

St Helen's School

# Into the sixth.

[www.sthelens.london](http://www.sthelens.london)

Prospectus



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# Welcome.

**We believe the Sixth Form should be the best years of your life so far and we want to help you make the most of every opportunity to open your minds and explore your true passions.**



**Mrs Tracy Pollard**  
Interim Headmistress

You will be making decisions that will determine what kind of person you become and what path you may follow in your quest to lead interesting and fulfilling lives in the world beyond school. Our aim is to support you, encourage you and challenge you every step of the way.

Academic study lies at the heart of the Sixth Form and here at St Helen's, you will be able to develop your intellectual interests by focusing on what you find most stimulating and challenging.

Sixth Form life is very different from Senior School and you will feel immediately more grown up and more independent. Relationships with staff evolve and students are entrusted with greater responsibilities and freedom. We value the very special contribution that all Sixth Formers make to our school and we can't wait to find out what your special contribution will be.





Even more than in any other part of the school, our Sixth Form prepares you to be brave and true, ever intellectually curious. By the time you leave, you will believe you can do anything and will be ready for whatever the future brings.

We provide an excellent, broad and balanced education, designed to engage and challenge you, and enhance your independence and resilience. Our Sixth Form is a community of young people who are curious about the world, committed to their learning and which creates networks of alumnae for life.

Along with personalised support, which empowers you to realise your aspirations, the warm, supportive, friendly atmosphere enables you, whether from Year 11 at St Helen's or from another school, to feel immediately at home and build life-long friendships.

Do come and visit us to experience what makes the Sixth Form at St Helen's such an exciting place to learn.

**We would be delighted to meet you and show you round!**

Hayley Stein, Director of Sixth Form





“St Helen’s – a place that  
**challenges** you, **teaches** you  
and always **encourages** you.”

“Being more independent in our Sixth Form has helped me feel prepared and confident to face any challenges which may come my way in the next exciting chapter of my life.”

Mehma, Head Girl

In the Sixth Form, whilst the emphasis is on independent learning, the teachers guide and motivate you to grow both academically and as a person. You can further your interests through the unique opportunities that the school has to offer such as CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

It can be difficult and sometimes overwhelming trying to decide what you want to do after A Levels. I have found the process of figuring this out is made easier, as there are so many opportunities to try new things, explore new ideas and discover your passions.

The Futures Department are incredible at helping you to feel completely prepared to take on life after school - whatever your plans may be.

The two years you are in Sixth Form are the most exciting years of your school life. It will be challenging and there will undoubtedly be times when it all feels too much. However, the girls and the teachers are always there to support you and through all the new experiences, mistakes you make and fun you have, you will become a strong and resilient St Helen's girl, who is ready to take on whatever challenges you may face.





# What makes our Sixth Form special?

“Life in the Sixth Form offers the perfect balance of independence, amazing support and opportunities, allowing students to flourish into young adults. It is a place where you can feel comfortable that your diversity will be embraced.”

Tia, Deputy Head Girl

At St Helen's, you will be able to develop your intellectual interests by focusing on what you find most stimulating and challenging; to achieve the very best grades you are capable of and to open doors to the university courses and careers that you have set your heart on. We hope it will also be because you genuinely want to make the most of your Sixth Form study – to stretch yourselves, to discover new ideas and to develop your intelligence by taking risks.

**Our Sixth Form is ideally suited to help you do all of these things.**

We also want you to develop the skills to give you the imagination, the flexibility and the courage to go out into the world and make a difference.

Student voice is vital to the development of a dynamic and exciting Sixth Form experience; the Sixth Form Working Parties allow you to bring your concerns to the team, and to understand how we will support you and resolve issues, or work with you to ensure your experience is a positive and exciting one. We value our students highly: you are key role models to the younger year groups and as Prefects, House Captains or Year Leaders, you run Student Council, are responsible for House spirit and act as ambassadors for the school.

