



St Mark's Catholic School

"St. Mark's is an outstanding school." Ofsted



Welcome to St. Mark's Catholic School

"This is a place where the individual is valued, individual strengths are celebrated and where pupils are proud to do well." Ofsted

"There is a delightful atmosphere in the school." Ofsted

Selecting the right secondary school for your child is a vitally important decision. We are delighted to offer you a flavour of what St. Mark's has to offer within the pages of this prospectus. The St. Mark's School community is founded on the Christian values, expressed in the gospels: peace, truth, justice and love. These values underpin everything that we do within the school and they bind us together as a Christian community. We view each person as special and unique and our highly professional staff is dedicated to ensuring that every pupil fulfils their God given potential. St. Mark's is a truly inclusive community and we celebrate our pupils' achievements, together with providing outstanding pastoral support.

We recognise the crucial role which parents have to play in the education of their children and the continuing success of St. Mark's School is based on a positive partnership between parents and the school. The active involvement of parents in the life of the school brings a unique warmth and vitality to St. Mark's and we are a true family school for brothers, sisters and parents. St. Mark's enjoys an outstanding reputation for academic achievement based on a consistent record of excellent examination results. We are proud of the progress that our pupils make and we promote high aspirations. We are committed to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning throughout the curriculum and pupils are provided with appropriate work which challenges them. Pupils require an orderly environment to focus on their studies effectively so we insist on the highest standards of behaviour and self-discipline. We expect all pupils to work hard, to show respect and courtesy for others and to take a pride in

their appearance. St Mark's is a member of the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust. As an Academy we have developed dynamic and innovative schemes of work and a broad, balanced curriculum designed to meet the challenges and opportunities of adult life in the 21st century.

Our thriving Sixth Form greatly enhances the character of the school. The majority of our Year 11 pupils continue their Sixth Form studies with us and this is a testament to the very positive pupil-teacher relationships which are established at St. Mark's. The curriculum is challenging and enriching and the excellent results achieved by our students enables them to access some of the best universities including Oxbridge.

We are confident that St. Mark's will provide your son or daughter with an outstanding education and encourage you to come to our Open Evening in the Autumn term to gain a greater appreciation of the life and work of the School. I look forward to meeting you personally and to answering any particular questions you may have about St. Mark's School. Our pupils are our best ambassadors and they will also be very happy to talk about their school.

Ms Andrea Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher



*"Prayer and Worship are central to the life of St Mark's.
The School's commitment to the Common Good is
outstanding. Students flourish at St Mark's."* Diocesan inspection





Catholic Life

"Students are offered an excellent quality and experience of Catholic Education." Diocesan Report

St. Mark's School supports parents in nurturing the faith of their children. We enable our students to grow in love of God, to deepen their understanding of creation, to pray and celebrate the sacraments. We provide opportunities to explore values and beliefs, to recognise the rights of others and respect those who have different beliefs. We encourage questioning, reflection and growth in self awareness.

Religious education lies at the heart of the school, making explicit what is implicit in all areas of the curriculum. We prepare students to think spiritually, ethically and theologically and develop their awareness of the benefits and challenges of religious commitment in daily life.

The provision of a Chaplain, who works closely with all members of the school community and the local parishes, and the existence of a chapel in the main school building, demonstrates the commitment St. Mark's has to ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to grow in their faith.

Assemblies are an integral part of school life where the community joins together to pray and celebrate publicly the individual achievements of the pupils. There is Mass at breaktime every Thursday. All students are invited and classes take it in turns to prepare the liturgy. There is also a programme of Retreats, opportunities for prayer and meditation in school and a music liturgy group. The School supports a range of local, national and international charities.

VERITAS

"Outstanding teaching is one of the factors which enable pupils to make excellent progress." Ofsted



High Expectations

"The leadership and management of the school from the headteacher outwards and including the governing body, are outstanding." Ofsted

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The fulfilment of God-given potential is central to our vision for St. Mark's School. We have high expectations of our students in all aspects of their school life including work, behaviour and appearance.

Our students' examination results at A Level and GCSE demonstrate that attainment and progress are outstanding. Students are set challenging targets and their progress is carefully monitored. Effort and achievement are celebrated with Mark Points, Lion Point Certificates, Departmental Certificates and tangible rewards. We conduct special achievement assemblies and an annual Prize Giving.

