



St Mary's School
CAMBRIDGE

Senior School

The Cambridge school for girls

www.stmaryscambridge.co.uk/senior-school

Independent day and boarding school



During our most recent inspection in 2022, St Mary's School was awarded the highest grade of 'excellent' by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

You are warmly invited to join our events and tours

Discover firsthand what makes our school such an inspiring and unique place for your daughter.



Scan to learn more

stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit



You can learn more by scanning here

Welcome to St Mary's Senior School

As the new Head of St Mary's School, Cambridge, I am excited to lead a community that holds such a rich history and forward-thinking vision. Our foundress, Mary Ward, believed that "By God's grace, women in time to come will do much," and this belief remains at the very heart of everything we do here.

Our school community is committed to preparing your daughter for a future in which she can embrace every opportunity with courage, confidence, and creativity. Our approach to education is not only academic but also global, ensuring that our girls are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate both their careers and personal lives. Central to our ethos are the HEART habits of Hard Work, Empathy, Adaptability, Responsibility, and Thoughtfulness, which we strive to instil in every student.

Although I step into a new role as Head, I have been at St Mary's for over 10 years, and my own daughter has now joined as a student. This academic year I have already been inspired by the joy and energy that fill our school. Each day, I witness friendships flourishing, horizons expanding, and the laughter of girls who are excited about their learning.

I warmly invite you to visit us and see firsthand how we are shaping young women to lead fulfilling lives and make a meaningful impact in the world.



Hannah Helliar

Head



More than **88%** of girls' school students report that they are comfortable being themselves at school, which means that they are free to focus their energies on their learning.

Dr Richard A. Holmgren

Learn more about
our approach



Why choose St Mary's?

We understand that, as a parent, you want an environment in which your daughter will feel empowered, supported, and able to reach her full potential. Our all-girls setting offers that and more, creating a space where she can explore her passions and develop the confidence to succeed, both academically and personally.

An environment tailored for girls

Choosing an all-girls school means choosing a place where your daughter is free to focus on her studies and personal growth without societal pressures. Research shows that girls in single-sex environments are more likely to pursue STEM subjects at university and excel in highly competitive careers. Here, we give your

daughter the freedom to explore leadership, science, mathematics, sport – whatever ignites her ambition – without limitations.

No glass ceilings

We encourage students to set no limits on their dreams, whether they are passionate about leadership, creativity, or academic excellence. We help our girls build the skills and confidence they need to follow their own path.

Values that support lifelong success

We know that you want more than just academic success for your daughter; you want her to grow up with values that will guide her through life. At St Mary's, our Catholic heritage and Mary Ward values – freedom, joy, justice, love, and truth – are central to everything we do. These values will equip her to make

positive contributions to society while staying true to herself.

Every girl is unique

Our staff recognise the importance of helping each student find and develop her own strengths. Your daughter will be supported in discovering her talents, and she will gain courage and resilience she needs to face challenges with confidence.

A focus on mental wellbeing

We understand that your daughter's mental and emotional wellbeing is our priority, and we are committed to creating a healthy environment where friendships, joy, and support are a natural part of school life. With an exceptional pastoral care and wellbeing programme, your daughter will feel valued and supported.

“At St Mary’s I’ve learned self-belief, commitment, and to enjoy my sport. If you don’t enjoy it, you won’t progress as far as you would like. It’s so important to make sure you have fun.”

Florence H-R, successfully trialed for the Cambridge United Under 18 Girls Football Squad

Where potential becomes reality

Your daughter will discover limitless possibilities in an environment just minutes from Cambridge city centre and the stunning Botanic Garden. Our facilities, including the Art Centre, Science Hub, Long Road Sports Grounds, Drama Studios, and Music Department, are designed to ignite girls’ passions for learning and exploration.

A world of inspiration at her feet

Cambridge offers an unparalleled setting for learning. From visits to Kettle’s Yard and the Fitzwilliam Museum to engaging with Silicon Fen’s innovation and University-led events, your daughter will be inspired by the wealth

of opportunities this remarkable city provides.