We strive to develop your key skills of independence and resilience; the first step towards this is your very own Sixth Form building, Mackenzie, complete with common room, quiet study space, Sixth Form only classrooms, and your very own kitchen for which you are entirely responsible - a challenge all Sixth Formers relish!

We take an innovative approach to enhancement, forging strong partnerships with academic organisations such as our Royal Institution Primary Masterclasses run by our Sixth Form students to introduce subjects from beyond the curriculum to stretch and extend the ablest pupils as part of our community engagement programme; Year 12 students took part in an initiative to collaborate with professors from Oxford University and presented their research papers at an event held by Oxford University. Our Highest Intellectual Potential initiative (HIP) is a highly sought-after programme, challenging those students who take part to push themselves to the very edge of their learning, and exceed their expectations through wider reading and a deep understanding of their chosen A Level subjects.





## Learning Journeys

We're here to help you make the leap from school to university as smooth and seamless as possible. These are the key points in your journey from GCSE to degree and we have a team of experienced and committed staff to bring your dreams to life!

# Confident.





# Year 12

## Transition

### Year 11 into Year 12

We work with you over the course of the year, both internal and external applicants, to enable you to choose the perfect combination of subjects to ensure your **future success at St Helen's and beyond.**

## Induction

**2 days**

at the start of  
Year 12

## January

Launch of  
**Higher Education Programme,**  
encompassing **UNIPREP** and **Higher Education**  
webinars and talks.

## April – July

### Key focus

on the **PSHCE/ Higher Education programme on university course and provider research,** as well as regular meetings with your tutor to guide you to choose the perfect university and degree for you.

## Late May

### UCAS opens

for the new round of applications; personal **statement drafting.**



**May**  
End of Year  
**exams.**

# Year 13

## October

**UCAS early applicant deadline** — for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Oxbridge.



## January

**UCAS deadline / Mock exams**

## May

Last day  
of lessons.

## July

Speech Day /  
Leavers' Ball.

## August

**Results day.**







**We are enormously proud of the diversity of interests amongst our students. Students pursuing creative pathways continue their studies at the most prestigious and well-respected institutions in fields such as Art and Music, as well as the more traditional STEM subjects. We offer the flexibility to choose from around 30 A Level subjects, allowing students to deepen their academic passions in small, focused classes.**

This wide range of subjects enables us to work with you to build a bespoke education, fitted to your interests and ambitions, with an offering that goes beyond the exam syllabus. Teachers are all subject specialists and passionate about their chosen subjects, which only enhances the experience here, allowing you to debate, discuss and reflect on what you are learning.

With an extensive enrichment programme, we guide you to choose from a variety of topics, to broaden your horizons and our weekly lecture series enhances and challenges your thinking. We also develop those key independent research and critical thinking skills through the EPQ, taken in Year 12; highly valued by universities for its development of key skills, you will flourish in small groups under the guidance of an experienced supervisor.

**“Doing an EPQ allowed me to develop a passion for a subject I wasn’t even studying and now I hope to continue to explore it further at university.”**

Maiya





“Sixth Form is a **big step up**, but at St Helen's there is a whole inclusive community of teachers and students around you, supporting you and helping you to adjust to the new environment.”

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Libby, former Head Girl 2022 | 23





# The study of Art fosters abstract thinking skills which is valued by Oxbridge universities.

UK creative industries generate more than  
**£100bn**  
yearly to the UK economy.

That's greater than the automotive, aerospace, life sciences, and oil and gas sectors combined.





## Futures Programme

We are incredibly proud of our excellent Futures Department which was awarded the Inaugural Highly Commended School of the Year for Student Careers Programme.

# Proud.





**Our team is dedicated to ensuring you make the right choices for your university careers through individual and tailored support to allow you to live up to your full potential.**

The team offers careers, networking and mentoring events, arranges talks and speakers throughout the year, ranging from the Networking Breakfast to the Alumnae Lunch as well as bespoke events focused on a range of subjects, such as Law, Creative Arts, Medicine, Dentistry and Engineering, with alumnae discussing their degrees and career paths.

