

# St Helen's School

Brave thinkers. True colours.

Prospectus 2023 | 24

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



“There is always something **exciting** going on at St Helen's. In the classroom, we are taught a **stimulating** curriculum which allows us to **explore** new concepts in a **supportive** work environment, whilst our teachers **encourage** every pupil to stretch and **challenge** themselves further.

But, St Helen's focuses on so much more than academic development – I have found my true passions by really engaging in everything our school has to offer. By taking a look outside on the sports fields, or listening to the buzz of the music and drama departments, you will find an abundance of extra-curricular opportunities, where there is something for every pupil to get involved in. The support from our school community is also incredible – all of the friends I have made here are always looking out for each other and motivating each other to be the best versions of themselves. With them, I have made some amazing memories along the way which I am sure will stay with me for a lifetime.”

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Mehma | Head Girl 2023-24





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# Imagine how far you can go at St Helen's.

## Who do you want to be?

A St Helen's girl is **brave** and **true**, ever intellectually **curious**. She believes she can do anything. She wants to explore how she can best interact with the world around her and **make a difference** for the better in her own way. She's ready for whatever the future brings.

## Visit us

Discover more about our thriving and exciting school at our upcoming Open Events. You will have the opportunity to hear from Mrs Pollard, our Interim Headmistress, and meet our senior staff, teachers and current students.

You will also tour our state-of-the-art academic, sporting and creative facilities, spread across our immaculate 21-acre site. Staff will be on hand to tell you more about our subjects and co-curricular activities, in addition to our Admissions process.

Register your interest for our next open event at [sthelens.london/admissions/visit-us-open-mornings/](http://sthelens.london/admissions/visit-us-open-mornings/)



## Welcome to St Helen's

Everything we do at St Helen's is designed to ensure that all students are **valued and known**, and are able to become the best possible version of themselves. We are dedicated to enabling our students to be happy and active and to develop into **creative, flexible** and **curious** thinkers and kind, caring, successful and responsible young people. We are highly ambitious for all our students and committed to ensuring that every girl is supported, encouraged and challenged.

At St Helen's, we explore the depth and breadth of everyone's potential. We provide the very best teaching by staff who are passionate about their subjects and deeply knowledgeable about how girls learn at every age. We inspire our students to think deeply and to develop their curiosity about the world around them, opening doors to the interesting and fulfilling futures that lie in wait, and to the ambitious university courses and careers they set their hearts on. Exceptional exam results are important but are just part of the St Helen's story. From the girl in Nursery coming to 'big' school for the first time, to the Year 7 student about to become a teenager, every girl will be encouraged to develop a rich intelligence, a desire to find out more, and to work things out for herself. By taking risks and developing her imagination, your daughter will learn to know and understand what she cares about and have the confidence to go out into the world and live the life she wants to lead.

What happens outside the classroom is just as important. Our co-curricular programme provides each girl with opportunities to discover her talents and her passions. Whether it is through sport, music, drama, dance, the myriad clubs and societies on offer every week – through charity work and volunteering in the community, or participation in our Outreach Programme, our students will have fun, develop key skills, and find out a lot about themselves.

They will learn to be resourceful and flexible, to join in, to adapt to different situations, to try their best and be brave enough to take a risk or try something new. Our students, whether they join us in Nursery, in Year 7 or in the Sixth Form, all contribute to the bright, energetic and supportive atmosphere that permeates all we do at school. They are wonderfully supportive of each other and we are very proud of the kind-hearted and compassionate approach that is at the heart of our school life.

This booklet only provides a snapshot of St Helen's; I encourage you to visit us too so that you can experience first-hand what makes this school such a warm and exciting place to learn.



Mrs Tracy Pollard  
Interim Headmistress





# Prep School

Education of your children is such a joy and every moment of every day should be filled with the same energy and instinctive curiosity that young children have. St Helen's Prep School leads children on an adventure, whether that be finding a crashed spaceship in the grounds, exploring the trim trail, coding robots or discovering which things float or sink and why. Nursery and Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage) are very child-led and as much time is spent outside as inside the classroom.

Whilst the early years emphasise child-initiated learning, high standards of literacy and numeracy are achieved, enabling girls to progress confidently to more structured activities at Key Stage 1.

Key Stage 2 consists of Years 3 to 6 (for girls between the ages of 7 and 11) and features a wide range of specialist facilities housed in the state-of-the-art Woolfson building. These include a Science laboratory, D&T workshop and Art and Drama studios.

Girls spend their days buzzing around enjoying their increased ability to learn independently and collaboratively. Children don't stop asking questions, but now they ask them in a more structured way and are encouraged to find ways of answering them themselves. Much of the education is still outside in our amazing grounds – from graffiti workshops and outside Science to writing cloud poetry and long jump.





## Early Years

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we aim to develop key learning skills such as listening, speaking, concentration, playing, persistence, and working and co-operating together with other girls.

**This is achieved through the seven areas of learning, which consist of three prime areas:**

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

**And the four specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design.**

The transition from the pre-school years to full time education in the Early Years Foundation Stage is eased by the provision of regular opportunities for indoor and outdoor play.

During Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, girls are taught within the framework of the National Curriculum and usually go much beyond it. A high profile is given to the study of English, Mathematics and Science while Design and Technology, Art, Geography and History are generally topic-based. We use a multi-sensory approach for the teaching of reading which includes a lively and structured programme of phonics.

Computing and the use of IT are embedded in all learning; interactive whiteboards, iPads, PCs and laptops are used throughout Prep School.

Teachers enable everyone to develop their talents to the full, and each girl's progress is closely monitored. Termly Learning Review Weeks take place in order to help us to assess and track each student's attainment and progress. These reviews also help us to adapt our teaching and identify any additional support or challenge which may be required.

We ensure that each child is appropriately challenged in their learning and can fulfil their academic potential, using our ethos of 'Teaching to the Top'. In cases where a specific need is identified, we offer specialist support through our Individual Needs department.

## The Broader Curriculum

All girls receive training in mindfulness techniques to help with mental health, resilience and stress reduction. Zones of Regulation are also used to help the girls to regulate themselves ready for successful learning. Religious Education enables the children to appreciate what religious practices and traditions mean to those of different faiths and cultures. Through Circle Time, the girls discuss issues covered in our Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Education (PSHCE) programme.

All girls benefit from specialist teaching in Physical Education, Swimming, Speech and Drama, Music and Ballet (from Nursery to Year 2) within the weekly timetable.

In addition, our wide co-curricular programme includes opportunities for activities such as skiing, Taekwondo, fencing, cheerleading, chess and robotics.

All year groups benefit from educational trips to places of interest, museums and art galleries, and from visits to the school by speakers and performers. Residential trips are introduced in Key Stage 2; Year 4 girls spend 2 nights at Woodrow High House, Year 5 spend 3 nights at Mill on the Brue and Year 6 spend 4 nights at a PGL centre near the coast.

