



St Mary's  
Colchester

EMPOWERING

girls

2025-26

Australia





WE ARE

*ambitious*

# Welcome

At St Mary's we believe that girls are remarkable. We recognise girls have different needs and our ambitious educational offer is tailored for girls to thrive.

At St Mary's, your daughter will be inspired, build resilience, advance academically, learn what interests her and grow. We understand that the girls' wellbeing matters and is critical to achieving. Our girls are not only self-confident and capable, but also kind and considerate

We know that as parents, you want the world for your daughter – and so do we. And when she leaves us she'll be empowered to rise to the challenges and the opportunities the world presents.

## VISITING ST MARY'S

St Mary's is an all-girls school for pupils age 4-16. We also have a Kindergarten where children can start in the year they turn 3. Our Kindergarten and Lower School are based on their own site on London Road while our Senior School is located on Lexden Road, Colchester. We are proud to have charitable status, meaning all fees are reinvested into the school. We are also truly independent, with no owners or shareholders, and are overseen by a committed governing body who help ensure we provide a high quality, complete education.

You will find further information about St Mary's on the following pages but nothing will give you a better insight than by visiting yourself. Please contact Mrs Justine Tierney, our Registrar, on 01206 594178 or at [registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk](mailto:registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk) to reserve a place at an upcoming open day or arrange a private tour at a time that is convenient.



# OUR VISION IS TO EMPOWER GIRLS TO THRIVE AT ST MARY'S AND BEYOND

Using our expertise in educating girls, we empower pupils by inspiring them to see the world as one of limitless possibilities. We equip girls with knowledge, experiences and skills to thrive at St Mary's and beyond. We do this in an environment designed specifically for girls - one that is free from judgement and stereotypes, and full of respect and support.



## RESEARCH SHOWS THE BENEFITS OF AN ALL-GIRLS EDUCATION

### *Freedom from stereotypes*

The environments created by all-girls' schools can mean girls are less likely to be influenced by negative gender stereotypes. There is evidence that attending an all-girls school can impact on subject choice and career paths. For example, girls in single-sex schools are more likely to study maths and sciences, including computer science, and enter male-dominated fields such as engineering.

### *Higher aspirations*

Research suggests girls in all-girls schools have higher aspirations, greater motivation and are challenged to achieve more. Research also indicates that action taken in school years can help reduce the gender gap in leadership. All-girls' schools can provide greater leadership opportunities for girls and more exposure to positive female role-models. Research also suggests that girls from single-sex schools are more likely to drive change.

### *Higher academic achievement*

Research from around the world provides evidence of higher academic achievement in all-girls' schools. Studies include those which have shown girls in single-sex schools to be ahead in reading, maths and languages. Research has also shown girls to outperform students in co-ed schools at Key Stage 4 (GCSE level).

### *Girl friendly teaching*

Neuroscience and brain research has shown that male and female brains differ and that the

sequence as well as the rate of development of the brain are different, which can impact on the way pupils learn. Girls' schools can tailor their teaching to how girls learn best.

### *Increased confidence*

Research indicates that girls from all-girls' schools are generally more confident and emotionally in control, and this mental toughness correlates with attainment, aspiration and wellbeing. Girls in single-sex environments have been shown to develop life skills such as taking positive risks with their learning, greater participation in discussions and increased competitiveness.

### *Improved mental wellbeing*

Single-sex schools have been shown to encourage improved self-esteem and help ease social anxieties girls may experience. Studies have shown girls to find an all-girls environment more supportive and the incidence of bullying for girls to be lower in single-sex schools.

### *Greater participation in sport*

A large majority of girls have been found to have a strong preference for all-girls PE classes, and research suggests greater participation in sport tends to be seen in single-sex contexts.

*excellent*

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
INSPECTORATE (ISI)  
INSPECTION RATING

# OUR VALUES EMPOWER GIRLS TO THRIVE

## *Ambitious*

We inspire the girls to see the world as one full of limitless possibilities, to strive for excellence and show determination to succeed in every sphere of their education.

## *Bold*

We encourage pupils to have confidence in their abilities, to be courageous, exhibit a willingness to take positive risks and to not be afraid of failure.

