



St. Catherine's Catholic School for Girls

a media arts college







Welcome to St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls

St Catherine's is a comprehensive school which has proved to be consistently high performing enabling students of all abilities to fulfil their potential and achieve at the highest academic standards.

The ethos of the school based upon the gospel values ensures we are a caring and supportive community which nurtures the girls as they grow into confident, independent and responsible young women with a commitment to their faith.

Our specialism in the Media Arts encourages and facilitates a creative and vibrant approach to learning and teaching. The staff work enthusiastically to provide an extensive range of enriching experiences for the students, as learning outside the classroom is very much valued and encouraged. It is essential for their personal development and their enjoyment of school life.

Working in partnership with parents is a vital component to future success and I believe that the quality of co-operation and communication between school and home has a significant impact on the students' performance.

Patricia M Slonecki – Headteacher

“The chapel holds relaxing meditation sessions at break times.

This is a great opportunity to build a strong relationship with God.”

Yr 8 Student

Learning to Love Learning



We aim for our students to enjoy the experience of learning so that they will become lifelong learners. We keep learning and teaching at the core of all that we do and continually work with our teachers in order to provide high quality teaching throughout the school.

The school has benefited enormously over the past years from significant financial investment which has provided opportunity for rebuilding and refurbishment across the estate. The facilities throughout are now excellent with superb specialist facilities in science, ICT, design technology and the Arts.

The large, light and airy Chapel is the spiritual core of the school and the centre of its liturgical life. The Chapel is in constant use from early morning till the end of the day for mass, prayer and meditation. Students and staff gather together in a variety of ways, individually, with friends or in form or class groups.

The school now offers a modern approach to learning and teaching in high quality accommodation. We recognise the importance of providing a safe and secure environment for the students and staff. We hope that St Catherine's is a place where we come daily to work together in a clean, efficient and well organised community.

Our Patron



St Catherine's was founded in 1953 by the La Sainte Union sisters. They took their mission from their founder, Father Jean Debrabant.

Its most essential purpose is to provide a rich soil in which Catholic women can grow in faith, investigating it, learning about it, testing it, practising it and celebrating it.

St Catherine was a woman who cared for the sick and who loved learning. She was a leader, persuading the Pope to return from exile in Avignon to come back to his proper place as Head of the Church in Rome and she was a person who fought for Truth.

She is a great role model for our students.

"Only in a profoundly Christian-based education did I see any hope for society."



Father Jean Debrabant



"A vibrant and welcoming school,
where staff are devoted to

making a difference to the lives of all girls at the school."

Teacher

Learning for Life



Our curriculum aims to develop those skills which will equip our young women for the 21st Century. Students from St Catherine's will emerge from the school as successful, confident, responsible citizens who have the appropriate level of independence and necessary morals and values to make a valuable contribution to society.

We recognise that students do not all have the same ability, interest and maturity therefore we have designed a curriculum that allows for flexibility and progression. We offer a wide ranging choice of subjects and qualifications which motivates and offers an appropriate level of challenge for our students. We regularly review our curriculum and embrace change as an opportunity to improve the life chances of our students.



I think it's marvellous that our teachers are willing to give up Saturday mornings to help students get up to date with their course work."

Yr 10 Student



Learning Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

At St Catherine's, we believe that learning does not only take place in the classroom. We encourage and promote all activities as we see the personal development of our students as important as their academic development and helps the girls to enjoy life in school more and a time when they learn about themselves. Whatever your daughter's interests she will find the opportunity to develop and use her talents as part of our enrichment programme.

Our students enjoy a wide variety of activities. These include competitive team sports, drama productions, musical concerts, and public speaking competitions.

There are trips to the theatre, museums, art galleries, ballet, opera and sporting events.

We offer all our students at least one opportunity each year to focus on their spiritual development, the current programme includes the following possibilities depending on year group; a mission day in school, day retreat to Aylesford or a residential retreat to Whitstable or Kitbury.

There are other residential journeys to France, Spain and of course the annual Ski trip.





Specialised Learning

St Catherine's is a specialist Arts College, specialising in Media, Drama and English. This status enables us to make St Catherine's a centre for the arts in the local community.

As well as having the very best teaching in these subjects and providing a range of courses in them, we use them to promote excellent learning across the curriculum.

There are a number of enrichment activities which take place in Drama and Media as well as productions involving students from all year groups.

Drama is used as a tool across the curriculum to enliven lessons and as a successful strategy to support learning.

Media techniques and associated resources are used similarly but also to support the teachers themselves to reflect on their own practice in the classroom.

We work closely with our partner schools and groups and believe the events contribute positively to the local community. Recently we have arranged a local carnival and a circus which were both successful and great fun for everyone.



"Our media arts specialism

has meant the development of media classrooms, resources and endless ways of enhancing our curriculum."

Specialist school co-ordinator



"Our daughter loves coming to school and is eager to learn, thanks to the environment and culture through the work of the staff."

Chair of Parent Association



“As a maths and reading mentor,
not only do I help teach Yr 7 students but
a bond of friendship is created between us.”

Peer Mentor Yr 11 Student

Learning for Everyone



St Catherine's is a school that cares for the individual student. We recognise and celebrate the differences that naturally exist in our community.

As a multi ethnic school we seek to prepare students to take their place in a diverse society. Throughout all aspects of school life we create conditions where girls from wide-ranging backgrounds and cultures can work harmoniously with respect for one another.

Working in partnership with parents and ensuring referrals to appropriate services are key to offering the right support and guidance for our students.

The pastoral team of Form Tutor, Personal Learning Co-ordinator and Year Leader ensure that the whole child is monitored and effectively supported.

We are very fortunate to have a Chaplain who is also a fully trained counsellor and students are able to speak to her as they wish as well as students being referred to her by staff. Issues which may require intervention include, exam stress, bereavement, health concerns and dealing with friendship issues.

A number of Year 10 students are trained to act as peer mentors for younger students. This is a very effective strategy as many of our girls are the perfect role model and good communicators.



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