



St Mark's  
School BATH

Let your light shine





# Headteacher's welcome

---

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you will make as a family. Understandably, you will want your child to be taught in a supportive environment where they will feel both valued and challenged. You will want a school where academic excellence is encouraged and where your child will be supported to reach their full potential. I hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of what life is like at St Mark's School so that you can see if we are the right school for your child.

I always describe St Mark's as a gem of a school, which is set in beautiful grounds, nestled above the village of Larkhall on the outskirts of beautiful Bath. One thing that makes St Mark's unique is that it has the luxury of being a smaller than average sized mixed secondary school, fully supported by the two much larger boys' and girls' schools in the city, so that our small size does not limit what we can offer, both in and out of the classroom.

Being a Church of England school, we promote self-worth in our students and inspire them to live well, achieve their goals and be a force for good both in school and the world beyond. At St Mark's, our young people quickly establish themselves and develop their true identities in a setting where they are known, by name, by all members of staff, who in turn value their contributions to the school and wider community. Our students develop a strong sense of belief in themselves and are encouraged to be masters of their own destiny. St Mark's will equip your child with resilience, high aspirations and courage so that they are able to challenge themselves to exceed expectations and be the best version of themselves.

We were visited by both Ofsted and SIAMS in the 2021/2022 academic year and both of these inspections resulted in a 'Good' grading in the new challenging frameworks. If you would like to see why the inspectors were so impressed, come and visit us to experience our positive learning environment full of young people who are supported in their learning, motivated to work hard together and who would be happy to share their personal stories of success with you – please see our website for details.

Barnaby Ash  
Headteacher

---

---

“ The headteacher, trustees and governors share a clear and ambitious vision for the school. ”  
– OFSTED FEB 2022

---



# The start of an amazing journey



**St Mark's takes children from over twenty different primary schools across Bath, Bristol and Wiltshire so we are passionate about ensuring that the transition from primary to secondary is enjoyable and informative. Our dedicated tutor team will support your child as they prepare for and then settle into their first year with us.**

We begin primary transition work in March of Year 6 with our Friendship Afternoon. We see this event as the very beginning of the exciting journey from a Year 6 pupil to a confident young adult ready to be a force for good in the world. During this afternoon, your child will be encouraged to make new friends and to actively experience our school environment.

We host an Induction Day for prospective students at the beginning of July, which is then followed by an Information Evening and Summer BBQ for our new families. Here, you will meet key members of the team and discover the warm, welcoming atmosphere at our school. We also hold a Summer School at the start of the summer holidays to help further prepare our students for the transition to secondary in September.

In September, we provide two days of team building activities for our new Year 7 students where they can go out of school, work, play and learn together. Here they will begin to firm up friendships and create the lasting bonds that will support them through their school years. At the end of Year 7, when our students are settled into school life and confident in their community, they are invited to attend a Key Stage 3 Camp as part of our end of school year activity days. This camp helps to cement friendships, widen the scope for educational and fun learning activities and provides students with a sense of accomplishment beyond the classroom.

**“ The school is a place where people can be themselves and can develop their own unique talents.”  
— OFSTED FEB 2022**



# An inspirational curriculum

The curriculum at St Mark’s is designed to fulfil the school’s vision to inspire students to achieve their goals and be a force for good both in school and the world beyond.

Academic and vocational qualifications are the cornerstone of educational success at St Mark’s, and we have a curriculum offer that enables learners at all levels to achieve their personal best. We also feel that being ready for the world of work and having the skills and personal qualities to become healthy, resilient individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society, are also equally important.



Being a Church of England School, RE has an important role to play in delivering our school vision. This is the primary forum in which students have the opportunity to explore metaphysical truth, meaning and how these impact on how we live well. It is also a subject that all students in our school access. By studying RE, your child will have the opportunity to reflect on the value of each human being and the importance of finding common ground, while seeking the truth for ourselves.