Form teachers deliver the PSHCE programme with additional input from specialist speakers and our assembly programme. The programme covers many topics, including relationships, healthy living, citizenship and government.

There are many opportunities for parents to come and support their daughters in their various activities throughout the year, which include Learn with Your Daughter, Class Assemblies, Harvest Festival, the Christmas plays, Open Ballet, the Gym & Dance Show and Sports Day.

**21** ACRES  
**GREEN SPACE**







## Outdoor Education

We are blessed with the most outstanding grounds and outdoor resources and we make full use of them in Prep School. We have a wildlife pond, meadow, secret woodland, lawns, playgrounds and a mud kitchen. This means we have a wide range of different environments for the girls to explore, learn and get muddy in!

We have an extensive and developing outdoor education programme. Classes go out for adventures such as 'Going on a Bear Hunt' with their classroom teachers or acting out the movement of sea-creatures in Drama by 'swimming' round the lawns. We have recently developed our provision outside our three Nursery classrooms to allow for free-flow indoor/outdoor learning through play. This year, we will be developing our own Forest School for the children to visit regularly.

Once the girls move into Key Stage 1 and 2 their outdoor learning is usually part of their curriculum lesson time. Examples of lesson outdoor learning might be lying on the grass observing the clouds and writing cloud poems or using keys to identify plant species. Special activities such as making campfires and cooking s'mores, caring for our chickens and gardening provide much excitement.

Wellington boots are on the uniform list – they need them as young girls should get muddy!

## Assemblies

Assemblies are a key element in the girls' education. An awareness of ethical and moral questions about the community and environment, and the importance of mutual respect, are celebrated through story and drama. The girls also regularly lead 'House' or 'Form' assemblies. We celebrate success formally every Friday, where certificates are awarded for good learning attitudes and behaviour, enhancing the school's positive ethos.

At the end of each term we hold assemblies where girls are rewarded with certificates for their positive character attributes and learning habits during the term. There is also a Prizegiving at the end of the Summer Term which is a formal celebration, with prizes given across the school for academic leadership and progress, as well as other specific awards.

## Community

From Year 2 girls belong to one of four Houses. Girls who make a valuable contribution to School or show a particularly good attitude to their learning are given a House point, encouraging teamwork and personal initiative. During the year, girls take part in a number of House events.

The School Council, with an elected representative from each class, is run by the girls and meets regularly, enabling them to develop an understanding of their ability to influence positive changes within the school.

The Eco-Council is also run by the girls and helps to raise awareness of environmental issues. A representative from each class sits on the Eco-Council.

All girls in Year 6 are asked to take on positions of responsibility and these teams help to lead the Prep School community.

By the end of Year 6, the girls have developed a set of skills and an outlook on learning that enables them to transfer smoothly to Senior School and to move forward successfully to the next stage of their education.

**“Excellent in all areas.”**

ISI Inspection Report | 2016





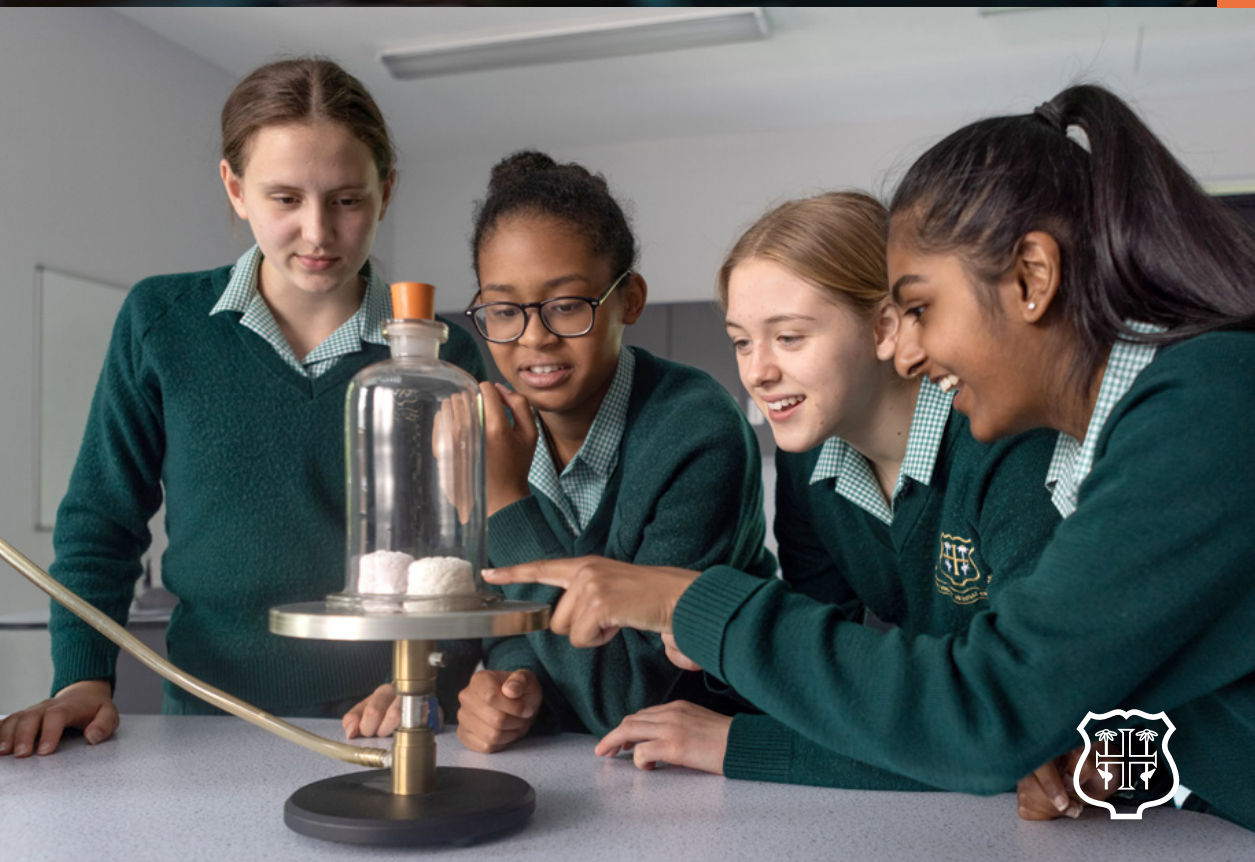
# Senior School

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Our Senior School is divided into three Sections:

- | Girls in Years 7 to 9 are members of Middle School, encompassing Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum.
- | Upper School incorporates Years 10 and 11 and takes girls through Key Stage 4 / GCSE.
- | The Sixth Form caters for our post-16 students who follow courses leading to A Level examinations and an extensive Enrichment Programme.







