



ST PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS SIXTH FORM

WELCOME

- Third best Comprehensive State Secondary School in the UK for 2025 (Times Parent Power Guide)
- Best Comprehensive School in the West Midlands (Times Parent Power Guide).
- 4th in Birmingham for the highest Oxbridge success (Birmingham Mail)

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St Paul's School for Girls



Dear Students and Parents

On behalf of the whole school community I extend a very warm, St Paul's, welcome to all prospective Sixth Form students and their parents.

St. Paul's is a Voluntary Aided Maintained Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form Centre established by the current Trustees, the Sisters of Charity of St. Paul, the Apostle, in 1908. It has a very well established tradition of success in meeting the pastoral, academic, vocational and spiritual needs of its students through the untiring efforts of a well qualified, forward-thinking and caring staff working in partnership with supportive parents and a variety of agencies in the local community.

In St. Paul's we have high expectations of our students and staff. Together, we aim to provide a challenging learning environment which motivates students and contributes to the excellent academic results consistently achieved by the school.

Each year a very high percentage of our students enter Higher Education and enjoy success in a wide range of academic and professional areas. Our success as a Sixth Form was recognised in our most recent Ofsted (Feb 2023) in the following comments:



Dr Dawn Casserly

"Sixth-form provision is strong. Students in Years 12 and 13 have learned to become more confident, independent and self-challenging in their work. They are very keen to access the leadership opportunities available to them as well as being involved in projects that help others in the school and in the community.

There are many wider curriculum opportunities on offer. There are over 30 well-attended after-school activities provided for pupils every week. For example, the air cadets programme is very popular, as are the many trips and visits in which pupils are able to take part both at home and abroad.

Careers education in the school is strong and highly valued by pupils and sixth-form students. The personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme is comprehensive and ambitious. It is sequenced and flexible. The pupils themselves have had a part in contributing to the PSHE curriculum, most recently to modules of work in finance and in health. The school successfully prepares all pupils and students for the next stage of their lives."

Ofsted 2023

St Paul's School for Girls



Welcome from Sixth Form



Mr Gupwell Head of Year 13



Mrs Craddock Head of Year 12

Welcome to our Sixth Form. We hope that this prospectus provides you with a good overview of what we can offer at St Paul's and why we believe this is the place for you. As you will see, if you look through the quotes by many of our current and former students, we place you at the heart of everything we do. Your success and wellbeing is paramount. We recognise that achieving personal excellence carries with it many challenges; we aim to equip you with key skills and support your mental wellbeing, confident that they are intrinsically linked. We will help you to hone study skills using our expertise and experience, as well as the interpersonal skills that will support your journey towards your chosen career pathway. We have a comprehensive programme which incorporates practical self-help strategies, including yoga, mindfulness and access to our school gym. This complements the support many of you are already aware of, as we have a dedicated and caring pastoral team that continues to work alongside Mrs Canavan and Mrs Liddall.

We are very proud of our Sixth Form Team, comprising of very experienced Progress Tutors and a Learning Mentors who has helped Year 13 to achieve excellent university and apprenticeship outcomes. We have close links to many local and high performing universities and work with them to offer unique opportunities designed to support your future transition. You will enjoy the comforts and benefits of our sixth form environment, which is equipped with a kitchen and sofas, whilst retaining all the benefits of belonging to our St Paul's family. You will thrive academically and spiritually as you and your friends journey towards an exciting and prosperous future.



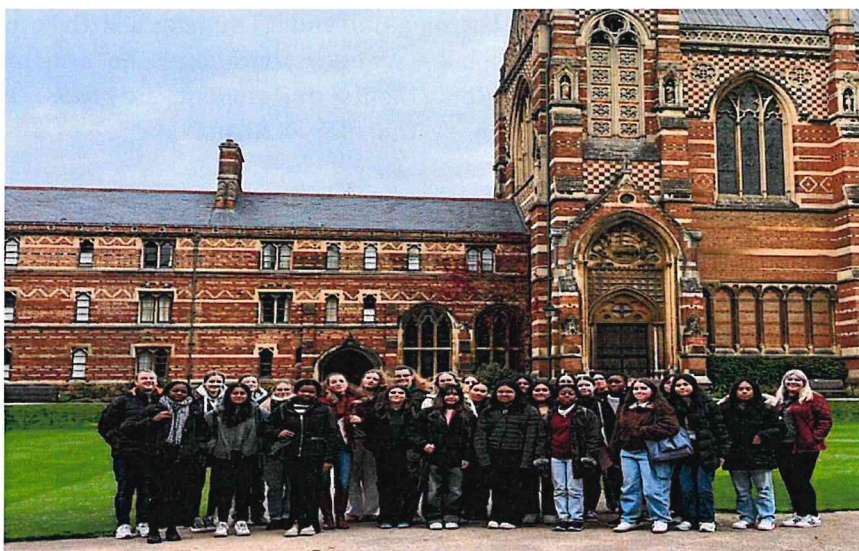
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What support will I get at St Paul's?