**“The Futures team are amazing, from the very beginning of the application process, we were guided by seminars, Q&A sessions and personal support which I found invaluable.”**

Verity

Our unique timetabled University Preparation lessons offer personalised support (currently 18 different sessions running for this year's Year 12 students from Engineering to Modern Languages, History, Medicine and beyond) and allow you the space in the timetable to explore your aspirations and academic subjects beyond the curriculum, supported by an expert team of staff.

**“I know my daughter will go as far as she wants in whichever career path she chooses, and that St Helen's will push her, encourage her and guide her all the way.”**

Parent





# Targeted Provision Specialised support for students applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Oxbridge.

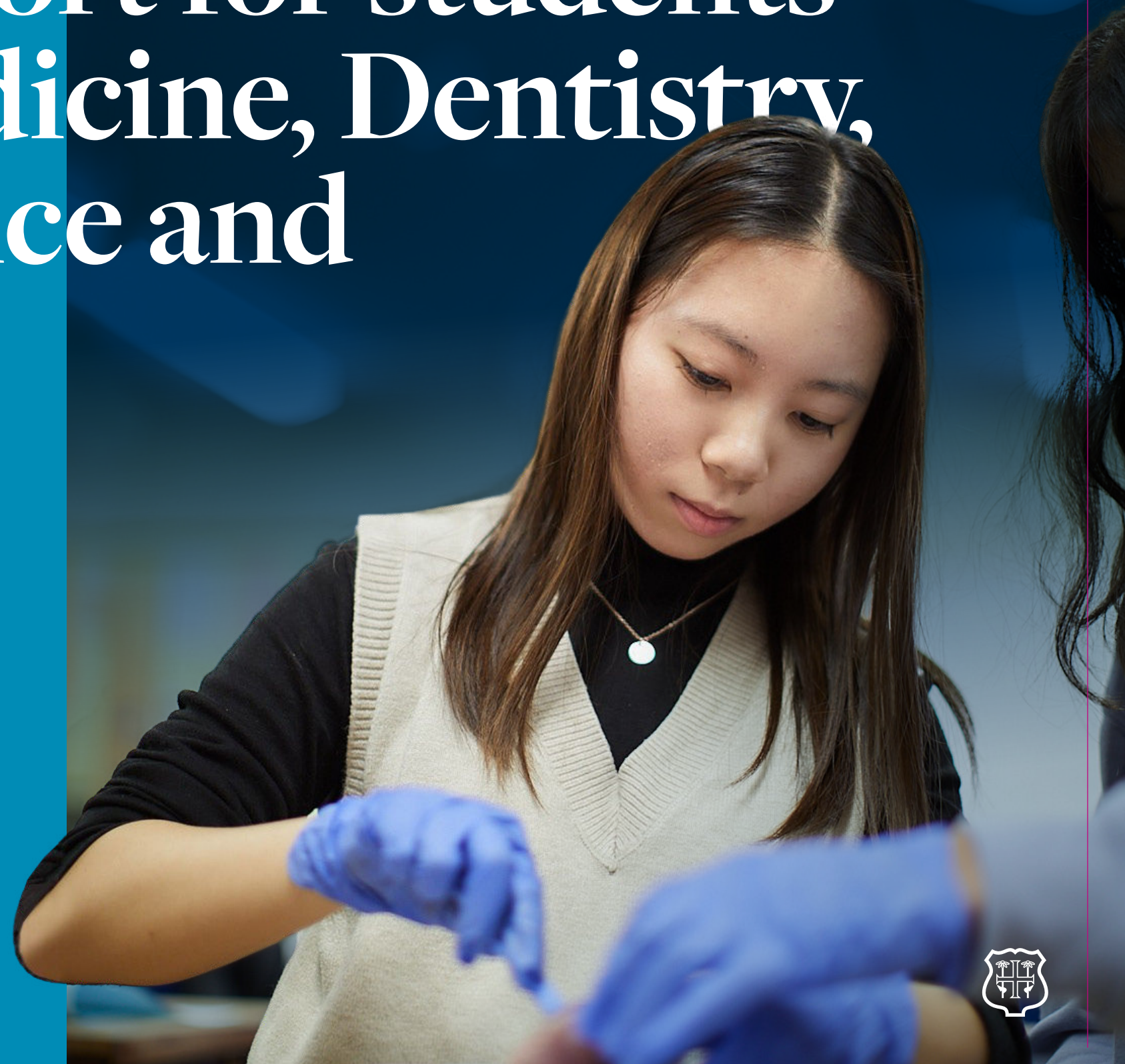
## Top University Destinations

67%

of students accepted offers at  
Russell Group Universities  
including Oxford and  
Cambridge.

72%

of students have  
secured places at  
their first choice  
university.





## Pastoral

St Helen's prides itself on providing outstanding pastoral support for all our students with a dedicated Sixth Form team, comprising experienced and knowledgeable tutors, and a Deputy Head of Sixth Form who is responsible for Year 12.

# Resilient.





“St Helen’s is a school that truly does flourish in every section. The school cultivates an environment that nurtures intellect, independence, and resilience, enabling each student to soar academically and personally. Every girl in green is supported throughout their own challenges and celebrated in their accomplishments, to help pursue excellence in all aspects of the curriculum.”

Lucy, Deputy Head Girl

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Into the sixth.

Pastoral

**The small tutor groups allow for deeper friendships to develop, and strong relationships between you and your tutor. The tutor stays with the tutor group over the two years, enabling them to get to know you really well.**

Our Sixth Form team is dedicated to building independence and resilience of students in both year groups, through a PSHCE programme written and delivered with Sixth Form students in mind and a programme of tutor time activities to support your transition from Sixth Form to university.

“Both my daughters are very different and both felt they would fit in after visiting the school. My eldest who is very shy is now in Sixth Form, is really happy and has found herself, has a passion for the subjects she is doing and is really well supported by the teachers.”

Parent





