



St Mark's
School Bath

Prospectus



Welcome to St Mark's

St Mark's School, Bath, seeks to provide excellence in education as a mixed comprehensive school.

Our vision is to inspire students for future success, by developing confidence, ambition and independence, whilst encouraging a strong sense of adventure. We achieve this through our personalised, dynamic curriculum, our careers and aspirations programme and extensive enrichment opportunities, encouraging our young people to thrive as principled, well-rounded young men and women.

St Mark's School enjoys strong partnerships with businesses and universities, providing students with academic tutoring, an experience of university life and activities to promote personal development.

We are committed to educating and developing young people spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, as well as academically. Everything we do is underpinned by our Christian ethos and core values of: **wisdom, ambition and integrity.**

Our desire to inspire all students is extended through our post-16 provision, The New Sixth, as a platform for future success in higher education and the workplace.

I hope this prospectus will provide you with a flavour of the vibrancy of our school and the expectations that we have for our students.

To find out more, or to arrange a tour, please contact us on 01225 312661 or at info@st-marks.org.uk.

Barnaby Ash, Headteacher

raising aspirations



Personalised Learning

Students at St Mark's thrive and reach their full academic and personal potential through the combination of a personalised, dynamic curriculum, quality teaching, enriching opportunities and high expectations.

We are extremely proud of our balanced and varied curriculum. Our staff recognise that all students have different strengths and talents and are dedicated to identifying these to create a personalised learning programme for every child.

Small class sizes mean all students have the opportunity for unrivalled mentoring and individual support to enhance personal development. Led by enthusiastic and innovative teaching staff, students receive exceptional tuition and guidance throughout their time here.

We believe it is never too early to begin considering career paths and further education options so tailored advice is offered through our careers programme.

St Mark's has an outstanding reputation for supporting students through their educational journey and providing them with the encouragement and support that they need to excel. Support is tailored, either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups where appropriate.

Teachers identify students with exceptional talents and skills to direct their learning so they can develop to their full potential. We encourage our Gifted and Talented students to work alongside colleagues in The New Sixth and beyond, with our strong university and business partnerships, allowing for interaction and engagement at a higher level of learning, inspiring students for future success.

The provision of special educational needs and disability support at St Mark's is centred on inspiring academic achievement and personal fulfilment, building confidence and enabling all students to thrive.



Enriching Learning

Our rich extra-curricular programme includes an array of creative, academic and sporting activities to complement classroom learning and broaden horizons. Students are encouraged to identify individual talents and develop independence and leadership qualities to prepare them for success in later life.

Students are offered a range of sporting fixtures throughout the year inspiring an atmosphere of teamwork and friendship. Sport is an important aspect of life at St Mark's and we promote a high level of participation in extra-curricular activities.

Our annual performing arts production nurtures creativity, confidence and independence whilst an exceptional musical tuition programme, with a vast range of instruments to choose from, allows all students to explore and develop musical and dramatic talents and tastes whilst promoting collaborative working.

We understand the importance of taking learning outside of the classroom in order for lessons to come to life. Students at the school are able to enjoy a range of trips locally, further afield in the UK and abroad throughout the year.

Student leadership opportunities are a vital component within our school. Students of all ages are encouraged to build their leadership skills through joining the Student Council, becoming a Student Ambassador, peer mentoring, or helping the community through a range of projects. In later years, students have the opportunity to take part in initiatives such as Duke of Edinburgh or take a position as a Prefect or Head Boy and Head Girl.



Christian Ethos

St Mark's is a 'Good' Church of England School linked to the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Our Christian values lie at the heart of our ethos and underpins the way we work together as a community.

At St Mark's, the personal development and well-being of students is paramount and our Christian values are central to our educational purpose. These Christian values are also supported by our core school values of wisdom, ambition and integrity, helping to shape our students' personal and moral development.

wisdom
ambition
integrity

Partnerships

St Mark's is committed to providing outstanding opportunities both in and out of the classroom so that students are able to learn from the wider community around them.