## Middle School

**In Middle School all students follow a curriculum, incorporating the best elements of the National Curriculum and much more. Subject specialists teach in their own areas, enabling the efficient provision and delivery of suitable learning and teaching materials.**

All students study the core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science (taught as a combined course in Year 7, and in separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons from Year 8). Throughout the Middle School years all students also study Art, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Music, and Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. In addition to timetabled PE lessons, students compete against other schools in a wide range of team and individual sports. All students take part in an annual Gym and Dance Show in Year 7 and Year 8.

By the end of Middle School in Year 9 students will have had the opportunity to study two modern foreign languages and will study at least one of them to GCSE. German, French, Spanish or Mandarin are our most popular languages. In addition all students study Latin from Year 7; in Year 9 they opt either to continue with Latin, to add Greek alongside Latin, or to follow a non-linguistic Classical Civilisation course.

Digital learning is now fully embedded throughout the school and students now experience much of their learning through their own personal Surface devices, OneNote's Class Notebook and Microsoft Teams. Students therefore have access to a wide range of digital tools to complete tasks in a manner that suits their learning needs; teachers use a blended approach in the classroom, combining the most successful traditional teaching and learning methods with new technology to enable the girls to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding.

The timetabled curriculum in Middle School also includes our programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) covering healthy living, relationships and sex education, current affairs, fundamental British values, study skills and social issues, as well as elements of our careers education programme. The sessions are led by teachers with advice and input from outside experts and our own specialist staff.

On joining Senior School, students are allocated to a tutor group of approximately 20 students. The Form Tutor plays a central role in providing pastoral care, and is the first port of call for students, teachers, and parents. The tutor's main role is to promote personal wellbeing, effective academic progress, and engagement with our extensive co-curricular programme through our GROW (Goals, Reality, Obstacles, Way Forward) coaching model, which empowers every student to realise her full potential.

Students are increasingly encouraged to take responsibility for their learning as they progress through school. Some homework time each week is set aside for self-directed study so that students can develop independence and self-regulation in their learning. Teachers support students as they reflect on how they learn and develop new strategies for problem solving in all areas of the curriculum.

In addition, our subject staff monitor individual progress and provide both challenge and support within the programme of study, helping every girl achieve her potential. For this reason, students are broadly banded by ability in Mathematics from Year 7, ensuring that the pace of work is appropriate and that the right level of support is provided where necessary. Tutors monitor academic progress and all-round development of each student, under the overall guidance of the Head of Year. If extra support is required, the Individual Needs Department can provide this in the form of one-to-one tuition or in small study groups.

Find out more about our Pastoral Care [HERE](#)

## Upper School

**As students enter Upper School in Year 10, they embark upon their GCSE or iGCSE courses. All students take courses in English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, a modern or classical language and a humanities subject. Students continue to be banded by ability in Mathematics, ensuring that each student is able to tackle this course at a pace and depth that is best suited to her needs.**

In addition to this core curriculum, students are able to choose two further subjects. Our current options list comprises Art, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Latin, Mandarin, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Spanish.

The Upper School curriculum is complemented by our programme of Physical Education and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Careers Education has a high profile within our PSHCE programme, and we help students to consider their future career options and to reach decisions about their Sixth Form choices.

We also discuss social and current affairs and include blocks of lessons on health and lifestyles, financial literacy, personal safety, relationships and self-esteem, political literacy, fundamental British values and community involvement. Outside speakers assist teachers and our own specialist staff in covering issues such as contraception, STIs and drugs. In Physical Education, students are able to participate in a range of individual or small group activities, continue their involvement in team games, or complete a Sports Leaders qualification.

The Upper School Representatives help to organise social events when students have the opportunity to participate in activities ranging from ice-skating to movie nights and laser tag, providing well-deserved fun with their friends and teachers.

On entering Senior School, students join one of our four Houses. Involvement in House activities promotes creativity, teamwork and personal initiative. During the year, students take part in a number of House events and competitions, including House Arts, our student-led Drama and Performing Arts competition which is the highlight of the year for many students. As they progress through school there are opportunities to develop leadership skills in sports and the co-curricular programme.

Additionally, students take on community responsibilities in leadership roles in each section of the school. These include Middle School Delegates, Upper School Reps, Sixth Form Prefects, House Officers and Year Leaders.

### Our Scholars (HIP) Programme

For Years 8 to 12, as part of our 'Teaching to the Top' philosophy, the Scholars Programme caters for students whose ongoing engagement in and beyond the curriculum consistently suggests that they are students of the Highest Intellectual Potential (HIP). The innovative programme, which uniquely draws on the behavioural sciences, is centred around weekly small group mentoring sessions to stretch students across all disciplines, as well as termly academic challenges that are open to all students through Senior School and into Sixth Form.



SHORTLISTED FOR  
**T4'S WORLD'S BEST  
SCHOOL PRIZE**  
FOR INNOVATION





# What is a St Helen's Learner?

Our academic, pastoral and co-curricular activities **empower** our students to **develop** and **cherish** the Learner Habits and Character Attributes, enabling them to become the **best** version of themselves.

## Learner Habits

Pursuit of knowledge

**Problem-solving**

**Creativity**

**Metacognition**

## Character Attributes

**Courage**

**Integrity**

**Resilience**

**Kindness**





# Sixth Form

We are enormously proud of the diversity of interests amongst our students. Students continue their studies at the most prestigious and well-respected institutions in fields such as Art, Music and Languages, as well as a range of STEM and Humanities subjects.

The flexibility and scope of our curriculum offers a unique and bespoke Sixth Form experience with around 30 A Level subjects to choose from. It also allows students to deepen their academic passions in small, focused classes and receive the best possible preparation for Higher Education.





## A Levels

Among our A Level subjects are: Art & Design (Fine Art), Biology, Chemistry, Classical Civilisation, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Design & Technology, Drama & Theatre, Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, German, History, History of Art, Latin, Mandarin, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies and Spanish.

Students who are undecided on their best choice of three A Levels may start four A Levels, then discontinue one subject at a later date.

Enhancement courses and the EPQ are optional but strongly recommended as they will deepen understanding of subject areas and a student's overall holistic education.

The EPQ offers students the opportunity to complete a piece of extended research which enables them to broaden their studies, or to engage much more deeply with a specific area within an A Level subject. The EPQ qualification is an excellent way to develop independence of thought and scholarship, as well as to demonstrate perseverance and passion. Many universities now make the EPQ part of a more favourable offer to potential students.

Our Enhancement courses in Year 12 provide breadth and encourage the development of interest in subject areas beyond the core A Level programme. Enhancement courses typically include Sports Science, Survival Cookery, School Magazine (The Linkway) and the chance to develop knowledge of a modern foreign language.

### Examinations

To ensure that students are fully prepared for public examinations, there are formal examinations in all subjects at appropriate times in Years 12 and 13. Results of these examinations are communicated to parents and discussed in detail with the students in order to ensure that they build on their successes and address any areas for improvement. Public examinations take place in the Summer Term only: results are published in August.