Journeys that shape her future

With experiences like educational trips to Rome, Germany, and Tanzania, and challenges such as the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, and learning

with students from different countries, our girls build resilience, independence, and a global perspective, preparing her for the path ahead.



Learn more
about Senior
School life





Fundraising fortnight

Each year, we host a lively fortnight of activities dedicated to raising funds for the Glanfield Children's Group. This charity supports a holiday-pilgrimage to Lourdes, in partnership with the Catholic Association, offering your daughter the chance to contribute to a meaningful cause while having fun with her peers.

Teachers at girls' schools employ alternative teaching strategies and lesson plans to maximise the learning of their students – The Positive Effects of the Girls' School Environment: An analysis of PISA data

Our history and values

Inspired by our foundress, Mary Ward (1585-1645), a pioneer in girls' education, we create a learning community rooted in faith and welcoming to all pupils, regardless of their background or beliefs. We balance tradition with innovation, blending timeless values with modern educational practices. Mary Ward's life of integrity, courage, and love inspires us, providing a strong moral and spiritual foundation for St Mary's School, helping your daughter find her voice and the confidence to express her true self.

Making a lasting impact

We encourage our students to reflect on their role in the world and the power they have as young women to make a meaningful impact. Our ethos, grounded in values like courage, confidence, and creativity, is woven into everyday school life.

Your daughter will have opportunities to lead or take part in fundraising and awareness-raising events, supporting causes close to her heart. Our mentoring programme, where Year 10 and 11 pupils guide younger girls, fosters leadership, support, and community spirit.

Scan to discover the top 10 reasons to choose a girls' school based on research: stmaryscambridge.co.uk/about/our-approach/why-choose-a-girls-school

A personalised path to success

In our small classes, your daughter will receive tailored teaching that matches her unique learning style, ensuring she gains the most from every lesson. Combined with our highly regarded pastoral care and tutoring, she will also grow socially and emotionally, equipped to handle life's challenges.

Developing individual strengths

We understand that every girl is different, which is why we focus on developing your daughter's strengths while supporting areas for growth. Our teaching adapts to her natural learning preferences, and her progress is regularly monitored and discussed with both you and her.

For those who need additional help, we offer targeted support, either through in-class assistance or specialised sessions with our

Learning Support department. Every pupil benefits from the department's expertise, as our teachers work closely with them to ensure your daughter receives the best possible support.

Tailored guidance for every learning ability

English language support

If English is not your daughter's first language, our English Language Support option provides extra assistance to help her progress in other subjects. This can be taken as an alternative to a Modern Foreign Language, with support tailored to her individual learning needs.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

For those who wish to focus on their English language skills, our EAL course can be chosen as an alternative to GCSE English qualifications. This course leads to the internationally recognised Cambridge English qualifications, ensuring your daughter's skills are acknowledged globally.



Scan to
learn more



"I have met some amazing people who are very good friends. They always bring me happiness and the comfort I need. We always spend so much time together, I love themmmmm!!"

Year 10 student

A world of enrichment and discovery

We are strong advocates of learning beyond textbooks and exams. Our enrichment programme fills the school with energy, creativity, and excitement, offering our students the chance to explore new passions and skills in a way that empowers them to take risks, collaborate, and grow.

Freed from the boundaries of curriculum requirements, your daughter will experiment, enquire, and persevere in an environment that encourages her curiosity.

Key aspects of our enrichment programme include:

Years 7-9 enrichment paths:

- Year 7: Focus on the Arts
- Year 8: STEM exploration
- Year 9: Adventure with the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

Year 10 opportunities:

- Sports Award
- Bronze STEM Award
- Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award
- BBC Young Reporters competition

Entrepreneurship and enterprise:

- Hands-on experience through the School Enterprise Challenge
- Develop business skills with the Student Investor Challenge
- Get creative and competitive in our Dragons' Den competition

88% of St Mary's girls enjoy PE, versus 49% of girls in Women in Sport's recent study 'Reframing Sport'

Unleashing your inner athlete

Sport is more than just an activity – it is an exhilarating journey where every girl has the opportunity to discover her potential. Our Sport for All programme creates an exciting, inclusive environment, welcoming everyone from novices to future sports stars. Whether your daughter is trying something new or refining her skills, there's a place for her to shine.