As well as your Head of Year, Progress Tutor and Teachers there are a whole team of people to support you at St Paul's. Designated study is supervised by a Learning Mentor who is there solely to support the 6th Form both personally, academically and in relation to any future applications e.g. UCAS. You will also have access to our Careers Coordinator, Mrs Rigg and our Lay Chaplain, Alejandra should you need it, additional Pastoral Support is available from: Mrs Liddall, Ms Robinson-Edwards, Mrs Huggins and Ms Hoare



Year 12 visit to Keeble College, Oxford.

Special Educational Needs

Should you need them, we have an excellent SEND team led by Mrs O'Neill. The School follows the demands of the DfE Revised Code of Practice, its guidelines on Inclusion and the requirements of the SEND and Disability Discrimination Act 2014. The Disability Equality plan is published on the school website. Pupils with learning needs are placed on the school's Inclusion list and are given appropriate support in line with DfE and LA recommendations.

Mrs O'Neil works with a team of support teachers and PIPs (pupil intervention and progress) who liaise regularly with parents and enlists the help of external supporting agencies where appropriate. The work of the department is successful in ensuring access to the curriculum for all our pupils. Copies of the SEND policy are available on application to Mrs O'Neill or via the website.

"The school has the highest aspirations for all learners, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. Teaching and resources are adapted effectively to meet pupils' needs and to ensure that all can access their learning."

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What help will I get with further qualification applications at St Paul's?

We offer a bespoke and comprehensive system of support to foster high aspirations and enable Year 13 to develop well prepared and high quality applications to Universities and Apprenticeships. In Year 12, we ensure students have access to a range of workshops from Universities and representatives that give guidance on apprenticeship schemes. In Year 12 and 13 there are opportunities to make use of 'Open Days' as well as Higher Education and Employment Conferences at local universities. We offer enrichment days in the summer term to support you in the UCAS application process.

Our use of Unifrog gives students an advantage when it comes to preparing for their application and conducting high quality research into University courses in the UK and abroad, and also for apprenticeships.

Our Sixth Form staff are experts in giving guidance. Mrs Hadley offers one to one support for perfecting personal statements, application forms, and curriculum vitae. Our school is uniquely linked with a range of Universities including Birmingham and Warwick, that work closely with us to support students with their applications and offer us wider access schemes.

All students being interviewed for a university place are given rigorous mock interviews. Students applying to Oxbridge, medical professions, Teaching, Law or requiring extended interviews or entrance exams, will receive additional support and guidance from our Sixth Form Team.

Over the years, St. Paul's has established excellent links with a number of higher education institutions. These include Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Aston, Coventry, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham City University, as well as Catholic institutions such as Newman University, St Mary's and Trinity.

Most students have their places at university confirmed soon after the publication of the 'A' level /Level 3 results in August. However, experienced staff are always on hand to support the few students who need to go through clearing.

What careers help will I get at St Paul's?

Careers guidance is essential at Post 16. Throughout your courses you will receive a great deal of information from Sixth Form staff in their roles as subject teachers, and progress tutors. Our Careers Coordinator and external Careers Advisor will also be on hand to organise and make you aware of opportunities and experiences that will help inform you about your future career path. You will have a personalised interview with our Careers Advisor. Your access to Unifrog is an excellent resource for researching careers and the necessary qualifications required to secure them.

Work Experience makes a significant contribution to learning for Sixth Form students. It can be used to enhance A level programmes, to collect evidence for specified units of vocational courses or provide an insight into a vocational area linked to a student's higher education or career choice.

Students following a vocational course have time built into their programmes of study for work experience. Other students are supported and encouraged to find their own placements during vacation time or at the end of Year 12.