APPROX  
**30**  
SUBJECTS AT  
**A** LEVEL

## The Futures Programme

**The Futures Programme is designed to enable students to flourish in their lives beyond school: to develop the resilience, self-confidence, professional and networking skills to become the leaders of tomorrow in their chosen fields. We are proud to offer a comprehensive and personalised Futures Programme, and provide a range of networking and mentoring opportunities for students in the transition to Higher Education and beyond.**

As part of the Futures Programme, all students in the Sixth Form complete the Personal Impact Programme, which aims to help students present themselves professionally and showcase their skills and abilities effectively in a range of contexts.

Students will also follow subject-specific university preparation courses which focus on researching and preparing students' Higher Education applications and developing the study skills required to succeed at university.

Students will also benefit from our Futures Mentoring Programme which complements our extensive programme of networking opportunities and is a bespoke service offered to Sixth Formers to facilitate contacts with professionals from our vibrant alumnae and parental network.

Underpinning our programme and approach is a commitment to ensuring that all students receive outstanding personalised guidance and are empowered to realise their aspirations. This is achieved through regular mentoring, coaching, and planning meetings with their tutors, the Director and Deputy Director of Futures and external, qualified careers advisers. Our offering includes tailored preparation for Oxbridge applicants and for those making Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine applications.

The Physical Education programme is designed to give students a plethora of choices to develop fitness, improve wellbeing, and enjoy a wide range of individual and team sports. Some Sixth Form students complete the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification during Year 12, giving them a recognised certificate for employment in the Leisure sector as a Lifeguard.

## Highly Commended School of the Year for Student Careers Programme

*Inaugural Independent Schools of the Year Awards*

Find out more about our Futures Programme [HERE](#)





## Assemblies

Assemblies in Senior School provide a focus for the sharing of values, for exploring important contemporary issues and for the development of a sense of responsibility within the community. Within a broadly Christian framework, we welcome opportunities to draw on many of the great religious traditions. The Senior School meets together as a community for assembly fortnightly; on other days girls meet in their pastoral Sections, Year groups, Houses, or Form Tutor groups.

## Co-Curricular Programme

Our extensive co-curricular programme provides an exciting range of opportunities for students to develop their interests and to participate in a wide range of activities.

The school has many clubs and societies, including Classics, Debating, the Eco Club, Literature in Context, The South Asian Society, Robotics, Manga, CREST Awards, JSOC and Young Enterprise, as well as a huge variety of musical groups, bands and orchestras, and sports clubs.

We encourage the girls to take part in the performing arts, regularly producing plays and concerts which involve students over a wide age range. In our annual House Arts Competition, students take responsibility for writing, producing, directing and performing plays incorporating art, dance, drama and music. Merchant Taylors' School students are invited to join in the casts of St Helen's plays and musical productions, and vice versa; we produce a Joint Concert every year in which the joint Orchestra and the joint Choral Society perform.

Many St Helen's students participate enthusiastically in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, taking the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Membership of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), operated jointly with Merchant Taylors' School, gives older students invaluable opportunities to develop leadership qualities and a range of life skills.

## Trips, Visits and Exchanges

Trips and visits are an important feature of our educational programme, complementing and enriching the learning which takes place in the classroom. We have an extensive programme of visits to the theatre and to art galleries and museums. History, Geography and Classics trips, to venues such as the World War One Battlefields around Ypres, the Black Country Living Museum and London Docklands, focus on broadening the understanding of particular subjects. Girls in the Sixth Form often attend day conferences in London which support their examination courses, while those studying Geography attend Field Courses.

We have extensive experience of organising trips abroad and girls are able to take part in trips to other countries which support their studies or interests.

We regularly hold exchanges with schools in Spain and Germany; there have been study visits to Montpellier, Iceland, Poland, and Berlin in recent years, as well as Classics visits to Sicily and the Bay of Naples. We also have regular ski trips to Europe or the US and visits to places as diverse as China, Morocco and Japan. In summer 2019 a group of students visited the village of Mitete in Uganda to help transform the village school and install improved facilities for the whole village, after raising over £13,000 to fund this voluntary project.

Brave thinkers. True colours.

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# Information

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“St Helen's is a place where every girl can grow in confidence and achieve their aspirations, supported by a network of staff and students. Through a stimulating curriculum and a wide range of amazing extra-curricular opportunities, girls can discover new and exciting ideas, and find out what truly drives them. I have made some incredible friends along the way - whether it is in a Maths lesson or in the middle of a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, there is always someone to encourage and support you!”

Libby | Head Girl 2022 | 23



## Exam Results Summer 2023

In 2020 and 2021, grades were awarded by centre-assessed grades (CAGs) and teacher-assessed grades (TAGs) respectively, due to the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic. These different forms of assessment meant that grades were higher than in normal (pre-pandemic) exam years. Last summer, 2022, there was a transition to grades that were set at roughly a midpoint between the 2019 and 2021 results.

### Results accurate as of 1 September 2023

#### A Level

Subjects	Entries	% A*	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-C
Art & Design ( <i>Fine Art</i> )	7	43%	57%	100%	100%
Biology	36	22%	53%	81%	97%
Chemistry	33	18%	58%	73%	97%
Classical Civilisation	2	-	-	50%	100%
Computer Science	7	14%	43%	71%	100%
D&T ( <i>Product Design</i> )	6	33%	67%	100%	100%
Drama & Theatre	2	-	50%	100%	100%
Economics	16	94%	94%	100%	100%
English Literature	10	60%	100%	100%	100%
French	6	17%	100%	100%	100%
Further Mathematics	2	-	-	50%	100%
Geography	10	20%	50%	90%	100%
German	1	-	100%	100%	100%
History	12	17%	67%	92%	100%
History of Art	4	50%	75%	100%	100%
Italian	2	-	50%	100%	100%
Japanese	2	-	-	100%	100%
Mathematics	34	24%	74%	88%	100%
Music	1	-	-	100%	100%
Physical Education	4	50%	75%	75%	100%
Physics	2	-	-	50%	100%
Politics	5	-	40%	100%	100%
Psychology	17	35%	65%	88%	100%
Religious Studies	5	20%	80%	80%	100%
Spanish	4	50%	75%	100%	100%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>99%</b>

Now, in 2023, the government and Ofqual have announced that grades awarded nationally are expected to be similar to the 2019 (pre-pandemic) profile. Even if the quality standard of exams is lower than in 2019, they have put protections in place to ensure that grades awarded are not lower.

In other words, candidates have the same chance of getting a 9, or a 7, as they would have done in 2019. This means that national results today will be lower than they were in the previous three years, and individual schools are expecting to see this same pattern..