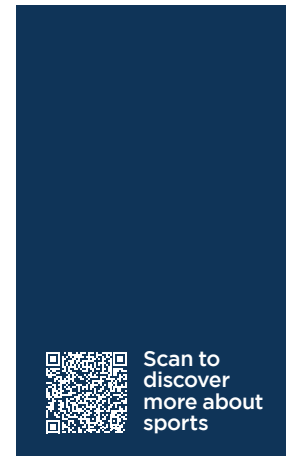
Our state-of-the-art Long Road Sports Ground, developed in partnership with Homerton College, University of Cambridge, sets the stage for unparalleled sporting experiences.

Facilities include:

- Cutting-edge AstroTurf pitches for hockey, rugby, and football
- Newly designed netball and tennis courts
- An expansive grass running track and top-level athletics facilities
- Cricket nets for aspiring players to practise and perfect their skills

- A sleek pavilion with modern changing rooms and a kitchen
- Floodlit areas to extend the sporting experience into the evening

For the more competitive athletes, we offer elite opportunities with specialist sports coaches who bring out the best in our girls. Whether it's hockey, netball, rowing, cricket, tennis, or dance, your daughter will receive expert guidance as she pushes herself to new heights.





“Our rowers this year have reaped the rewards of all their hard work, with wins and strong results at events throughout the year. They have also been there for each other, cheering each other on and building bonds that will last well beyond their time here at St Mary’s.”

Oliver Frazer, Head of Rowing

Rowing excellence

The adventure doesn't stop at Long Road Sports Ground. With our Boathouse on the River Cam, also in collaboration with Homerton College, University of Cambridge, and the City of Cambridge Rowing Club, your daughter can experience the excellence of rowing on the iconic River Cam, no matter her experience level – from beginner to elite.

As the only school rowing team in Cambridge to gain international recognition, our girls truly mean business. Our Senior School rowers were proudly nominated for the British Rowing Awards 2023 in the School Crew of the Year category, showcasing

their remarkable talent and dedication.

At the Bedford Regatta and National Schools' Regatta, they delivered impressive results:

- Year 9 A and B crews placed 9th and 34th nationally
- Year 10 crews finished 12th and 15th overall



Learn
more about
rowing

Your daughter's new curriculum

GCSE AND IGCSE COURSES 2025/27

Follow in the footsteps of our brilliant class of 2024. Gain the grades, support, confidence and skills you need to achieve your future goals.



CORE SUBJECTS

English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Religious Studies

Pupils for whom English is not their first language have the option to choose English as an Additional Language (EAL).

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Choose **six options**, including **two** or **three science** subjects.

SCIENCES	OPTIONAL SUBJECTS		
Three science IGCSEs: Biology/Chemistry/ Physics OR Two science IGCSEs: Science Double Award covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Art and Design Classical Civilisation Computer Science* Design Technology Drama English Language Support (ELS)	French Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography German History Latin	Learning Support Mandarin Chinese Music Spanish Textiles

*Computer Science can be selected as a 7th optional subject, if students select three separate science courses (Biology, Chemistry, Physics).

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUBJECTS

Consider adding **one** additional off-timetable subject to your selection: FSMQ Additional Mathematics, Classical Greek GCSE, Latin (Level 1 Certificate), Dance GCSE, Physical Education (Short Course 1/2 GCSE)

EXTEND AND ENHANCE

Alongside your academic studies, St Mary's is full of opportunities to extend learning, gain experience and to explore your interests. Further off-timetable options include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the STEM Award schemes.

Visit: stmaryscambridge.co.uk/extend

GCSE results 2024

Students at St Mary's Senior School, Cambridge are celebrating after receiving an impressive set of GCSE examination results.

42% 9-8 grades (A* or A)

76% 9- 6 grades (A* - B)

89% 9-5 grades (A* - C)



See a full breakdown of
GCSE results by subject

GCSE courses for 2025-27

Core subjects

English Literature

This course explores human behaviour and our world through poetry, 19th-century writing, Shakespeare, and contemporary fiction and drama, sparking curiosity and inspiring discussion.