In some cases, the voluntary work carried out as a part of the Pragmatics programme may contribute to a student's preparation for work e.g. for Teaching, Nursing, Social work, etc.



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What do students say about being in the Sixth Form at St Paul's?

"Being a member of St Paul's sixth form has provided me with skills and various study techniques I would not have been able to acquire anywhere else. Having a support system of teachers who cater their lessons to each class has allowed me to walk out of my lessons feeling enriched with knowledge knowing that I can talk to my teachers if I am ever unsure of something. Attending St Paul's has also helped me remain grounded in my Christian faith amid the challenges of A-level studies."

"I enjoy being at St Paul's Sixth form because I always feel very supported by all my teachers, many of which I have been taught lower down in the school. This has been particularly beneficial when starting my A-levels as it made the experience feel less daunting by having that sense of familiarity. Also, I have enjoyed all the opportunities we have been given beyond our studies, for example, deep learning day, wellbeing Wednesday and subject specific trips. "

"Being a Student at St Paul's Sixth Form, You have a great support system and there is so much help available. The lessons are interactive, and you have opportunities to ask many questions and develop your subject knowledge. You are supported by so many staff and if there are worries then there's always someone to talk to."



Visit to the Council House

"Being a part of the St Paul's sixth form is such an incredible opportunity. We are so lucky in the staff that we, the girls, have at this school look after us and make sure that we are supported academically and emotionally. The St Paul's Sixth Form provides some amazing opportunities that will build all sorts of skills that will be helpful for when we are in school and also in the future in university and jobs."

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Notes

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St Paul's School for Girls



General Information

Name of school:	St Paul's School for Girls Vernon Road Edgbaston Birmingham B16 9SL
Telephone:	0121 454 0895
Email:	enquiry@stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk
Website:	www.stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk
Classification:	Voluntary Aided Catholic Comprehensive Secondary Day School for Girls
Headteacher:	Dr D E Casserly. BA(Hons), QTS, MEd, NPQH, PGCR, EdD
Chairman of Governors:	Mrs Mary Browning
Office times:	8.00am – 6.00pm Monday– Thursday 8:00am—4:30pm Friday
Number on roll:	1036
Diocese:	Birmingham
Local authority:	City of Birmingham Education Department Council House Margaret Street Birmingham B3 3BU
Number of teaching staff:	81



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What does our 2021 Section 48 RE Inspection say about our school?

Catholic Life: Outstanding

Religious Education: Outstanding

Collective Worship:

"This is an Outstanding Catholic school because: Catholic Life permeates all aspects of the school, from the fabric of the building to every lesson and activity that takes place. The school is firmly grounded in the mission and heritage of the trustees of the Sisters of Charity of St Paul the Apostle, and the mission of Mother Genevieve Dupuis, 'Do your very best for the children'."

"The pupils present a deep respect for themselves, others, and the environment. Behaviour is exemplary and this is recognised and valued by the students."

"Pupils are happy and confident because of the exceptional pastoral care and support they receive. All students are known by name; staff truly know the individuals who form part of the school community."

"Pupils benefit from hugely positive relationships throughout the school and the level of pastoral care provided to support their journey."

"All pupils appreciate, value, and actively participate in the Catholic Life and mission of the school. It is the foremost reason for choosing to attend the school and for choosing to continue studying in the Sixth Form. All pupils recognise and value the unique heritage and tradition of the school."

"There is a hugely positive atmosphere around the school and a genuine sense of praise and thanksgiving. Most notable is pupils' participation in the extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities available to them, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the RAF Combined Cadet Force, which promote the school's mission."

"All pupils are incredibly proud to be part of St Paul's School for Girls. The mantra, 'I am a St Paul's girl – there is nothing I cannot achieve,' is both believed and lived by all pupils."

"Pupils work exceptionally well as independent learners in addition to effectively engaging with their peers in collaborative activities. In group tasks, pupils naturally go beyond the scope of the task to secure their understanding through discussion and collaboration. This is because of their inquisitive minds."

"Questioning is highly impressive with teachers skilled to tease out the learning from pupils, assess the quality of their answers and adjust their teaching strategies accordingly. Misconceptions are addressed routinely; as a result, pupils have a polished understanding of terminology and core knowledge."

"Pupils are trained to constantly evaluate their performance through self-reflection and peer reflection in addition to the formal points of assessment used by teachers."