#### The school's overall A Level results in 2023

- | 29% of A Levels graded **A\***
- | 64% of students achieved **A\*-A**
- | 87% of grades awarded **A\*-B**
- | 99% of grades awarded **A\*-C**
- | 42% of our Year 13 students achieved **A\*** and **A** grades across all their subjects

# 87%

OF A LEVEL STUDENTS  
ACHIEVED GRADES

# A\*-B





## Exam Results Summer 2023

Results accurate as of 1 September 2023

## GCSE Results

Subjects	Entries	9	9 to 8	9 to 7	9 to 6
Art & Design ( <i>Fine Art</i> )	10	30%	40%	70%	100%
Biology	93	37%	66%	86%	97%
Chemistry	93	39%	72%	94%	99%
Chinese	11	46%	55%	100%	100%
Classical Civilisation	6	17%	33%	83%	100%
Classical Greek	2	100%	100%	100%	100%
Combined Science	10	-	-	40%	80%
Computer Science	25	24%	52%	84%	96%
Design & Technology	9	33%	89%	100%	100%
Drama	32	25%	47%	66%	94%
English Language	98	28%	51%	70%	96%
English Literature	98	22%	50%	77%	93%
French	35	29%	49%	66%	83%
Further Mathematics	23	74%	91%	96%	100%
Geography	55	42%	76%	86%	96%
German	4	25%	75%	75%	100%
History	40	43%	68%	90%	95%
Italian	3	-	33%	100%	100%
Latin	25	56%	76%	92%	96%
Mathematics	98	34%	72%	91%	96%
Music	20	20%	40%	70%	95%
Physical Education	9	22%	56%	89%	100%
Physics	93	42%	73%	86%	97%
Religious Studies	51	45%	75%	92%	98%
Spanish	50	26%	56%	88%	94%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>96%</b>

## The school's overall GCSE results in 2023

- | 35% of all grades awarded were **grade 9**
- | 63% of students achieved **grades 9-8**
- | 84% of grades awarded were **grades 9-7**
- | 96% of students achieved **grades 9-6**
- | 54% of our Year 11 students achieved all **grades 9-7** across every subject

63%

OF GCSE STUDENTS  
ACHIEVED GRADES

9-8

Please note, results are provisional until all post-examination services have been completed by exam boards.





## Destinations of Sixth Form Leavers 2023

We work closely with each student to understand their interests, long-term goals and aspirations, and offer tailored advice and support to ensure that the girls set themselves up for success. The vast majority of our students choose to go on to Higher Education after their A Levels.

### Of our 2023 leavers (as of 1 September 2023)

- **72%** secured places at their first choice university
- **67%** are going to Russell Group institutions, including Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial and LSE
- **67%** are going on to attend universities listed in The Times Top 30

Some girls have chosen to take a gap year before taking up a university place in order to travel, work and enhance their CVs. We are so proud of all our students and the huge variety of pathways they choose to follow.

Below is a selection of the broad range of courses which students are going on to study at university in autumn 2023.

#### Destinations

- | Cardiff University
- | City, University of London
- | Durham University
- | Imperial College London
- | King's College London
- | London School of Economics and Political Science
- | Loughborough University
- | Newcastle University
- | Nottingham Trent University
- | Queen Mary University of London
- | Royal Holloway, University of London
- | Royal Veterinary College, University of London
- | SOAS University of London
- | UCL (University College London)
- | University of Bath
- | University of Birmingham
- | University of Brighton
- | University of Cambridge
- | University of Glasgow
- | University of Greenwich
- | University of Leeds
- | University of Liverpool
- | University of Manchester
- | University of Nottingham
- | University of Oxford
- | University of Portsmouth
- | University of Southampton
- | University of Warwick
- | University of Winchester
- | University of York

#### Subjects

Artificial Intelligence	Environmental Geoscience
Actuarial Science	Fashion Marketing
Ancient History	French and Beginners' Russian
Archaeology	Geography
Archaeology and Geography	History
Architecture	History of Art
Architecture with professional placement	Law
Biochemistry with a Modern Language	Law with Hispanic Law
Biochemistry with placement year	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Biochemistry with professional placement	Management
Biological Sciences	Medicine
Biomedical Sciences	Modern Languages
Business Law	Neuroscience
Business Management	Pharmacy
Chemical Engineering	Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
Chemistry	Politics and History
Civil Engineering	Politics and International Studies
Computer Science (with Integrated Foundation Year)	Politics with International Relations
Dental Surgery	Psychology
Dentistry	Science with Foundation Year
Dentistry (BDS first-year entry)	Sociology
Economics	Sport and Exercise Science
Electronic Engineering	Veterinary Medicine
Engineering with Foundation Year	
English Literature	







## Our Outreach and Partnership Programme

At St Helen's we are rooted in our community and are proud to share our facilities, expertise, knowledge and experience with those around us. Our Outreach and Partnership programme also helps St Helen's students gain valuable skills and experience which are applicable to a range of higher education and career pathways, and which will help prepare them for life beyond school in all sorts of ways.

### Our volunteering programme is a weekly curriculum based programme of activities for students in Year 12 which has multiple strands:

- Activity Days, Masterclass series and study group programmes, for pupils at local primary schools
- Literacy and Oracy
- Provision of specific resources, guidance and support as needed

### Activity Days

We offer Activity Days for students in local state maintained primary schools during which they can experience a range of workshops including Science based sessions such as 'CSI St Helen's', Animal Behaviour, Sports Science, Microscopes and life, as well as Art, Music, DT and a French re-enactment day led by our MFL team.

We also offer sporting or practical Activity Days that include swimming, climbing, badminton, netball, basketball, volleyball, building campfires, toasting marshmallows, orienteering and rounders. The Masterclasses and study group programmes offer a series of sessions with a specific focus, such as mathematical transformations, probability, Pythagoras, angles, magic squares, aerospace and engineering days.

### Literacy and Oracy

The aim of this strand of the programme is to support the literacy and oracy of students in the local community which has been significantly impacted through the coronavirus crisis. In line with Government findings and projects identifying literacy and oracy as an area requiring particular support in the post-Covid era, we have developed our Literacy and Oracy Outreach Programme using in-house language, phonics and literacy expertise.

**The programme supports Early Language Development, phonics recognition, reading and comprehension through:**

- Small world play and language modelling
- Phonics teaching and specialist support for phonics and early reading
- Reading comprehension and paired reading strategies

Following comprehensive training, Sixth Form students go into selected local primary schools and provide support with phonics recognition and early language development.

### Provision of specific resources, guidance and support as needed

We provide additional provision of resources, guidance and expertise in response to specific needs, including specialist dyslexia screening for students, subject specific support and training for teachers, requested resources e.g. jigsaws and puzzles, play equipment, bikes and tricycles, coats, rainsuits, sports and other general equipment.