Outstanding Personalised Advice

# Tailored university preparation supported by dedicated subject mentors empowering students to make competitive applications and achieve their ambitions.

There are currently

**18** University preparation sessions running for this year's Year 12 students.





## Co-Curricular

The opportunities our Sixth Form offers are far reaching and students develop leadership skills through a varied and wide co-curricular programme.

# Brave.





# Our Sixth Formers are dedicated, mature young women, leaders of the future, and are passionate about contributing positively to the world around them.

CCF thrives here, with the current National Under Officer having been elected from the ranks at St Helen's (and one of only two women to be selected since 1900!).

"CCF is a fantastic opportunity for girls to do outdoor activities they would never otherwise have access to e.g. army camps, flying, fieldcraft, water sports, shooting and parachuting. Familial bonds formed between year groups and students from both St Helen's and Merchant Taylors' School have been some of my best memories at school."

Alex, MTS Under Officer 2020 | 2021





Co-Curricular activities include the Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and volunteering trips to countries such as Uganda. Sixth Formers also take a lead role in managing, editing and promoting The Linkway, the Senior School student magazine, and they are always on the look out for new talent!



37%

Students achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award every year.

Exceeding the 10% national average.

**You can build your collaborative and leadership skills through Prefect roles, from Head Girl, to House Captain and Charities, as well as supporting other year groups as Year Leader.**

We also encourage Sixth Formers to mentor younger students, either in Prep, Upper or Middle School, helping with academic studies, or simply being a friendly face for the new Year 7 student, or playing in Little Gables with the new girls in Reception and Nursery. There are also opportunities outside of school by participating in our rewarding outreach programme with our local partnership schools. This comes naturally to our students, as the sense of community is very strong and our girls know how important it is to support and care for one another in order to ensure the whole school flourishes.

Into the sixth.

Co-curricular





“St Helen’s prepares you for the rest of your life, encouraging you to discover and pursue your passions, knowing that we have incredible teachers to support us every step of the way, giving us the skills and confidence to make our dreams a reality.”

