



# ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

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## SIDMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM





# ST JOHN'S SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

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The School Office is open **between 08:00 and 17:00**  
**in term time.**

In school holidays, the School Office is open  
**between 09:00 and 16:00.**

\*\*\*A voicemail message may be left on +44 (0) 1395 513984 or an email sent to [contact.stjohns@iesmail.com](mailto:contact.stjohns@iesmail.com) outside of these times, which will be actioned when the School Office reopens.

# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

**Welcome to St John's School in Sidmouth.** From the laying of the foundation stone in 1883 to the present day, our site has been a place of solace and education for many. A visit will certainly confirm the warmth of welcome – something akin to the feeling of 'coming home'. Not surprising then that we describe life at St John's as being part of a large family.

Our bywords of 'individuality', 'opportunity' and 'success' sum up the essence of what we offer at St John's. Ultimately, small class sizes, combined with a very strong pastoral ethos, means that we can spend time getting to know our pupils really well, thereby getting the very best out of all of them. In addition, whilst they are hugely important, we don't just focus on the '3 Rs' at the expense of everything else; we offer a fabulously varied curriculum, strongly rooted in enquiry-based learning, along with an exciting programme of extra-curricular activities; there is the space and time for a varied and full education.

Children can attend St John's from the age of 2½ until they are 16. Whilst the majority will be day pupils, St John's offers a vibrant boarding experience which can be 'full', 'weekly' or 'flexi', with good food, homely bedrooms and a bright, revamped Boarders' Common Room. Weekend trips, with the focus on fun, are the icing on the cake of the boarding experience.

As a result of generic marketing blurb, it can be difficult to distinguish one independent school from another. Visiting us in person will allow you to experience our ethos and facilities and we invite you to come and see St John's in action. We offer bespoke tours; this allows us to focus on one family at a time – as it should be.

*Bryan Kane*

Head of School



# NURSERY



Our Nursery is a wonderful space within the grounds of St John's School, Sidmouth. Located next to Reception and Year 1 and Year 2, the nursery provides an outstanding start to your child's passion for learning.

Offering a stimulating and creative indoor classroom, a bespoke outside play area, forest school, a heated pool as well as music, PE, tennis and Spanish, the nursery is a place where children fall in love with learning and discover the excitements of the world around them.

Our highly experienced, passionate and motivated team is supplemented by St John's School PE, Swimming, Music and Spanish teachers, who provide age-appropriate learning.

As part of the school, we are lucky enough to be able to enjoy all the school facilities including the sports hall, the extensive playing fields, Welly Boot Camp, in addition to a heated indoor/outdoor swimming pool. This allows our youngest children the opportunity to access fun lessons, which we consider essential with so many water hazards and amenities in the local area. Older children from the school often help within Nursery and this contributes to a smooth transition for those moving through to 'big school' in Reception at St John's, which are the majority. There is also a constant interaction between Nursery, Reception and Year 1, the sharing of resources in addition to team teaching, so that all children benefit from staff skills, enthusiasm and professionalism.

Our Nursery follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and our own method of enquiry based learning which allows us to create an environment that encourages children to enquire, explore, question, investigate, create, imagine and most importantly have fun!

### **NURSERY LIFE**

Loose parts play a big focus within St John's Nursery. The children are the creators of their own learning throughout the environment provided. Through the open-ended resources

they are able to transport, fill, create and imagine; allowing the children to be in control of this journey is one of the most exciting things to watch. At St John's we plan the environment through the eyes of the child.

Story of the week is a big focus at Nursery. We love to really get into a story and talk more deeply about what is happening and the language being used. By the end of the week we can hopefully recall the story! This forms the beginning of the learning journey to becoming an enthusiastic reader. Our Reading Den expands on the love of books by allowing the children to have time to look at them independently or quietly with an adult. The engaging cubby holes (with props to support story and non-fiction books) are planned with the children's interests and next steps at the forefront. Books can be found all around the nursery for the children to engage with whenever and wherever they are exploring.

At St John's Nursery we pride ourselves in each and every child being part of the creation of the learning environment. Through their love of learning we aim to inspire their young minds to become enthusiastic learners. However, the four walls do not restrict us! The natural world beyond gives us endless opportunities!