Our students, our partnership pupils, their parents and teachers find the experience enormously rewarding. To date the programme has directly benefited over 400 primary-age students and over 30 teachers at our partner schools.





## Admissions

We understand the importance of choosing a school where your daughter will thrive and flourish, so our Admissions process is designed to support this.

Most girls enter the school at one of our main entry points: Nursery (3+), Reception (4+), Year 7 (11+) or the Sixth Form (16+). Occasional places in other age groups may sometimes be available. The school will make every effort to accommodate individual learning needs. Please contact the Admissions Department to discuss any requirements.

## Registration

Registration is the start of our Admissions process and is recommended after you have attended one of our Open Events.

When you complete your online registration, you will be required to pay a registration fee. Your daughter's name will then be entered on a list of future candidates for the school, but this does not constitute the offer of a place.

## Entry to Prep School

For girls aged 3 (Nursery) or 4 (Reception) by 31st August 2024

Entry is selective as a result of observations made during in-school assessments, which involve a variety of informal activities through play for ages 3+ and 4+.

**Assessments for entry in September 2024 will take place on 4th and 5th January 2024.**

**The closing date for registrations for 3+ and 4+ entry is Friday 3rd November 2023.**

## Entry to Senior School

For students aged 11 by 31st August 2024

We are proud to form part of The London 11+ Consortium, a body of London Independent Girls' Schools that uses a common entrance examination with a common mark scheme for the purposes of regulating Year 7 Entry procedures. All applicants will be invited to take a bespoke Consortium assessment, which goes beyond testing cognitive ability alone and seeks to discover a child's potential in creative and critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and problem-solving. If you have applied to other Consortium Schools, your daughter's test result will be passed on to those relevant schools. No further written assessment is required and we will arrange to interview all applicants.

Overseas applicants will be required to take the same assessment which can be arranged at their current school.

**The closing date for registrations for 11+ entry is Friday 10th November 2023.**

**For full information about the Consortium group, please visit The London 11+ Consortium website.**

## Entry to the Sixth Form

For students aged 16 by 31st August 2024

Students wishing to join the Sixth Form and follow the two-year A Level course require a minimum seven good passes at GCSE and iGCSE including English Language and Maths (defining a good pass as grades 9-6 on new GCSE and iGCSE subjects, or A\*-B in overseas iGCSE). All candidates must meet these minimum requirements, but individual subjects have additional specific entry requirements. External applicants will be invited to sit an entrance paper to include their choice of Sixth Form subjects. Shortlisted candidates will then be called for interview and a current Head Teacher's reference will be requested.

**The closing date for registrations for 16+ entry is Monday 23rd October 2023. The examinations will take place on Wednesday 1st November 2023.**

For overseas candidates, the examination paper can be sent by arrangement to either the student's current school, the local British Council Office or examination centre; shortlisted candidates will then be invited to attend an interview.

Find out more about our Open Events [HERE](#)

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



## A Step by Step Guide to our Admissions Process

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

### Prep School

#### Enquiry for Nursery (3+)

Open Event

Registration form and payment completed online via school website

All applicants are invited for an assessment in early January

A school report and/or reference is requested from current school

Girls who are successful following the assessment receive an offer of a place at the Head's discretion

Successful applicants accept their place by the deadline with completed form and payment of Acceptance Deposit

#### Enquiry for Reception (4+)

Open Event

Registration form and payment completed online via school website

All applicants are invited for an assessment in early January

A school report and/or reference is requested from current school

Girls who are successful following the assessment receive an offer of a place at the Head's discretion

Successful applicants accept their place by the deadline with completed form and payment of Acceptance Deposit

### Senior School

#### Enquiry for Year 7 (11+)

Open Event

Registration form and payment completed online via school website

All applicants are invited to sit the Consortium entrance test in the Autumn term

School reports and references are requested from current school

All girls are invited in for an interview

Girls who are successful following both stages receive an offer of a place at the Head's discretion

Successful applicants accept their place by the deadline with completed form and payment of Acceptance Deposit

### Sixth Form

#### Enquiry for Year 12 (16+)

Open Event

Registration form and payment completed online via school website

All applicants are invited to sit an entrance exam in the subjects they wish to study

School reports and references are requested from current school

Girls who are successful following the examinations are invited in for an interview

Girls who are successful following both stages receive an offer of a place at the Head's discretion

Successful applicants accept their place by the deadline with completed form and payment of Acceptance Deposit





## Scholarships

**Each year a number of scholarships are available at 11+.**

Academic scholarships, worth up to a maximum 40% of tuition fees, to Senior School are awarded annually. Scholarship awards are made on the basis of academic ability and are not related to family financial circumstances. All candidates sitting our entrance tests are considered for an academic scholarship which are awarded based on the entrance exam and interview results. There is no additional scholarship application or exam.

**In addition, the following scholarships are available at 11+:**

### Music

At Year 7 entry a Music Scholarship, worth up to a maximum of 30% reduction on tuition fees per annum, plus free tuition on one instrument, is offered to an academically able candidate who is also an accomplished musician. Candidates for the Music Scholarship should be at, or working towards, a Grade 5 standard or above on at least one instrument.

Shortlisted Music candidates will be invited to our Music Scholarship assessment which will include performing pieces on their first instrument (which can include voice), performing on a second instrument (where applicable), aural and sight-reading tasks and group musical activities. Evidence of a strong commitment to extra-curricular music at school is essential. A number of Music Exhibitions (free tuition on one instrument) may also be awarded.

### Sport

The 11+ Sport Scholarship offers up to a maximum 20% reduction on tuition fees per annum and is available to recognise sporting achievement and potential. Candidates are expected to submit a portfolio of evidence of their sporting achievements (all candidates), including a reference from their current Head of PE/Class (external candidates only), and external coach where applicable.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a practical assessment day. Applicants will be tested to assess above average fitness levels and be given the opportunity to perform in their sport. They will also be interviewed about their sporting interests and ambitions. In order to be considered for this award it is expected that the candidate has strength in a sport that is offered at St Helen's. Examples of such sports are athletics, netball, swimming, badminton or gymnastics.

**Music and Sport scholarship applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department no later than Friday 24th November 2023.**

### Sixth Form Scholarships

**In addition, we offer the following scholarships at Sixth Form entry for which the application deadline is Wednesday 1st November 2023.**

These scholarships are open to both internal and external applicants to our Sixth Form and more details about entry requirements can be found on our website.

- Academic scholarships
- Art scholarships
- Drama scholarships
- Languages scholarships
- Music scholarships and exhibitions
- Sports scholarships

## Our Bursary Programme

**Our Bursary Programme enables any girl to access an exceptional education at St Helen's, irrespective of their financial means or social circumstances.**

We currently provide support totalling over £1.2m to more than 78 students at the school.

The Bursary Programme consists of a means-tested financial award – in some cases, covering 100% of fees – and a comprehensive package of support which enables your daughter to thrive academically, socially and personally.