## *Compassionate*

We promote a culture where kindness, support and respect is shown towards every individual, and where pupils are community minded and globally aware. Pupils also show a commitment to protecting the environment.

## *Dynamic*

We encourage pupils to adopt a positive mindset, to be imaginative and innovative, and to productively challenge and drive positive change.

## *Enquiring*

We inspire pupils to be curious, investigate and constructively question, to be proactive in discovering new interests and in seizing opportunities to broaden their knowledge.



WE ARE

*bold*

# WE CHALLENGE GIRLS ACADEMICALLY

Girls learn differently and our teachers know how to challenge, engage and support our pupils so they achieve their very best.





## WITH SMALL CLASS SIZES AND HIGH STANDARDS, OUR FOCUS IS ON INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

Our Lower School pupils perform significantly higher than national average in SATs and we are consistently ranked amongst the highest performing Preparatory Schools in England by the Sunday Times. There is a high 11+ pass rate for those who choose to sit the exam and we are also the largest feeder to Colchester County High School for Girls (CCHSG). Lower School pupils also have a strong record of achieving Scholarship offers for our Senior School.

The National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) has recently reaccredited the Lower School with the NACE Challenge Award. This award is given in recognition of commitment to high-quality provision for more able learners within the context of challenge for all.

55% OF GCSE RESULTS IN 2025 WERE GRADED

9-7/A\* - A

MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

At the Senior School we consistently see strong GCSE success in subjects from STEM to the arts and humanities, reflecting the school's commitment to delivering a strong and enriching education.



“

Pupils' academic and other achievements are excellent, in confirmation of the school's aspiration to help pupils develop creative flair, sporting prowess and other talents.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
INSPECTORATE

## WE INTRODUCE PUPILS TO A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, TEACHING A BROAD RANGE OF SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

Girls participate in a wide range of sports. Throughout the year, Lower School pupils have lessons from dancing and orienteering to football and hockey, while at the Senior School, sports on offer have ranged from tennis and basketball to climbing and golf. Pupils take part in local and national competitions such as netball tournaments and swimming galas throughout the year, often with great success.

There are opportunities for the girls across the school to become Sports Leaders, developing their coaching and leadership skills.



## WE CHALLENGE GIRLS PHYSICALLY

We place a great emphasis on participation in sport and physical activities and support top athletes to compete within and outside of school.



# WE CHALLENGE GIRLS CREATIVELY

The creative and performing arts are highly regarded at St Mary's and as well as providing a rich arts curriculum and extra-curricular activities in school, we also support girls to perform outside of school, whether that is locally or in the West End.





## WE PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

There are opportunities for the girls to find, develop and extend their talents and passions across the creative and performing arts at St Mary's, both within the curriculum and through clubs and enrichment.

Girls' confidence in performing is grown through workshops and opportunities in a range of drama productions and concerts, from Nativity performances and small informal music concerts to large scale productions and a whole school Carol Service. We also see incredible success in competitions and exams across the creative and performing arts.

“

Enrichment activities provide rich learning opportunities and memorable moments.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
ABLE CHILDREN IN EDUCATION  
(NACE)

# WE NURTURE THE WHOLE PERSON

Academic success, focus on co-curricular opportunities and high-quality pastoral care are all of equal importance at St Mary's. We nurture the whole person and provide an environment free from judgement and stereotypes, where the girls can be themselves.

We believe in instilling the values of respect and courtesy and we encourage good manners from the youngest age. Through our charity and outreach work, the pupils develop a strong sense of community and as an Eco School, girls gain a strong understanding and desire to protect the environment.

As a global member of the Round Square Organisation, a worldwide network of over 200 top schools in more than 50 countries, those who attend St Mary's also benefit from our international links, helping to broaden their horizons.

These opportunities help girls develop their personal skills and attributes, known as their 'character education'.



WE ARE

*compassionate*

# WE PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE IN EVERY RESPECT

We know that for girls to achieve their very best they must feel confident, relaxed and secure.