English Language

Enhance your ability to express ideas clearly, engage in discussions, and consider different perspectives. Effective communication in English is an essential life skill, whatever your future career may be!



Mathematics

Gain essential mathematical skills for everyday life through this dynamic course. Explore key topics such as algebra, statistics, geometry, and probability, equipping you for advanced study in a wide range of subjects.



Religious Studies

Delve into Christianity and Judaism while exploring religion's role in society. Examine moral issues such as relationships, the environment, medical ethics, war and peace, human rights, social justice, and the origins of life and the universe.



Optional subjects

Science

A hub for STEM learning

At St Mary's, we ignite a passion for STEM through an engaging curriculum enriched by talks, events, and outings. Research shows girls in single-sex schools are more likely to pursue STEM subjects, and with the guidance of specialist teachers, students with a particular passion for STEM can join the Youth STEMM Awards, inspiring others, engaging with the public, and building leadership skills.

Science

Course selection must include two or three science IGCSEs.

Option 1: Three separate Science IGCSEs

Biology

Discover the foundations of life, from cells to ecosystems, and explore topical issues like genetic modification and food production.



Chemistry

Explore atoms, chemical equations, metals, and gases through hands-on experiments that reveal patterns across chemistry.



Physics

Delve into electrical circuits, the Big Bang, and more. Develop problem-solving and analytical skills through topics such as electricity, waves, and astrophysics.



Option 2: Science Double Award

Science Double Award (worth two IGCSEs)

This course covers all three sciences and is perfect for students who are undecided about continuing with science post-16 or want flexibility to study other subjects.





Optional subjects

Science

Computer Science

Develop problem-solving and creative thinking skills to tackle real-world challenges using computational thinking. As the UK's fastest-growing employment sector, this course teaches valuable skills like coding in Python, HTML, systems architecture, and data representation.



**Note: If studying three separate science IGCSEs, Computer Science can be chosen as an additional seventh option.*

Design Technology

Gain a broad understanding of design and technology by studying various materials, components, and systems. Learn to make informed choices in 'design and make' activities.



**Note: Minimum of 5 and maximum of 12 students per course.*

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Engage in practical learning by creating delicious food while studying nutrition to understand the science behind cookery and healthy eating.



Creative and performing arts

A home for creative and performing arts

Creative and performing arts are a vital part of our education, offering something for everyone. Whether it's taking the spotlight in drama productions, finding inspiration in our Art and Photography centre, or exploring musical talents in our orchestra, choirs, or ensembles – there are endless opportunities to express creativity.

Art and Design

Develop your technical skills and express your creativity through various media. This course allows you to explore your identity while using art as a window into other cultures and historical events.



Drama

Enhance your ability to express ideas clearly, engage in discussions, and consider different perspectives. Effective communication in English is an essential life skill, whatever your future career may be!



Music

Explore a wide range of musical styles, from classical to pop, jazz, and film music. Compose your own pieces and gain experience as a soloist and ensemble performer.



Textiles

Discover a range of textile media and techniques, from traditional to new technologies. Specialise in areas of interest, creating woven, knitted, stitched, or printed textiles.

Note: this course is limited to 5-12 students.



Optional subjects

Modern languages

Elevate your modern language skills

If you plan to study languages at university or excelled in Year 9, selecting two languages at GCSE is ideal. We encourage students to study at least one language, providing tailored guidance as needed. GCSE will focus on speaking and writing accuracy while enhancing grammar and creativity.

French

Develop your reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through engaging topics in French, covering identity, culture, local area, travel, and future aspirations.



German

This course equips you with the skills to communicate effectively in German, covering themes of identity and culture, as well as language skills for future aspirations, study, and work.



Latin

Explore Latin's influence on English by translating key mythological and historical texts from ancient Rome. Dive into the world of gods and gladiators through the writings of Rome's greatest thinkers.



Mandarin Chinese

Chinese is the world's most widely spoken language, and mastering it will give you a competitive edge as China leads the global economy.



