what needs to change in order to keep boys and staff safe during the Coronavirus pandemic. Perhaps the biggest difference is lunchtime where year groups have to sit a long way apart and the dining hall has to be completely cleaned between sittings. Until last week, the weather has been kind to us so the easiest thing was to get outside for a picnic. The boys are really enjoying the experience as you can see from the picture above.

Last week we were able to take Year 8 boys to Epping Forest on their first school trip for a while. They were there to do some Geography and Science field work and a very enjoyable time we had too. In fact, a lack of visitors to the study centre meant that nature had started to take over and we identified some rare species.

There are still limits on sports fixtures against other schools and our multi-year School Orchestra has yet to get playing again. All things considered, however, we are coping remarkably well.

Fit for the future

A Centenary Sports Hall project celebrating 100 years of St John's

Sport plays a big part in daily life at St John's and we are now investing in a new Sports Hall which will help ensure that every pupil stays fit and can fulfil their sporting potential.

The School has a high standard of outdoor sporting facilities, including four rugby pitches, all weather sports facilities, mini golf course, tennis courts an athletics area and three cricket pitches. We have invested in and improved our facilities over a number of years so that all age groups from three to thirteen can enjoy a wide variety of sporting activities.

Our old gymnasium was built over 30 years ago and its size and quality did not meet modern standards. It was the size of one badminton court

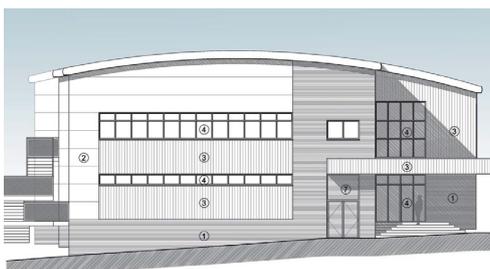
with a low ceiling and dated changing rooms. The exciting new development will have a playing area equivalent to three badminton courts, bleacher-style seating plus storage and changing facilities for up to 80 pupils.

The development has been specified to minimise disruption to our green spaces and to blend sympathetically with the existing school buildings.

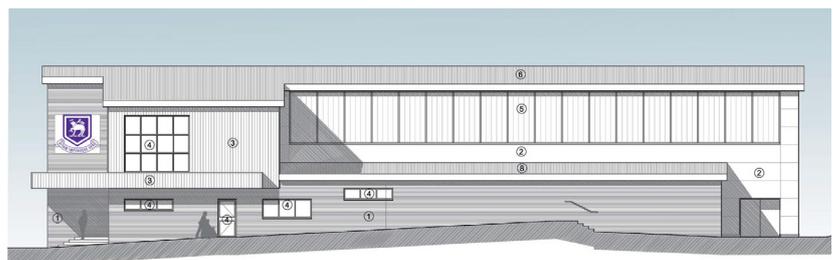
Work has been continuing throughout lockdown and the building very close to completion, just in time for the winter. The finished sports hall will open its doors at a special ceremony later this year and will make a huge contribution to the physical education of St John's pupils for many years to come.



Landscape and illustrations of our new Sports Hall



south elevation



east elevation

Let's get practical

Design and Technology is a subject that has changed a lot in recent years

There are many school subjects that do not really change over the years. Yes, the teaching methods may be different, but children learning a subject like History, Mathematics or French will cover very similar topics to those their parents would recognise. Other subjects, by contrast, are changing rapidly and none more so than DT.

Only a few years ago, pupils at St John's would have learned how to use traditional tools and materials to make wooden boxes or plastic keyrings and not much more. Now, thanks to a completely re-equipped studio, DT has emerged as one of the most exciting and challenging that the boys get to experience.

With 3D printers and computers linked to powerful

Computer Aided Design (CAD) software, boys are asked to come up with solutions to the kind of real-world challenges that engineers and inventors are working with every day.

In the process, DT has gone from being considered a Cinderella pursuit to take its rightful place as one of the core STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths that are so highly prized by universities and employers.

As well as providing valuable life skills, St John's investment in equipment, teaching and resources is also paying off in other ways for our boys. Our pupils now regularly achieve DT Scholarships to leading senior schools and that is something to get excited about.





St John's Charity 2020/21

Each year we adopt a charity to support with school fundraising events. We pick a charity, not just because of the good work that it does, but also to help our boys understand how fortunate they are. Having supported (among others) WaterAid and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in the recent past, our Centenary charity is Playskill. This specialist playgroup based in Watford and Hemel Hempstead helps children with physical needs with a weekly session with a Paediatric Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist or Speech and Language Therapist. They make a huge difference to the lives of children and we are looking forward to finding out about how our money is helping them do more.

Who's been eating my porridge?

This week our Lambs, the boys in our Nursery, have been reading the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Having listened to the story complete with choruses of "Who's been sitting in my chair?" they opened the dressing up cupboard and acted out the story. There are no prizes for guessing which part this little boy was playing.

Learning through play is very much the style of our nursery and Pre-Prep. We have large airy classrooms that lend themselves to exploring and a forest area which is the scene for many adventures. Sometimes the boys seem to be having so much fun that it is amazing to find that, by the time they move up into the Juniors, they can all read and write and do sums.

Find out more

There are several ways to find out more about St John's:

To receive an electronic copy of The Lamb each week, sign up by emailing

lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk

Our next Open Morning will be on 19th May 2021. Please register your interest with the School office or online via our website at

www.st-johns.org.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about our School please call the School secretary on the office number below.

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