Community-based projects allow students to embrace the richness and vibrancy of our locality while bringing together students and the local community to make a positive impact on our local environment. Students are also encouraged to bring their skills and enthusiasm to projects that have benefits for others such as hosting the B&NES Youth Parliament Conference, assisting with the development project at Cleveland Pools in Bath or our Build Hope expedition to Mexico to provide much-needed new homes for impoverished families.

An impressive network of global partnerships and international links helps our students to prepare themselves as global citizens whilst becoming more aware of social, economic and political issues that affect people across the world. Enriching experiences such as these are highly valued by universities and employers who constantly demand more in an increasingly competitive market place.

We have formed strong partnerships with businesses and universities such as Oxford University, the University of Bath, Bath Spa University and the University of the West of England, amongst many, creating aspirational learning opportunities and broadening horizons.

There is a thriving and effective PTA (Parent Teacher Association), supporting the school's development and raising funds to allow the school to further develop the educational and enrichment activities available to students. An active Parents' Forum for parents and Senior Leaders of the school enables everyone to work together on whole-school developments and to share ideas.

Many of our past students go on to great success at university and in their chosen careers. Our growing alumni allows us to share these successes with our students and promotes an ethos of aspiration and achievement.



building partnerships

Transition

As part of our commitment to rapid progress and improvement, we work in close partnership with our local primary schools, creating an important pathway from primary to St Mark's School.

St Mark's School benefits from excellent facilities and experienced subject specialists. We share these resources with our primary schools to enhance these links while helping to create a seamless transition for children as they begin their secondary education.

We acknowledge the importance of the transition to secondary school and have a dedicated primary liaison plan in place to support this journey. Through a range of masterclasses, taster lessons, academic conferences and activity days, primary pupils are given the opportunity to enhance their learning whilst experiencing our inspiring curriculum. These programmes identify and develop new talents, all the while providing an environment for pupils to form new friendships and become familiar with their surroundings and life at secondary school.

We place great importance on transition arrangements from primary school to St Mark's School and link this to our primary liaison programme, working with children from Reception to Year 6, so that they are familiar with the school right from the start. We aim to visit each and every child at their primary school, prior to coming to St Mark's, building positive relationships from a very early stage.

Our Friendship Afternoon provides new students with the chance to get to know their school environment and their teachers, sample our curriculum and start to establish new friendships for a smooth transition.

In addition, our Transition Summer BBQ, organised by our Primary Liaison team in collaboration with the school PTA, provides an opportunity for our new Year 7 pupils and their parents to meet key members of the team in an informal setting, ahead of the new academic year.

For prospective pupils, it is also a valuable opportunity to meet with existing St Mark's families, to hear of their experiences and to discover the warm, welcoming atmosphere at our school that undoubtedly helps to make a seamless transition from primary to secondary education.





The New Sixth

The New Sixth provides a unique post-16 experience and a high-quality sixth form education with outstanding pastoral support and a wide range of enrichment activities.

All students at St Mark's secure a place in The New Sixth, the joint provision for the sixth forms of St Mark's School and Saint Gregory's Catholic College, provided they achieve the GCSE grades required for their chosen courses.

We aim to equip students with a rich mix of experiences and opportunities that will prepare them for adult life, developing subject knowledge, skills and qualities of leadership, self-reliance and independence.

Courses available include 24 AS and A Level subjects and Level Up courses providing a range of qualifications that are highly regarded by universities and potential employers and which will enable sixth form students to grow in intellectual and personal maturity.

There is a full and engaging enrichment programme including several overseas trips, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Extended Project Qualification, the V Scheme for volunteering and international cultural exchange programmes, as well as the usual cultural, sporting and social opportunities associated with Sixth Form life.

An excellent Careers Programme is also on offer to support students in their on-going career choices together with a focus on preparation for Higher Education so that students are well-informed and confident when it comes to choosing and applying to college and university.

WISDOM | AMBITION | INTEGRITY



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