When you join the Sixth Form at St Mary’s something rather special begins to unfold.
The School was established in 1873 and has been building for the future ever since. The latest development - a Sixth Form Centre - will be located in the heart of the campus, a visible sign of our commitment to modern Sixth Form education: an inspirational pre-university experience that equips students for life's challenges.
“Officially rated ‘outstanding’, teaching staff are unstinting in their commitment to providing the finest teaching.”

In all academic subjects, and through the extra-curricular opportunities and additional courses available, St Mary’s educates girls for life beyond school - not simply to pass exams.

About 16 per cent of girls go on to Oxbridge each year, but the Sixth Form is not an examinations factory. Yes, we strive for ever rising academic standards, but not at any cost: the well-being and happiness of the girls is paramount. The rest just follows...

A growing range of A and AS level subjects – including Sports Science and Critical Thinking - are supported by numerous extra-curricular activities that enhance the curriculum and enrich students’ lives. Our tutorial system rated by the Independent Schools Inspectorate as ‘outstanding’, with staff deeply committed to each individual, empowers girls to grow in experience, wisdom and understanding.
Support

St Mary’s is small by comparison with some other leading girls’ boarding schools. This is entirely by design and we have no wish to grow the size of the Sixth Form beyond around 100 girls.

For us, small means: supportive; caring; homely; fewer rules; a positive, thinking yet relaxed atmosphere; being able to really know and understand the needs of each girl and allowing her to take responsibility for some aspect of the successful management of the School.

Boarding education here brings many benefits... strong, enduring friendships... tolerance and respect for others... invitations to “get together” after lessons... and, of course, brunch on a Sunday.

You have your own space – but you’re not alone”
Creativity

Stepping into the new Sixth Form Centre, students will discover areas where they can relax, as well as outstanding private bedroom facilities with en-suite shower rooms. The bold, bright communal areas and ‘break-out’ rooms help nurture the warm collegiate atmosphere of our Sixth Form and encourage lively debate and conversation with tutors as well as friends.

“A stream of new encounters enrich perspective”
Challenged by a range of new learning experiences and opportunities, students are encouraged to explore, understand and become increasingly confident in their own talents. By the time they leave us, girls have developed into young women, eager to learn more, but willing to embrace responsibility and make a difference.

I hope that in these pages you will recognise St Mary’s as a thriving, fun and successful school. However, to fully appreciate what our Sixth Form has to offer please contact the School Office to arrange a personal visit.

I very much look forward to meeting you and your daughter soon.

Dr Helen Wright

Opportunities

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