Effective learning can only take place in a well disciplined environment. We will not tolerate classroom disruption, lack of co-operation or bullying behaviour. We will support parents in bringing up their children to know the difference between right and wrong, to respect authority and to be sensitive to the feelings and rights of others.

The School has a clear uniform policy which is rigorously enforced. St. Mark's pupils have a well deserved reputation for being among the smartest in the Borough.



VERIT

"The school has a near perfect balance of ensuring that the pupils make great progress and attain high standards but at the same time develop into well-rounded, independent, caring, courteous and upright citizens." Ofsted



Excellent pastoral care and a disciplined environment

"The behaviour of pupils is a strength." Ofsted

"Relationships are very good throughout the school." Ofsted

Good pastoral care is at the heart of any successful school. When your child enters St. Mark's they are assigned to a tutor group. The tutor, along with the Pupil Progress Leader for the year, oversees both the academic and pastoral welfare of each child in the tutor group. Our positive discipline procedures focus on encouraging good behaviour and ensuring a fair and equitable approach to all. We have clear rewards and sanctions, and our expectation is that the ethos within the school will encourage every individual to achieve their best and allow others to do the same.

The School Council has elected representatives from all years and is chaired by Sixth Formers. It plays an important part in school development by making suggestions as to how school life may be improved.

There are close links with local primary schools. Year 6 teachers and pupils meet with the St. Mark's Pupil Progress Leader for Year 7 before joining the school and pupils spend a day at St. Mark's in July to see how their new school operates.

We have a very strict uniform code and we are proud of the way our students look and behave when they are in school and outside in the wider community. They are excellent ambassadors for St. Mark's school.

Healthy eating is a priority for staff and pupils alike. As part of this initiative we discourage fizzy drinks and fat rich foods and encourage salads, well balanced, cooked meals and the drinking of water.



"Great emphasis is placed on parents as co-educators of their children." Ofsted



An outstanding curriculum

"Pupils enjoy learning." Ofsted

"Lessons are characterised by lively activities that allow students to engage actively with ideas and knowledge." Ofsted

At St. Mark's we believe our curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of learners.

We prepare learners for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

When pupils start at St. Mark's they are assigned to mixed ability tutor groups. They will remain in the same tutor group until they finish Year 11. At St Mark's we use a combination of setting and mixed ability teaching to deliver the curriculum. We believe this gives our pupils the best chance to achieve their full potential. Classes are set in Mathematics from Year 7, Languages from Year 8 and there is some broad banding in Science from the end of Year 9.

Class sizes are reduced in a number of subjects in Year 7 to aid teaching and learning. This means we have six tutor groups but these are often divided into eight teaching groups.

At Key Stage 3, pupils at St. Mark's follow a wide curriculum: Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Computing, Technology, Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, PSHCE and Modern Foreign Languages.

At Key Stage 4 all pupils study Religious Education, English, English Literature, Physical Education (core),

Mathematics, Science, whether separate or combined, History and/or Geography, and PSHCE. The vast majority continue with a Modern Foreign Language and pupils can choose from Computing, Art, Business Studies, Drama, Geography, History, Physical Education, Child Development and Music.

We also have alternative pathways for a limited amount of pupils linked to attendance at college for part of the week.

Staff use a variety of teaching methods so that pupils can develop a range of learning styles. Lessons are differentiated and carefully planned to cater for the needs of all pupils. The school is well equipped with the latest ICT facilities.

We believe our curriculum produces learners with strong literacy, numeracy and ICT skills. St. Mark's pupils are creative, resourceful and able to solve problems. They have enquiring minds and think for themselves. Our pupils enjoy learning and are motivated to achieve now and in the future. Pupils leave the school with a sense of self worth and with secure values and beliefs. We believe our curriculum creates confident individuals who are open to the excitement and inspiration offered by the world around them.

"Everyone works together in seeking to achieve the school's stated aim of enabling pupils 'to fulfil their God given potential'." Ofsted



Extended learning through homework and enrichment opportunities

Reinforcing and extending learning

Homework makes an essential contribution to the progress of students in St Mark's. It allows students to consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed during lessons and also offers parents an opportunity to support and monitor their child's progress.

Tasks will vary depending on the subject and the Key Stage, but they usually involve a continuation and development of that done in class, or a preparation of work to follow. Sometimes a specific project or piece of work may be set that is less obviously related to current class work, but it is always work that is of value. Students are expected to show each completed piece of homework to parents who are asked to initial in the student planner that they have seen it.