# JUNIORS



Welcome to St John's, a vibrant independent school nestled in the heart of East Devon.

Within the Junior School (Reception – Year 6), we celebrate the unique individuality of each child, fostering an environment where every student is encouraged to explore their passions and talents.

Our commitment to providing abundant opportunities ensures that every child can engage in a rich and varied curriculum, enhanced by a wide range of extracurricular activities. We believe that learning should be an adventure, one that empowers our students to discover their strengths and build confidence.

At St John's, we define success not just by academic achievement, but by the development of character, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning. We nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Join us on this exciting journey which continues seamlessly into the Senior School at Year 7.

**SPORT, MUSIC, SPANISH, ART AND DRAMA:** At St John's, we offer a dynamic range of activities designed to foster both personal and academic growth, ensuring a well-rounded experience for our junior students.

**SWIMMING LESSONS:** Our comprehensive swimming program takes place in our covered, heated pool, where students build confidence and proficiency in the water. Qualified instructors tailor lessons to suit all abilities, promoting safety and enjoyment while developing essential swimming skills.

**SPORTS ACTIVITIES:** We take pride in our active sports curriculum, featuring rugby, football, netball, and hockey amongst many others. Our experienced team focus on developing teamwork, skills, and a love for physical activity. Regular matches and tournaments not only enhance competitive spirit but also instill values of resilience and sportsmanship.

**MUSIC:** Music is an integral part of life at St John's. Students can explore their musical talents through vocal and instrumental lessons, participate in school concerts, and join various music clubs. This encourages creativity and teamwork, while creating a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

**SPANISH:** Our Spanish lessons start in Reception and immerse students in the language and culture, using engaging activities and interactive lessons. This hands-on approach helps develop their communication skills, broadening their horizons and fostering an appreciation for diverse cultures. With strong links to our schools in Europe and South America, we are able to offer exchanges from Year 5 all the way into the Senior School

**SPECIALISED TEACHING:** In Year 5, students benefit from being taught by GCSE-level teachers in Science, allowing for a deeper exploration of scientific concepts. This advanced instruction sparks curiosity and encourages critical thinking. In Year 6, our English, Art, and Drama classes are similarly enriched by the expertise of GCSE teachers, helping students refine their creative and analytical skills while preparing them for future academic challenges.



At St John's, our diverse range of activities and specialised teaching ensures that each child is encouraged to explore their interests, develop their talents, and achieve success in a nurturing and stimulating environment far in advance of many schools.

As a Junior School, our holistic and nurturing approach to success is measured using summative and formative assessments as well as recognising personal growth and achievements. Alongside continual teacher assessments, our children's progress is supported by regular computer-based testing which further enables our individualised approach without the pressures of external exams or SATs.

Children's successes both in and outside of school are highlighted in our weekly Junior Celebration Assembly. The assembly also gives children the chance to showcase their talent whether this be performing a musical instrument, sharing their learning or triumphs on the sports field.

Our family-oriented approach works in harmony with our three principles of Individuality, Opportunity and Success which enable happy, confident and curious pupils with a love of learning.

### **CURRICULUM IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Across the school, we use the Early Years Foundation Framework in Reception and the English National Curriculum as a basis for our Junior School Enquiry Programme. Both of these are enriched by our extensive co-curricular programme.

At St John's School, we believe in the importance of a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom. Our extensive extracurricular program offers students a variety of clubs every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4.00pm to 5.00pm, encouraging them to explore new interests and develop vital skills.

On Tuesdays, students can participate in external activities like horse-riding and tennis, providing exciting opportunities to engage with the outdoors and improve physical fitness. Our Fun Science club sparks curiosity with hands-on experiments, while Pilates promotes wellness and relaxation.

Wednesdays are filled with enriching options such as table tennis and chess, perfect for honing strategic thinking and coordination. Students can dive into swimming sessions or join our Eco Club, where they learn about sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Thursdays offer a creative flair with clubs like Art and Cooking, allowing students to express themselves artistically while developing culinary skills. Public Speaking enhances communication abilities, and our Sports club promotes teamwork and physical activity.