“ The school has an ambitious curriculum. ”  
– OFSTED FEB 2022

“ Teachers have high expectations of pupils. ”  
– OFSTED FEB 2022

## Our curriculum offer is:



**Aspirational**  
so that students develop belief in themselves and achieve their personal best



**Creative**  
to allow all of our students to thrive while developing their true identities



**Meaningful and contemporary**  
so that students are gaining the knowledge and skills that they need to exist in the ever changing world beyond school



**Rigorous, challenging and motivating**  
so that our students find joy in, and learn to value, the commitment needed to learn and live well



**Personalised, supportive and collaborative**  
allowing our students to develop their resilience, interdependence and the skills needed to make a positive contribution in the school and wider community



**Supportive of local, national and international dimensions**  
which develops a cultural capital that prepares our students for any challenge that they may face when they move through the different phases of their lives



# Learning without limits

**At St Mark's, your child will be encouraged to identify and nurture their individual talents. Here, they will grow their independence and leadership qualities that will prepare them for success in later life.**

Your child will be given the opportunity to develop personal responsibility and self-discipline through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which culminates in students testing themselves in the outdoor environment via a life changing expedition.

**“ There is a remarkable range of additional activities organised by staff and relished by pupils. ”**  
— SIAMS DEC 2021



Sport is an important aspect of life at St Mark's. Your child will be offered a range of sporting fixtures throughout the year in an atmosphere of teamwork and friendship. Performing Arts opportunities allow all of our students to thrive while developing their true identities. The Performing Arts annual production promotes creativity, confidence and independence, allowing all students to explore and develop musical and dramatic talents whilst promoting collaborative working. Students are able to perform to a wider audience in events like the Bath School's Christmas Showcase at the Bath Forum, The Battle of the Bands and more.

We understand the importance of taking learning outside of the classroom in order for lessons to come to life. Your child will be able to enjoy a range of trips locally, further afield in the UK and abroad. Students enjoy exhilarating and educational trips to Europe to develop their language skills and their cultural awareness as well as our annual ski trip in the beautiful French Alps.

School Council and student leadership roles provide an active and important opportunity for our students to develop personal skills and confidence that will support them way beyond their school years. Your child will be encouraged to build their leadership skills as part of a School Council, a forum in which all students are expected to actively participate. They can also become a Student Ambassador, a Peer Mentor, or contribute to the development of their school and local communities through a range of projects. In Key Stage 4, your child will have the opportunity to become a Student Leader and Prefect or even become one of our Head Students.







# 360° character development

---

**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. We know that the quality of our pastoral care has an effect on our students' academic progress and we are proud of our inclusive system that encompasses Learning Support with Student Support.**

---

**“ Pupils have high expectations for their academic progress and personal development. ”**  
**– SIAMS DEC 2021**

---

**“ Pupils are challenged and supported to be the best they can be. ”**  
**– SIAMS DEC 2021**

---

**“ The behaviour of pupils is a strength of the school... ”**  
**– OFSTED FEB 2022**

---

---

We believe that your child will reach their full academic and personal potential when parents and school work in partnership. We have a clear behaviour policy, which is underpinned by the school vision and values, creating a positive ethos that encourages your child to succeed and achieve.

Christian values lie at the heart of our ethos and underpins the way we work together as a community. We are guided by Mathew's words, 'Let Your Light Shine'. This sentiment, regarding the personal development and wellbeing of our students, is paramount and central to our educational purpose. We serve equally those who are of the Christian faith, those of other faiths and those with no faith.

St Mark's School was subject to a two-day SIAMS inspection in December 2021, in a similar process to Ofsted. The Report was full of praise for the work of the school and is well worth a read.

---



# SEN and Orchard Lodge

“ The school has an inclusive culture and pupils with SEND are well supported. ”  
– OFSTED FEB 2022

“ The school’s on-site resource base is well led. ”  
– OFSTED FEB 2022



Because St Mark’s is a smaller than average sized school, we are often the school of choice for students who feel more at home in a close-knit community. All of our teachers implement strategies that remove barriers to success and use a range of evidence-based interventions to meet the needs of all of our learners. Our holistic and inclusive approach prepares all students for education post-16, the world of work and independent living.

We ensure that all learners feel valued in our school community by celebrating diversity and difference. Partnerships with parents and carers are developed through regular meetings with our Education Support Team, where students are able to share their opinions and viewpoints too.

## Orchard Lodge

As well as our mainstream provision for SEN, Orchard Lodge is a specialist resource base at St Mark’s School where students are taught and supported by specialist teachers and teaching assistants. All of the students in the provision have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). Students’ learning is entirely personalised and centred on their EHCPs. Learning is undertaken in a range of environments with students developing the skills they require in their preparation for adulthood.