Asha Kateli, former Head Girl and Class of 2022



Performing Arts is incredibly popular, with a new state-of-the-art Recital Hall providing excellent facilities for the Music department and its myriad ensembles and choirs for all year groups. The Music department works closely throughout the year with Drama to hold outstanding drama productions, culminating in House Arts in the summer term.

House Arts is designed and directed by Year 12 students, leading their Houses to put on the best productions, with the most original music and scripts, as well as independently creating the most beautiful staging and back drops.





“The extra-curricular opportunities are incredible and very broad, ensuring there’s something for everyone – we’re even able to run our own clubs. The school also informs us of external opportunities that would interest us such as the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs award and supports us in applying for such awards. The school was fundamental in helping me win this Zonta award.”

Anaika

Art flourishes also and students love the creative atmosphere and the personalised support they receive from our experienced and passionate staff. Each year sees students applying for top Art, Graphic Design, and Fashion courses, either at Art colleges such as Central St Martins, or Russell Group universities such as Leeds, Southampton and Cardiff. The A Level course while hugely creative, fosters the vital independent thinking and research skills so valued by the most prestigious universities in the country.

The Sports facilities at St Helen's on a 21 acre site are comparable with some of the best in the country. Sixth Form students are heavily involved in both running clubs across all year groups, as well as being elite sportswomen in their own right: we have students who play for nationally recognised clubs such as Mavericks Netball as well as nationally ranked badminton players and regional swimmers.





A Community for Life

Our students become part of our dynamic and engaged alumnae network having become successful women in a wide range of careers.

In 2023 some of our students went on to study the following exciting and interesting degrees at prestigious universities:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Ancient History
- Biomedical Science
- Archaeology and Geography
- Environmental Geoscience
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics





# From our alumnae



## Humanities

**Claudia Priddy**  
Film Producer  
Class of 2011

**Studied:**  
English Literature,  
Mathematics, History  
at A Level

**Went on to study:**  
Degree in English  
Literature,  
Loughborough  
University

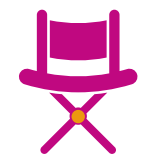
**What advice would you give a new sixth former or someone choosing their A Levels?**  
Don't overthink it! Choose what you enjoy. That's all that matters, because it will lead you into a career that you will enjoy.

**What inspired or motivated you to pursue a career in TV/film?**  
In my final year at university, I began studying the comparison between novels and their film adaptations. I found it really exciting, and something clicked. I then joined the Media Society and learned all I could about film production.

**How did your time at St Helen's (or specific teachers) influence what you have gone on to do?**  
I do not know where I would be without Mr Johnston (shout out!). He encouraged me to study English at GCSE, and again at A Level. I then chose to study it at university and it's a decision that has paved out my entire career.

**What do you wish you had known when you first started out that you know now?**  
You can do anything. There are more career options out there than you might know about at school.

「 It doesn't matter if you don't have it all worked out yet - just follow your interests. 」





## STEM

**Lizzie Wilson,**  
Junior A&E Doctor  
Class of 2011

**Studied:**  
Biology, English Literature,  
History at A Level

**Went on to study:**  
Degree in Medicine,  
Nottingham University

**What advice would you give a new sixth former  
or someone choosing their A Levels?**

I spent 4 months working as a medic for the 18,000  
residents of Moria, the largest refugee camp in Greece.

**My Sixth Form self  
could never have  
imagined the places  
my career in Medicine  
would take me.**

I would say don't panic if you haven't found your calling  
at age 18. I wish I'd known that it doesn't matter if you're  
not 100% sure about a career. Medicine is such a wide  
and varying career that there is something within the  
field to suit almost every personality – you just have to  
be willing to work hard! But it is definitely worth it, it is an  
absolute privilege to do this job & be there for people at  
their most difficult times.