Being part of the Bursary Programme means entering into a partnership with the school, through which we work together to ensure that your daughter is able to fulfil her potential.

### All students receive:

- Regular 1:1 mentoring sessions and coaching.
- Regular feedback sessions for parents.
- Additional parental guidance and support where this would be beneficial.

**For those receiving a full bursary, the package also includes school lunches, the use of the school coach service (to and from school), specific items of uniform for Year 7 only, a compulsory co-curricular activity in Year 10, compulsory educational trips and visits and a loaned school device.**

Bursaries are not linked to Scholarships and a girl could receive both. Bursaries are awarded on entrance to St Helen's at 11+ and 16+ and are awarded and reviewed annually to reflect any changes in financial circumstances. Parents who are paying fees in whole or part and who experience financial difficulties can apply for short-term assistance subject to the availability of funds.

**More information on Bursaries can be found in the school's Bursary and Hardship Policy or by contacting the school accountant on 01923 843224.**

### Apply for a Bursary

To apply for a Bursary, you will need to complete a confidential online financial questionnaire after registration.

**11+ applications must be submitted by Friday 1st December 2023. 16+ applications must be submitted by Wednesday 1st November 2023. Bursary applications cannot be accepted after this date.**

"Receiving a Bursary enabled me to stay on in Sixth Form and finish my studies with peace of mind that the financial side of my education was taken care of. I was able to finish my A Levels with the support of teachers who have known me for most of my life. As a result, I am now at the University of Bristol, the university I always dreamed of going to and I am studying the perfect course for me, Experimental Psychology. I am so thankful to the school for allowing me to explore all of my options and become the person I am today."

Yass Rad | Alumna









## Fees 2023 | 2024

## Registration Fee

UK and Overseas

£120

## Acceptance Deposit

Senior School	Prep School (Years 3 – 6)	Prep School (Nursery – Year 2)
£3,703	£3,121	£2,965

The Acceptance Deposit is payable when the offer of a place is accepted. The difference between the Acceptance Deposit and a retained Deposit of £1,000 will be credited against the first invoice. The retained Deposit will be held until your daughter leaves the school.

## Tuition Fees

## Per Term

Senior School	£7,406
Prep School: Years 3-6 (including lunch)	£6,241
Prep School: Nursery to Year 2 (including lunch)	£5,930

## Additional Fees

## Per Term

Lunch: Year 7 onwards	£331
Lunch: Daily Pass (Year 7 onwards)	£6.72
Coach: Return	£535
Coach: One Way	£372
Coach: Ad-hoc trip – one way	£7.99

## Extended Day Provision

Provided by Camp Beaumont. Tariff, session times and booking information available online: [www.campbeaumont.co.uk/sthelensclubs](http://www.campbeaumont.co.uk/sthelensclubs)

## Extra Subjects

## Per Term

Instrumental Music	£307
Music Carousel: Years 1 - 2	£160
Solo Singing	£307
Ballet: Year 3 onwards	£148

## Speech &amp; Drama, LAMDA, Senior School

## Per Term

Solo	£307
Duo	£223
Group	£148
Sixth Form Certificate	£258

## Purchase of IT Devices

All students have the most appropriate IT devices to enable ready access to the existing use of MS Teams and Microsoft 365 services and to provide options for greater use of digital learning in the future.

For technical and practical reasons, there is a mandatory requirement for all students to use the same type of device and for this to be purchased through the school.

Purchasing through the school will ensure suitable package pricing for parents, together with the correct hardware and software specifications, making technical support much easier as the initial support will be provided by the school's experienced IT team. If mechanical and electrical warranties are required, all laptops are covered by a 3-year warranty and an optional 3-year accidental damage insurance cover with no excess. The warranty and/or accidental damage arrangements are managed by parents.

If your daughter is in receipt of a 100% bursary, the school will subsidise and loan her a device.

Further information about the devices available and how to purchase them is provided to parents once our offer of a place for your child has been accepted.

## Text Books

The fees for all girls below Sixth Form are inclusive of text books, but there will be a charge for any lost books. Girls in the Sixth Form will be charged the cost of text books issued to them.

## Examination Fees

Fees for public examinations are charged at the costs set by the examination boards.

## Payment of Fees

The above fees are payable in advance on or before the first day of each term by Direct Debit unless otherwise agreed. A discount of £300 is given when the whole year's fee is paid in advance. Outstanding fees attract interest at the school's current rate of 1.5% per month or part thereof.

## The School Day

## Prep School

Nursery	8.45am - 3.00pm	Monday - Friday
Reception - Year 1	8.45am - 3.15pm	Monday - Friday
Year 2	8.45am - 3.30pm	Monday - Friday
Years 3 -6	8.30am - 4.00pm	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
	8.30am - 3.30pm	Wednesday and Friday

Supervised morning drop-offs are available from 8.15am (Nursery - Year 6)

## Senior School

Years 7 -13	8.30am - 4.00pm	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
	8.30am - 3.35pm	Wednesday and Friday



## Before and After School Care

### Prep School

St Helen's offers a Breakfast Club and After School Club service to support working families in Prep School. The clubs are organised and run by our wraparound care partner Camp Beaumont. Many of the staff are also St Helen's staff so transition and care is smooth.

Breakfast Club is available to girls in Nursery up to Year 6 from 7.30am. Girls can enjoy a healthy breakfast, served until 8.00am, followed by supervised play before they are accompanied to their classrooms for the start of the school day.

After School Club is available for all girls in Nursery- Year 6 until 6pm. After a light teatime snack, girls join in a range of organised activities, which vary according to the day of the week, until they are collected.

You will have the flexibility to opt for these services on a day-to-day basis or to make a termly commitment. All bookings and enquiries should be made to Camp Beaumont.

Further information can be found on the Camp Beaumont website at [campbeaumont.co.uk/sthelensclubs](http://campbeaumont.co.uk/sthelensclubs)

### Senior School

Senior School students can arrive at school from 7.30am and relax, study or read in the dining room. After School, for those not involved in co-curricular activities, the Library is open until 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and until 4.30pm on Friday, staffed by our enthusiastic librarian. For many of our students, our librarian is a source of inspiration and guidance on all matters scholastic.

## Uniform

Uniform is compulsory for all girls from Nursery to Year 11.

The regulation uniform may be obtained from the school outfitter Pullens at [uniform4kids.com](http://uniform4kids.com)

We also hold second-hand uniform sales every half-term. Sixth Form students do not have a uniform; they may wear any clothing which is appropriate for school.

## How to find us

### By Road

St Helen's School is within easy reach of the A40, M1 and M25.

Car parks and drop-off points are located on Green Lane (postcode HA6 1AF).