The curriculum implementation is based on a primary model, where students are taught the majority of lessons in Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4 groups. Each student has their own bespoke Personalised Learning Intention Map (PLIM) and attend selected mainstream lessons and other activities such as whole-school assemblies.

Orchard Lodge has bespoke facilities, including ‘The Canopy’, which is the students’ sensory space, a kitchen and an allotment patch.

# An exciting future awaits



Our desire to inspire all students for future success is extended through our post-16 partnerships with the Hayesfield Mixed Sixth, Beechen Cliff Sixth Form and the New Sixth. We also enjoy strong partnerships with local businesses, charities, post-16 providers and universities that help promote students’ personal development.

As well as ensuring a memorable end to Key Stage 4 at St Mark’s, our Year 11 tutor team work closely with the Bath Hub sixth forms and other local institutions to facilitate future post-16 opportunities ranging from high quality apprenticeship schemes to traditional A-Level courses.

“ The vision ensures that the curriculum is suitable both for the school’s immediate context and to prepare pupils to play a role in the wider society of the future. ”  
– SIAMS DEC 2021



# A supportive and inspirational partnership



**St Mark's School is proud to be a member of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP), a multi-academy trust consisting of approximately 30 schools with over 12,000 pupils. The Trust celebrates our school's individual character and offers outstanding support and challenge so that we can continue our journey to excellence.**

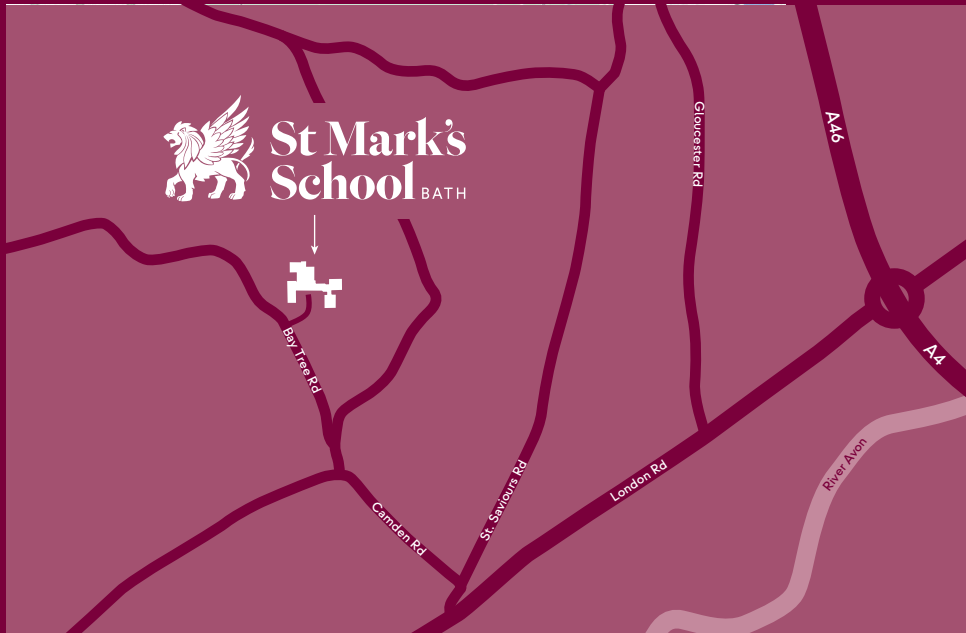


Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

St Mark's School works closely with Hayesfield Girls' School and Beechen Cliff School as part of the Bath Hub within the MNSP Trust. All three schools share good practice so that students have high aspirations and experience personal growth through a high quality curriculum offer and a wide range of exciting and engaging opportunities. Our common goal is to ensure that every child in the city has an excellent experience of secondary education.

The Bath Hub facilitates opportunities for our students to be able to access personal development activities beyond St Mark's School, including performing in concerts and showcases as well as participating in social activities such as lower school discos and trips to Legoland with pupils from all three schools!





---

### Transport links

Our school is located close to the city centre and is connected by many public bus services to the majority of residential areas in the City and its outlying villages. There is also a private bus service serving students who live in and around the village of Wick. Some of our students choose to cycle to school and use the school's bike shelter.

---

### Contact details

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

---