With such a diverse range of clubs, St John's School ensures that every child finds their passion, fostering individuality and collaboration in a supportive environment.





*The children bound into school every day, greeted by the smiles and welcomes of the staff. With friendships blossoming across the year groups the children have a fabulous opportunity to develop core skills beyond the classroom. A happy and cheerful atmosphere envelops the school creating a wonderful learning environment which in turn provides the opportunity for the children to grow into the best versions of themselves.*

*Junior School Parent*



# SENIORS



At St John's School, students in Years 7 to 9 embark on a broad and balanced curriculum designed to foster both academic excellence and personal growth. In English, students develop strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, with a focus on classic and modern literature. Maths challenges them to enhance problem-solving abilities, ensuring a deep understanding of core concepts.

Languages play a key role, with students studying French and Spanish, honing communication skills and cultural awareness. In Science, the curriculum is engaging and practical, covering biology, chemistry, and physics, fostering curiosity and analytical skills.

Art allows students to express creativity and explore different media, while Drama builds confidence and performance skills. Design Technology (DT) and Food Technology offer hands-on learning experiences, with DT focusing on innovative product design and construction, and Food Tech teaching essential cooking and nutrition knowledge.

History and Geography help students develop a global perspective and a deeper understanding of historical events and geographical processes. Physical education is also vital, with activities such as Swimming, PE, and Games promoting teamwork, fitness, and healthy competition.

Through this diverse range of subjects, Years 7 to 9 students at St John's School are equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive academically, socially, and creatively.

## SENIORS: YEARS 10 AND 11

In Years 10 and 11 at St John's School, our community becomes even more vibrant as students from our partner schools worldwide join us in boarding in Year 10 and for Term 1 of Year 11. These students bring with them a rich tapestry of cultural and linguistic diversity, creating an inclusive and globally aware environment.

This international mix offers local and boarding students a unique opportunity to learn from one another, broadening their understanding of different cultures, traditions, and perspectives. The cultural exchange enriches the learning experience both inside and outside the classroom, as students share languages, ideas, and customs. It fosters open-mindedness and helps develop intercultural communication skills, which are essential in today's globalised world.

We offer a wide range of GCSE and iGCSE subjects at St John's which currently include English Language, English Literature, Combined Science, Maths, Psychology, Business Studies, History, Geography, Art, PE, ICT, LAMDA, French and Spanish.

## SENIOR SPORT

Sport plays a vital role in independent school life, offering students a balanced and healthy lifestyle. At St John's, we are proud to have excellent facilities, including two sports fields, tennis courts, a spacious sports hall, and an indoor heated swimming pool with a retractable cover. These resources support a comprehensive sports programme that includes a variety of activities such as rugby, football, netball, cricket, rounders, gymnastics, swimming, trampolining, cross-country running, athletics, and other outdoor pursuits.

During the winter months, boys participate in rugby, football, futsal, and hockey, while girls enjoy netball, hockey, and football. In the summer, everyone can take part in cricket, rounders, and athletics, ensuring a diverse and engaging sporting experience throughout the year culminating in the annual Sports Day and Swimming Gala.

The programme also incorporates gymnastics, swimming, tennis, and health-related fitness, focusing on the development of motor coordination, mobility, and endurance skills. Our commitment to physical education helps students build confidence and physical competence.

Regular fixtures with schools across the region foster healthy competition, and our sports teachers maintain strong relationships with local clubs, district, and county coaches.

We are committed to every child feeling part of a sports team throughout their time at St John's and are proud to have county cricket players, regional swimmers and national fencers within our student body.

Sport at St John's is a strong team lead by a Senior Sport Lead, Junior Sport Lead, Swimming Coach, and two Graduates specialising in sport.



## SENIOR MUSIC

Music is integral to life at St John's, fostering creativity and confidence. Students explore musical composition and performance as well as studying various styles, from classical to rock and jazz in weekly music lessons.

Our beautiful Chapel hosts concerts and carol services, while the Drama Hall is used for regular rehearsals. Many students take instrumental or singing lessons with our peripatetic teachers, and exciting opportunities like Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra workshops and studio recordings further enrich their musical experience.

## ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

At St John's School, Art and Design Technology (DT) nurture creativity, problem-solving, and practical skills. Students explore various media, techniques, and design processes, developing a strong foundation in visual and creative thinking. Art is offered at GCSE, providing opportunities for in-depth study and personal expression. With excellent facilities and supportive teachers, students are encouraged to push boundaries and express individuality through their artistic and design projects.

## SENIOR DRAMA

At St. John's School, Drama begins in Nursery and can be pursued through to Year 11 with the prestigious LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) programme. Drama enhances students' confidence, communication, and performance skills through creative expression.

Students engage in acting, scriptwork, and improvisation, with opportunities to perform in school productions every year. LAMDA qualifications offer a structured path for those passionate about developing their dramatic talents further.

## ENRICHMENT

Extracurricular clubs at St John's School offer numerous benefits, enhancing students' learning beyond the classroom. These clubs encourage personal growth, leadership, and teamwork while allowing students to explore their passions in areas like sports, music, drama, and creative arts. By participating in diverse activities, students develop important life skills, build friendships across the year groups, and boost self-confidence. The wide range of clubs ensures every student can find an interest that fosters balance and well-being.

Current clubs on offer include Tennis, Martial Arts, Sport, Swimming, Science Crest Award, Maths Club, Horse Riding, Golf, Photography, Chess, Eco Club, Cooking, Pilates, Crocheting and IT.





Choosing the right school for our child was a big decision and we couldn't be happier that we chose St John's. Our first impression of St John's was one of a happy, safe and supportive place, where there is an emphasis on care, values and community. The school, teachers and staff have a very positive impact on the pupils, and our son has become a very confident and a highly motivated student thanks to excellent teachers and teaching methods. Through extracurricular activities he has become a true leader, both on and off the sports field. He has benefited from the small class sizes and the opportunity of making new friends from all over the world. He loves St John's and I know he will remember his time there with fond memories for the rest of his life.

*Senior School Parent*

# BOARDING



St John's has a well established boarding community that offers students from many different cultures and backgrounds the opportunity to excel in an extremely safe and caring family atmosphere.

Students who board at St John's can either choose:

- **Weekly boarding** (*going home at weekends*)
- **Full boarding** (*full-time board, inc. weekends*)

The boarding house at St Johns provides separate accommodation for girls and boys and all access to boarding is controlled by electronic key cards. The first floor rooms are newly refurbished and the dormitories on the top floor can accommodate up to 20 students. They are comfortable, bright and clean with single beds or bunk beds, a wardrobe, under bed storage and a desk for each child. There is a communal kitchen and common area where boarders can relax, hang out with friends or self-study.

The Head of Boarding and Head of School live on-site and the boarding staff also have rooms within the school. Students have access to members of staff on duty throughout the evening and near their sleeping quarters during the night. When students are ill and need personal care they can be accommodated in our medical facility.

St John's offers a plethora of extra-curricular activities for boarder and day pupils. There are opportunities for students to attend badminton, tennis, art, drama and other clubs. Music lessons can also be arranged for a number of musical instruments. In the evenings and over the weekends boarders will undertake a wide range of activities from baking, sports, games and film nights to having fun in the swimming pool. With the World Heritage Jurassic Coastline on the doorstep there will be plenty of opportunities to explore the local area and beaches. Saturday excursions give boarders the chance to experience fun and exciting activities and the option for many to make friendships for life during their time with us.

*I remember when we first joined, we were told we'd see the fruits of what SJS instills in the children in terms of character, self-esteem and the ability to apply oneself, and research independently and confidently. I see that in every aspect of my children at the moment, and know wholeheartedly that it was down to this incredible start in life...*

*They were the most precious and happy years for them and I just really, really needed to say thank you. I am filled with gratitude (and most often disbelief) that they had such an incredible start!*

*Senior School Parent*

*"Thank you for all the kindness you've had with Monserrat, she has really enjoyed her stay in boarding. It has been an unforgettable experience for her. We are very happy with everything she has learned in these months, especially her emotional and social learning. She takes with her a great bunch of memories of the beautiful places she visited with her friends and classmates."*

*Boarding Parent*



**BOOK A VISIT**



**OUR FEE'S**



**F.A.Q'S**



**Individuality – Opportunity – Success**

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