"Collective Worship is integral to the daily life of the school. Prayer and liturgy, in its various forms, inspires pupils in their vocations and leave a lasting impression on their spiritual and moral development."

"Pupils are religiously literate and engaged young people."



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Determined Admission Arrangements for 2026— 2027

School name	St Paul's Catholic School for Girls		
School address	Vernon Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9SL		
Headteacher	Dr D E Casserly	Tel no:	0121 454 0895
Admission Number:	200		

Admissions policy statement	<p>St Paul's is a non-selective Catholic Girls' School. The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.</p> <p>Governors require that parents approach Parish Priests to support their application and confirm evidence of Baptism. A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed and returned directly to the school by the same date (see Note 2).</p> <p>Every year a high proportion of St. Paul's Catholic School for Girls pupils from Year 11 enter the Sixth Form to continue their studies. The school operates a sixth form for a total of 200 pupils. 100 places overall will be available in Year 12. Whilst the admission number is 2, if fewer than 98 of the school's existing pupils transfer into Year 12, additional external pupils will be admitted until Year 12 meets its capacity of 100.</p> <p>Applications for the Sixth Form for Internal applicants should be made directly to the school by 17th December 2025.</p> <p>External applicants should visit or make contact with school on GCSE results day. Applicants should bring or email a copy of their GCSE results and their most recent Year 11 report/monitoring with them.</p> <p>In addition to the sixth form's minimum academic entry requirements, pupils will need to satisfy minimum entrance requirements to the courses for which they are applying. Both internal and external pupils wishing to enter the sixth form will be expected to have met the same minimum academic entry requirements for the sixth form. These are e.g. 5 Grade 9-4 or equivalent, in GCSEs/BTECs/ Diplomas in 5 separate subjects. Those who fail to meet the minimum course requirements they will be given the opportunity of pursuing any alternative courses for which they do meet the minimum academic requirements. Course requirements are published annually in the school's prospectus and on its website.</p> <p>When Year 12 is undersubscribed all applicants meeting the minimum academic entry requirements will be admitted or permitted to progress. When there are more external applicants that satisfy any academic entry requirements priority will be given in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out below.</p> <p>Where there is space in Year 13, i.e. where there are few than 100 pupils in the year group, the school will admit additional pupils up to this number using the oversubscription criteria set out below. Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Governing body will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance (see Note 4).</p> <p>Please note that Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) that names the school, MUST be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants. This is not an oversubscription criteria.</p>		
Criteria	1	Baptised Catholic girls (see Note 2) who are looked after or previously looked after (see Note 3)	
	2	Baptised Catholic girls (see Note 2)	
	3	Non-Catholic girls who are looked after or previously looked after (see Note 3)	
	4	Other non-Catholic girls.	

St Paul's School for Girls



What are the attendance and punctuality expectations?

The ordinary school hours are from 8.50 am to 3.20 pm. Full attendance at all lessons is essential and students are expected to arrive on time for registration at 8.50 am.

In the case of illness it is important that the school is informed by telephoning 0121 454 0895 at 8:00am on the first day of absence, stating name, form and reason for absence.

- The acceptable percentage for attendance is 95% or above.
- 100% attendance is expected and rewarded.
- Attendance below 95% is unacceptable and will be followed up by both the Head of Year and Educational Social Worker.

What financial help is available at St Paul's?

Sixth Form Education is free. Some financial help is available, in the form of:

- Free School Meals, which are available to students whose parents receive Income Support.
- Student-rate travel for students aged 16-18, application forms apply

All students can apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund (policy on the school website) to support the purchase of travel passes, textbooks, revision guides, essential trips and learning resources. Assistance will be given according to parental incomes.

Who is responsible for Child Protection at St Paul's?

The School has a statutory obligation to safeguard and promote its pupils' welfare, safety, health and guidance whilst fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate. The welfare of each child is of paramount importance. Appropriate procedures are in place for the monitoring and reporting of any concerns, in accordance with Local Authority guidelines.

Designated Safeguarding Leaders



Dr Casserly
Headteacher



Mrs Canavan
Deputy
Headteacher



Miss Pandhal
Head
of Year



Mrs Kinsella
Head
of Year



Mrs Liddall
Family
Liaison



Mrs Rigg
Assistant
Headteacher



Mrs O'Neill
SENCo