## Law

**Esther Lieu,**  
Family Law Barrister  
at 3PB Barristers  
Class of 2001

**Studied:**  
English, Maths and  
Biology A Level and  
French AS Level

**Went on to study:**  
Degree in Philosophy and  
Psychology, University of Bristol;  
MA in Human Rights,  
University of London

**What advice would you give a new sixth former  
or someone choosing their A Levels?**

When it came to choosing my A Levels, I chose  
subjects that I was interested in, as opposed to  
subjects that I thought would lead to a specific  
career; unlike some of my friends who knew exactly  
what they wanted to be, I was still exploring my  
options. I applied the same approach to choosing  
a university degree – whilst the law has always  
interested me, I wanted to make the most of the  
opportunity to study subjects that really caught my  
attention and see where that took me. The global  
justice module of my philosophy degree led to  
studying for a Masters in Human Rights, which led to  
working in International Development. This included  
a year overseas working on child protection issues  
which prompted me to revisit my interest in the law.  
I completed my law conversion course and BPTC  
(qualifications to be a barrister) whilst working part-  
time for a charity providing legal advice, and was  
called to the Bar in 2011.

I have now been practicing as a family law barrister  
for nearly 10 years and love my job.

**It is an intellectually,  
and at times emotionally  
challenging job,  
constantly varied  
and rewarding.**



It also requires a degree of confidence and I am  
particularly grateful to my A Level English teacher  
Dr Kingston who always encouraged me to be  
analytical, original and express my own opinions  
with conviction.



# Work hard, it's worth it!



## Entry Requirements

# The freedom and flexibility to choose.





# Entry Requirements

You will need a minimum of seven GCSEs graded 9-6 to be taken in one sitting and which include:

- English Language  
(or appropriate examination for students from overseas)
- Mathematics

In addition to this, please note the following guidelines for the specific subjects, which you may wish to study in the Sixth Form.

For further information and advice please contact Admissions.

01923 843230  
admissions@sthelens.london



Please note, the school cannot guarantee that all the courses advertised here will run if circumstances beyond our control make it unviable to offer the course. We may withdraw a course if insufficient numbers opt for it, or if we cannot guarantee being able to staff it.

We are as flexible as possible when accommodating students' A Level choices; however, sometimes a particular combination of subjects cannot work within our timetable. In such a situation, we will work hard with you to help you choose another suitable option.



A Level subject	GCSE guidelines
Art & Design (Fine Art)	Grade 7 in Art or evidence of commitment and considerable involvement in the subject
Biology	Grade 7 in Biology
Chemistry	Grade 7 in Chemistry
Classical Civilisation	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
Classical Greek	Grade 7 in Classical Greek
Computer Science	Grade 7 in Computer Science or Grade 7 in Mathematics
Design & Technology	Grade 6 in Design & Technology
Drama and Theatre	Grade 6 in Drama or evidence of commitment and considerable involvement in the subject. There will be an audition for any girls who wish to study Drama and Theatre Studies who have not previously studied Drama at GCSE
Economics	Grade 7 in Mathematics
English Literature	Grade 7 in English Language and Grade 7 in English Literature
Geography	Grade 6 in Geography
History	Grade 6 in History
History of Art	Grade 6 in English Literature
Latin	Grade 7 in Latin
Mathematics/Further Mathematic	Grade 7 in Mathematics. Girls who wish to study Further Mathematics at A Level will require Grade 8 in Mathematics
Modern Foreign Languages	Grade 7 in the chosen language: French, German, Mandarin and Spanish
Music	Grade 7 in Music GCSE and at least Grade 6 Associated Board Examination (or equivalent standard) at the start of Year 12 in at least one or more instruments (which may include voice); or Grade 5 Associated Board Theory and at least Grade 6 Associated Board Examination (or equivalent standard) at the start of Year 12 in at least one or more instruments (which may include voice) and previous experience of composition
Philosophy/Religious Studies	Grade 6 in Religious Studies, or Grade 6 in History or Grade 6 in English Literature
Physical Education	Grade 6 in PE. For girls who have not studied PE at GCSE, Grade 6 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Grade 6/6 in Dual Science
Physics	Grade 7 in Physics and Grade 7 in Mathematics
Politics	Grade 6 in a Humanities subject
Psychology	Grade 6 in Biology or Grade 6/6 in Dual Science