Spanish

Enhance your Spanish language skills for effective communication in various situations, including the workplace. As you progress, you will also delve into Hispanic culture, traditions, and festivals.



Optional subjects

Humanities

The power of Humanities

Studying humanities subjects provides a rich understanding of human experiences, culture, and society. Through these subjects you will explore diverse perspectives and develop critical thinking skills, deepening your knowledge of the world.

Classical Civilisation

Explore the stories of Hercules, Theseus, and the founding of Rome, along with the ancient world's battles and beliefs. You'll also study the gods and monsters of the Odyssey, focusing on themes of vengeance, love, justice, and fate.



Geography

Explore our world, from rainforest destruction and extreme weather to developments like Eko Atlantic. A field trip to Snowdonia will enhance your data collection and presentation skills, essential for aspiring geographers.



History

Examine how historical events shape our world by exploring questions like, "What happens when democracy fails?" Study international relations, the USA, British society, and Germany (1918-45) to understand key shifts in 20th-century history.



Extra-curricular subjects

Extra-curricular options

Extracurricular subjects provide a unique opportunity for students to explore their passions beyond the core curriculum. It is an opportunity to engage with like-minded peers, develop new skills, and enrich the educational journey.

FSMQ Additional Mathematics

Enhance your mathematical skills beyond the GCSE syllabus with this qualification, essential for A Level Mathematics. Open to pupils in Mathematics Set 1 or 2 at the start of Year 10.



Classical Greek GCSE

Learn this fascinating language through stories from the ancient world. Ideal for aspiring medics and dentists, this course is taught after school with students from St Bede's Inter-Church School.



Dance GCSE

This course focuses on practical dance across various styles and the analysis of choreography. It is taught after school by our Dance Co-ordinator.



Physical Education Short Course GCSE

Passionate about sport? This course covers health, training, and exercise physiology during Friday enrichment sessions, equivalent to half a GCSE.





Preparing you for your future

To support your daughter's transition into further studies and the world of work, we have a specialist careers service in-house. With personalised advice, numerous industry contacts and a wealth of experience, we equip our students with the skills needed to confidently navigate their futures.

"Receiving my offer from Oxford was amazing! I am so grateful for my time at St Mary's – all my teachers were so dedicated and passionate about their subject, and everyone pushes you to achieve your potential, whilst being kind and encouraging above all."

Amelie A.

Stepping into the Sixth Form

As your daughter travels through her educational journey, after Senior School the next exciting next chapter in your journey is the Sixth.

We find that the great relationships our staff build with our girls, enables students to hit the ground running, making their transition to greater independence and more challenging study much easier. Less time is wasted settling in, more time is spent immersing themselves into their chosen A Levels.



Scan here to view our Sixth Form results



Scan here to view our destinations

St Mary's Sixth achieved the second highest **A Level** results in Cambridge in 2024.

Beyond the academics

We know it is important that your daughter develops into a well-rounded individual. We do not just impart academic knowledge; we arm our students with practical skills, meaningful experiences, and the wisdom needed to flourish on their life path.

Choosing a path after GCSEs can feel like a big decision, but your family is not alone. Our dedicated Head of Careers, Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Department, and tutors are all ready

to partner with you and your daughter. Together, we will explore all the options to help your daughter make informed, exciting choices for her future.





“As a regular flexi-boarder, we feel she has got the “best of both worlds”. She has enjoyed ready companionship with other boarders and a sense of community. At the same time, she has had access to the familiarity and comfort of home ...”

Parent

Flexible boarding options to suit your family life

Boarding at St Mary's provides not only a welcoming, vibrant community but also extended academic guidance to support your learning journey and independence. With access to additional study time and tailored academic support, you will have the resources you need to excel both inside and outside the classroom.

We offer a range of flexible boarding options to suit both you and your family's needs:

- Full-time boarding: Student live at school throughout the term, returning home for half terms and holidays.
- Weekly boarding: Students can enjoy school during the week, returning home on weekends

and rejoining on Sunday evening or Monday morning.

- Flexi-boarding: Whether it's an occasional night, a regular evening each week, or several weeks at a time, this option offers flexibility for busy schedules.