Address for our main Senior School entrance and Reception (by foot):

**St Helen's School**  
**Eastbury Rd, Northwood HA6 3AS**

### By Tube

Northwood Station is on the Metropolitan Line served by trains originating at Baker Street or Aldgate. The journey time is about 32 minutes from Baker Street.

As you leave Northwood Underground Station, cross to the opposite side of the road junction and walk up Eastbury Road. The main Senior School entrance and Reception is on your right.





## Coaches 2023 | 24

Our coach service provides students with convenient, safe, reliable and environmentally-friendly transport to and from school, for students in Year 3 and above.

Routes cover Amersham, Barnet, Beaconsfield, Borehamwood, Canons Park, Chorleywood, Ealing, Edgware, Elstree, Finchley, Gerrards Cross, Harrow, Kenton, Kingsbury, Little Chalfont, Mill Hill, Stanmore and Wembley.

More information about our coach service, including timetables, route information and FAQs can be found 24/7 at [sthelens.vectare.co.uk](http://sthelens.vectare.co.uk). If you require further information on or have a question or concern about our coach service please contact [coaches@sthelens.london](mailto:coaches@sthelens.london).

### Timings

- All coaches are timed to reach school by 8.15am.
- Coaches leave the school at approximately 4.10pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 3.45pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Late coach services leave the school at 5.45pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 5.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Where possible, we are happy to investigate new routes, and update our existing routes and schedules, to accommodate new passengers.

### Our coach service is...

#### Safe

- Coaches are professionally and regularly serviced and maintained.
- All drivers have enhanced DBS (CRB) checks renewed every three years.
- Seat belts are fitted on all coaches.
- Coaches drop-off in a dedicated coach park area on the school site.

#### Green

- Reduces congestion in and around the school, supporting our Green Flag award status.
- Coaches are fitted with specialist exhausts which reduce their emissions to less than that of an average car.

#### Flexible

- All are welcome to trial the coach service without obligation.
- Girls can use the coach on an ad-hoc basis.
- Girls can use any coach, pick up/drop off point at any time, subject to availability.

#### Fun

- Girls enjoy interaction with other students from across the school.
- Coaches give girls an opportunity to make new friends.



Senior School

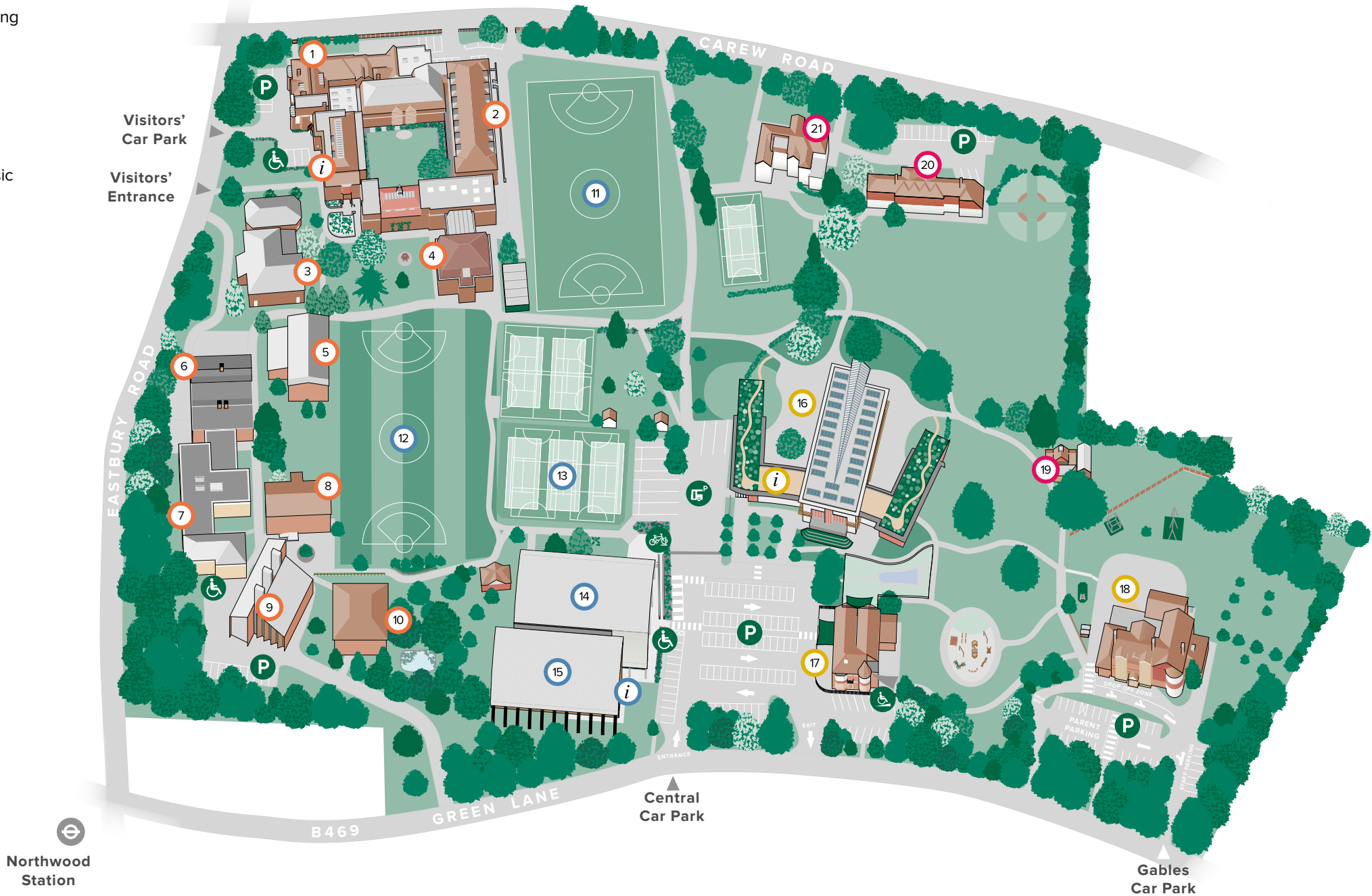
- 1 | Senior School Main Building
- 2 | Rowland Brown Hall
- 3 | June Leader
- 4 | Kennedy
- 5 | The Centre
- 6 | STEM Centre
- 7 | Science
- 8 | Lund
- 9 | Mary Short School of Music
- 10 | Mackenzie
- i | Visitors' Entrance

Prep School

- 16 | Woolfson
- 17 | Little Gables
- 18 | Gables
- i | Visitors' Entrance

Sports Facilities

- 11 | All-Weather Pitch
  - 12 | Top Pitch
  - 13 | Air Dome (Oct - Apr)
  - 14 | Sports Centre
  - 15 | Swimming Pool
  - i | Sports Reception
- 
- 19 | Old Stables (Estates)
  - 20 | Longworthe
  - 21 | Gwyer





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 @sthelensnorthwood

 @StHelensSchool

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