## EACH INDIVIDUAL AT ST MARY'S IS KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD

A strong pastoral system is essential for our girls' to be happy and thrive, and we believe their wellbeing directly impacts upon their ability to grow holistically. Every girl at St Mary's has access to, and support from, a network of staff who are highly trained in pastoral matters.

The size of the school means we are able to have regular, meaningful interactions with each pupil, and our staff know the girls incredibly well. The atmosphere is calm, supportive and nurturing, allowing girls to develop self-confidence.

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My daughter has made such progress since joining St Mary's – not only has her academic work improved, but she is confident and happier in her own skin

ST MARY'S PARENT



WE ARE

*dynamic*

United States 

## EDUCATION GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At St Mary's there is a real focus on academic achievement, but at the same time the varied curriculum is designed to challenge girls creatively and physically, to build valuable life-skills and develop the girls as active global citizens.

From our enrichment programme to inspiring excursions, wide-ranging productions, focus on ecology and commitment to STEM, we encourage a wide set of interests and demonstrate the limitless opportunities available to students.



Our memberships of the Girls' Schools Association, Independent Schools Association, Eco-Schools, Round Square Organisation, and Independent Association of Preparatory Schools, enable us to share educational excellence and provide an enlightened, modern and all-round education for girls.



## YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic

Art

Drama

Music

Sports

STEM

Principal's Award

Miss Comrie Scholarship (available to  
St Mary's Lower School pupils)

See our Scholarship Guide for more details.

The Year 7 Scholarship programme is designed to accelerate the development of students that are able, in a variety of disciplines. Scholars act as role models and leaders to other students and as ambassadors for St Mary's.

Being a Scholar is a huge privilege and Scholars are encouraged, and expected, to make the most of the wealth of opportunities available to them to extend, broaden and strengthen their aptitudes and talents, and to gain valuable experience that will stand them in good stead for the future.

There is no financial assessment for St Mary's Scholarship applicants. All Scholarships are awarded solely on merit and in open competition. There is no set limit to the number that may be offered in one year of entry. Scholarships attract a partial fee remission, at the discretion of the Principal and on condition that expectations of a Scholar are met on an annual basis.



## WE OFFER A HIGH QUALITY AND COMPLETE EDUCATION

### ST MARY'S 2025-26 TERMLY FEES

Preparatory Class, Years 1 & 2	£4,750
Years 3 & 4	£5,300
Years 5 & 6	£5,900
Year 7	£6,600
Years 8 & 9	£7,050
Years 10 & 11	£7,550

Please note the fees outlined above are inclusive of VAT. Lunch is charged separately at a termly cost of £300 for Lower School pupils and £350 for Senior School pupils. There are three terms per academic year. Please see our website for further information, for example, discounts and payment options.





WE ARE

*enquiring*

## FIND OUT MORE

We hope our prospectus has given you an insight into St Mary's but nothing will give you a better understanding of all we have to offer than by visiting yourself.

So please visit [stmaryscolchester.org.uk](http://stmaryscolchester.org.uk) or contact Mrs Justine Tierney, our Registrar, at [registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk](mailto:registrar@stmaryscolchester.org.uk) or on 01206 594178 to reserve a place at an upcoming open day or arrange a private tour at a time that is convenient.

Our weekday open days and tours will enable you to see the school in action and speak to our Principal and Vice Principal, while

our weekend open days provide more of an opportunity to speak to staff and pupils.

We also have opportunities for girls to experience life at St Mary's themselves through our 'experience' events, and we hold regular events that prospective families are invited to attend. Please contact our Registrar or visit our website to find out more.

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's.

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I feel very pleased but also relieved that I have done so well in my GCSEs. Returning to school to collect my results today and seeing my teachers who provide such a supportive environment for us to learn in has felt like I'm celebrating with family.

LEXI,  
FORMER YEAR 11 PUPIL



St Mary's  
Colchester

**Phone:** 01206 594178

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**Web:** [stmaryscolchester.org.uk](http://stmaryscolchester.org.uk)

**KINDERGARTEN & LOWER SCHOOL**

LONDON RD, COLCHESTER, CO3 8LT

**SENIOR SCHOOL**

LEXDEN RD, COLCHESTER CO3 3RB