In our boarding community, girls form a new sense of independence,

guided by a caring and dedicated team. Alongside their academic growth, boarders take part in a variety of enriching activities across Cambridge—punting on the River Cam, attending Evensong at King's College, enjoying cream teas, and exploring the city's historic and cultural sites.



Applying to St Mary's

1. Visit us

We warmly invite you to arrange a **personal visit** or to attend an **open event**, to understand more about life at St Mary's and to meet our leadership team, staff and students.

2. Apply for a place

To apply, simply download and complete an application form at **stmaryscambridge.co.uk/apply** and return it to our admissions team.

Contact us with any questions you may have on **+44 (0)1223 224 167** or at **admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk**

3. Assessment

Our admissions process involves assessments, including age appropriate tests, and an interview. We make this an enjoyable experience, so we can recognise your daughter's true potential.

Girls applying for **Year 7** to **Year 9** are invited to a pre-assessment tea, to meet other prospective families, current pupils and teachers, and feel at ease.

Next steps

Arrange your personal visit or to attend an open event
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit
or call **+44 (0)1223 224 167**

Scholarships:
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/scholarships

Bursaries: **stmaryscambridge.co.uk/bursaries**

Admissions FAQs:
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/admissionsfaq

Assessment and sample papers:
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/assessment

Fees: **stmaryscambridge.co.uk/fees**

Application deadlines:
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/application

Joining our Senior School

We welcome pupils with a broad range of academic abilities, who are enthusiastic and have a desire to engage in learning.

We accept applications to all Senior School years except Year 11, but typically girls join us:

- In Year 7 (age 11+) to build towards Key Stage 4
- In Year 9 (age 13+) to begin GCSE studies

Find out how to apply at:
stmaryscambridge.co.uk/joinus
+44 (0)1223 224 167
admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk

Open Event

Book an open event or arrange a personal visit today:

stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit
or call **+44 (0)1223 224 167**





St Mary's School CAMBRIDGE

ADMISSIONS

St Mary's School

Bateman Street
Cambridge CB2 1LY

+44 (0)1223 224 167

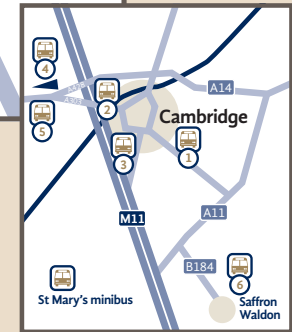
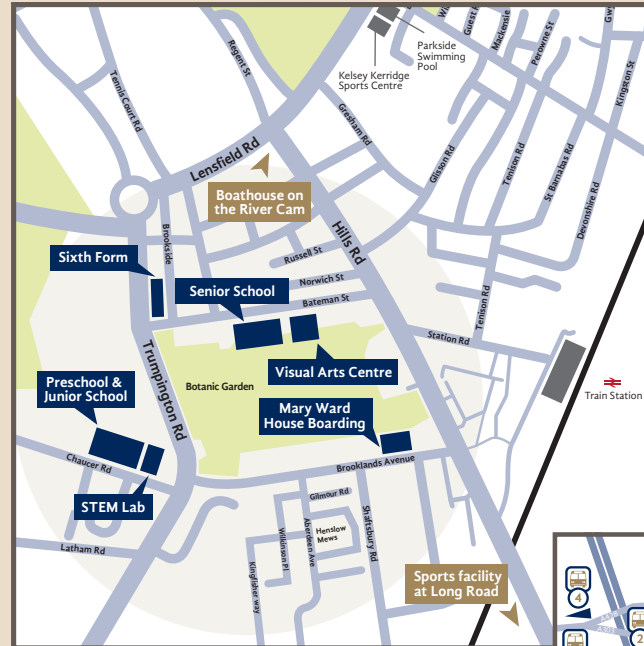
admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk

stmaryscambridge

St Mary's School, Cambridge

StMarysSchoolCambridge

stmaryscambridge.co.uk



PARK AND RIDE

1. Babraham Park and Ride
2. Madingley Park and Ride
3. Cambourne
4. Trumpington Park and Ride
5. Milton Park & Ride
6. Saffron Walden