Stretching the More Able

All More Able students are challenged to reach their individual potential. Throughout all Key Stages, work is differentiated for the more able using a range of strategies, while they are also challenged through a variety of activities outside the classroom. These include the School Magazine Veritas, debating competitions, Performing Arts' celebrations, Science Club, Maths' Challenge and Young Engineers' Club. There are further opportunities in the Sixth Form with gifted Lower Sixth students having the opportunity to attend Eton College for two weeks, participation in the Outlook Expeditions programme which allows students to complete two weeks community work in countries such as Ghana and India, and internships at top, blue chip companies.

"Students make excellent progress in the sixth form and attain high standards that enable them to pursue ambitious career paths." Ofsted



A successful sixth form

"The teaching in the sixth form is outstanding and students are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own learning." Ofsted

The Sixth Form offers students the opportunity to strive for academic excellence in a supportive and structured environment. Students benefit from the leadership opportunities offered and the expertise of skilled staff. We offer a wide range of subjects at AS and A level: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Classical Civilisations, Drama, English Literature, Economics, Film Studies, French, German, Government and Politics, Geography, History, ICT, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Physics, Psychology, Religious Education, Sociology. In addition we offer a two year vocational course. Through our Catholic Consortium links with Gumley House School and Gunnersbury School, we are able to offer students an even wider range of combinations of subjects.

We focus on supporting students to become independent, confident learners, skilled to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Sixth formers are supported in their learning by a Form Tutor and the sixth form management team of Student Progress Leaders of Year 12 and 13 and Head of Sixth Form. From the first week students, parents and teachers are made aware of the minimum academic targets expected. Through effective teaching and directed support, students are enabled to meet their God-given potential. Our success is demonstrated by the academic achievement of our students and by the excellent record of university entrance.

Approximately 90% of our Year 13 students start university courses. Former St. Mark's students are studying at a range of prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge and have secured places on competitive courses including Medicine, Law, Veterinary Science and Dentistry.

St. Mark's has a dedicated Sixth Form Block. This includes a supervised study room and cafeteria. They also use the Learning Resources Centre and ICT facilities.

Sixth Formers make a significant contribution to the life of the school. All sixth formers act as ambassadors for the community of St. Mark's. Sixth form students in Year 12 have the opportunity to support younger students in their learning through paired reading or in-class support, to raise money for Christmas presents for children in care, to organise community events and to support projects in the developing world. Students also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and a range of educational visits and field trips.

We have high expectations of our sixth formers. We insist upon smart appearance, high standards of punctuality and attendance and commitment to their studies and to the community of St. Mark's. We are proud of their achievements and contribution to the life of the school and the wider community.



Wide ranging extra curricular activities

"The school community is strong and close-knit and the work of the school to promote community cohesion is outstanding." Ofsted

Students' education at St. Mark's is enriched by a wide range of activities occurring both after school and during lunchtime. These change with the time of year and the particular interests of staff and pupils. Field trips, visits abroad, visits to the theatre and museums and Year Group outings are established parts of the extra-curricular life of the school.

Regular extra-curricular sporting activities include basketball, badminton, football, athletics, cricket, rugby, tennis, hockey and netball.

The choir, orchestra, dance group, and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme group meet weekly after school. The chess club meets at lunchtime. The House System has a variety of competitions which

take place each term including debating, talent shows, cake decorating, quiz competition and a variety of sporting events.

The School Production each year provides opportunities for dancing, singing and playing musical instruments.

We also run an annual ski trip and there are opportunities for public speaking and business experience. We organise a range of charitable, fund raising events.

Homework Club is supervised by teaching staff and provides a friendly working atmosphere.

GCSE extension and revision clubs are also available both at lunchtime and after school.



Student Voices – beginnings and endings

"It is an important part of the ethos of the school that diversity is valued and celebrated." Ofsted

"When I first found out that I was coming to St. Mark's I was excited, but nervous. Since then I have found out what a lovely school this is. All the teachers are positive and the lessons are really fun. Everybody is treated equally and there are plenty of amazing activities to get involved in. The homework and classwork have taught me a lot and have not been too stressful or hard. Overall, the school has an amazing atmosphere and is a wonderful community. Any worries I had were completely gone within the first half-term. I am now fully settled and confident that the rest of Secondary School will be just as amazing."

