



St. Mary's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



INSPIRE • CHALLENGE • SUCCEED

Welcome

A warm welcome to St Mary's. At St Mary's you will always find a warm welcome that is built on a strong Christian ethos and excellent relationships between adults and students. We are a happy and inclusive school where students tell us they feel very safe and well cared for and where they enjoy their learning. Central to our success is an ethos where we all work together and where individual skills, talents and cultural heritage are respected and valued.

We are a school with very high aspirations for our students, their families and the local community. We provide the best possible personalised support allowing every student to realise their full potential and to attain highly. A rich and exciting curriculum provision makes learning practical, engaging and enjoyable. Learning is sharply focussed on the literacy, numeracy and life skills that underpin personal, social and academic development.

At St Mary's we pride ourselves on the very highest standards for all learners. Our work and the achievements of our students are regularly recognised as being outstanding and reflecting excellence. We enjoy taking a role in leading education practice locally and nationally for the benefit of our learning community. Student Voice is an important part of our school and every student is expected to take advantage of the many enrichment and leadership opportunities that are provided as part of their learning journey.

We look forward to working with you and your family and sharing our exciting future with you.

Stephanie Benbow MA Ed., B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH
Head Teacher





MOTIVATE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

An Outstanding Learning Experience

Every student at St Mary's is encouraged to be aspirational in their outlook and is given opportunities to achieve their full potential both academically and socially. Students follow a vibrant and stimulating curriculum that includes a strong focus on the teaching of the basic skills of literacy and numeracy, and offers an extensive variety of courses and learning experiences. These ensure that progress is rapid and learning is optimised.

The range of accredited courses and learning opportunities offered to students include:

- Study pathways leading to GCSE, AS and A2 level qualifications
- Vocational courses
- Specialist qualifications e.g LAMDA, graded Music examinations and GCSE/A Levels in community languages
- Collaborative links to local colleges and universities
- Opportunities for Professional Learning Placements

School visits and an extensive programme of enrichment activities are used to ensure learning is inspiring and relevant. Activities that stretch, support and challenge provide students with opportunities for practice, performance and application of their learning.

Students at St Mary's are well prepared for life long success and opportunities are taken regularly to recognise this and celebrate their achievements.





CARE • TRUST • RESPECT

High Quality Support, Care and Guidance

Students at St Mary's feel safe, happy, respected and valued.

All staff and students are proactive in promoting positive behaviour for learning in the classroom and within the school and local community. Outstanding pastoral care, matched carefully to the individual needs of each student, ensures the very highest standards of conduct, safety and wellbeing.

Each year group is part of a Teaching & Learning Area Team that includes an identified form tutor for each student. Students meet with their tutors on a daily basis who will check that they are prepared for learning and provide additional support as it is required. Tutors know their students well, monitor their progress and provide a point of contact for parents/carers.

All students are stretched and challenged in their learning through a wide range of teaching and enrichment activities and strong links with universities, employers and industry. Specialist provision is organised for those students who have identified learning needs or who require emotional or behavioural support.

Citizenship and personal endeavour are highly valued. All students are accountable for their own actions and enjoy opportunities to hold positions of responsibility, encourage others and make a positive contribution to school life.





CONFIDENT • HEALTHY • ACTIVE

Enrichment Opportunities

An extensive enrichment programme supports and extends student learning. All students are actively encouraged to broaden their experience through involvement with:

- Extracurricular activities
- Sports clubs and fixtures
- Study and holiday clubs
- Local and international visits
- Performing arts and school productions
- Student support days
- Charity and community work

Our Phoenix Performing Arts Academy provides students across the school with opportunities to receive voice coaching or instrumental tuition, dance or drama master classes, or to be part of performance groups. Students also have the opportunity to gain LAMDA and other accreditations in the performing arts.

Students are actively encouraged to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. These include:

- Student Voice membership through the work of School and Year Councils
- Sports leadership opportunities
- Classroom leadership as Subject Champions or Lead Learners
- Leadership of daily Acts of Worship and whole school events





ASPIRATION • LEADERSHIP • EMPLOYABILITY

Sixth Form & Leadership Centre

Our Sixth Form & Leadership Centre offers an inspirational and distinctive Post 16 learning experience that builds on prior learning and provides learning pathways to support progression to university, training or employment. St Mary's provides courses that meet the needs of all students who wish to access high quality Post 16 learning. There is also an extensive programme of academic support for preparation of UCAS and Oxbridge applications, curriculum vitae and interviews. The Post 16 Tutor Team and Academic Mentor meet with students regularly to discuss academic progress, career aspirations and progression pathways.

Unique features of our Sixth Form & Leadership Centre include Professional Learning Placements for students studying on level 2 or level 3 courses that provide the opportunity to work in business/industry alongside studies in school.

Academy Programmes

St Mary's offers a range of Academy programmes that provide students with opportunities to participate in a chosen specialist field to an elite level and to gain high quality experience and accreditations. The current programmes include the Phoenix Performing Arts Academy and Thunder Basketball Academy.





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St Mary's Church of England High School
Lieutenant Ellis Way, Cheshunt,
Hertfordshire EN7 5FB

t: **01992 629124**

f: **01992 643354**

Twitter: **@SMHSch**

e: **admin@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk**

w: **www.st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk**

Head Teacher: **Stephanie Benbow**
MA Ed., B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Company Reg. No 07999861