"When I started at St. Mark's, I felt scared and anxious but also excited to be starting a wonderful school. I kept thinking about what my new classmates would be like and if I would find new friends. My first day at St. Mark's was amazing! I met loads of new people and I started new subjects. The school also has lovely grounds, with lovely teachers that care about our learning."

"When I first arrived at St. Mark's I was overwhelmed by the sheer size of this school and the students in it. I felt excitement and anxiety bubbling in my stomach but mostly I was happy to be starting a new journey in my life. Although starting in a new school was terrifying, St. Mark's gave us all a warm welcome which helped to calm my nerves. As we settled in, I met lots of new friends and now I feel as if I am part of a perfect community. I feel extremely lucky to be part of this amazing school."

"My first day in St. Mark's was exciting. I made new friends and did new things that I did not do in primary such as learning Spanish. When it came to meeting the teachers I thought they were all strict but they are also really nice when you please them with your work. When you come to this school most of your dreams and goals will come true."

"St. Mark's has opened so many opportunities for me, not only academically, but also with school trips. The PE Department has given me the opportunity to meet new friends through sport which is something I love. There are so many matches and school competitions that you can go to that I was spoilt for choice. Overall St. Mark's has been more than what I could have wished for."

"The Sixth Form allows students to develop their individual learning skills, preparing them for any obstacles they might face after their St. Mark's journey. There is continued support from the teachers enabling the students to flourish in their chosen subjects."

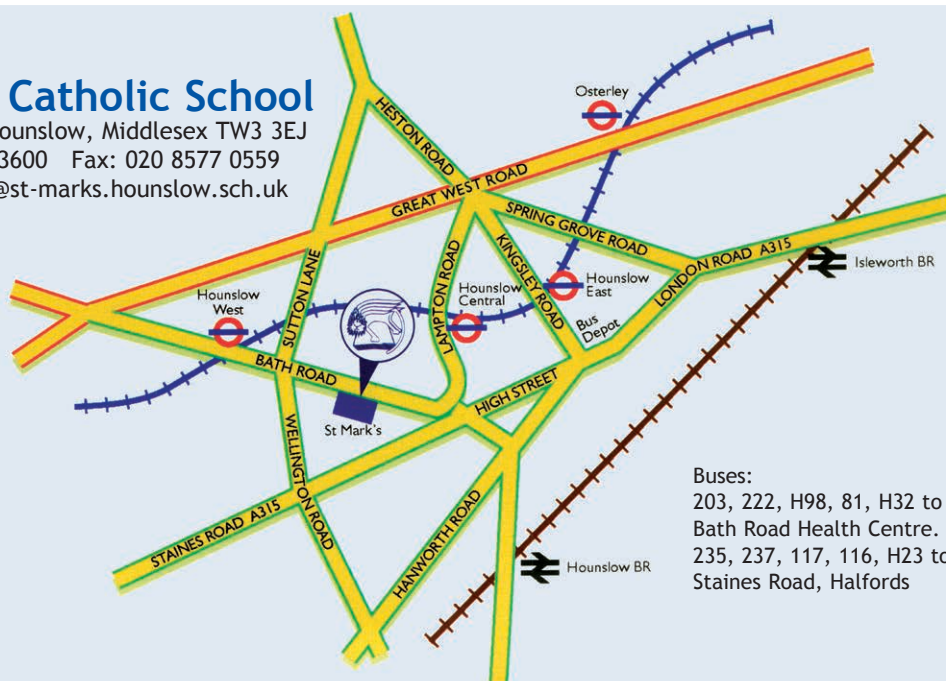
"St. Mark's Sixth Form encourages the students to achieve their God given potential and motivates us to transform into responsible and mature young adults. The teachers are very supportive and provide us with a friendly environment to work in."

"Students take responsibilities within the school and contribute to school life and that of the surrounding community as well."

Ofsted

St Mark's Catholic School

106 Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3EJ
Phone: 020 8577 3600 Fax: 020 8577 0559
Email: staffroom@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk



Buses:
203, 222, H98, 81, H32 to
Bath Road Health Centre.
235, 237, 117, 116, H23 to
Staines Road, Halfords



St Mark's Catholic School

106 Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3EJ
Phone: 020 8577 3600 Fax: 020 8577 0559
Email: staffroom@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk