

our vision - their future

Welcome to St Margaret's – this prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our world and to help you make a decision that is key to your daughter's future.

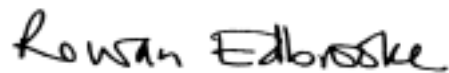
If your daughter joins St Margaret's, you embark on a partnership which is crucial to your daughter's success. It will serve to ensure that she is thoroughly supported, encouraged and challenged to be the best she can be.

A sense of fun, intellectual curiosity, creativity and a love of learning characterise our school. Girls achieve their best when they are happy, and friendship and help will be offered by all members of our school community.

We prize equally academic excellence and achievement outside the classroom. Opportunities abound to excel both in academic studies and in music, drama, art and sport; furthermore our girls are encouraged to develop independence of mind, alongside the ability to work in a team to achieve success.

Our goal is to help and encourage your daughter to become a confident, articulate, vibrant young woman with a true sense of self worth, modesty and integrity who will feel and be fit for a full, active and personally satisfying life in the world beyond school.

Do come and visit us! We look forward to welcoming you and to giving you a taste of life at St Margaret's.



Miss R Edbrooke
Headmistress





junior house

Interaction and harmony creates the perfect environment for girls to develop both their academic and personal skills. Our highly qualified staff will encourage and help your daughter to express her ideas imaginatively and confidently through the written and spoken word, and enable her to approach mathematical challenges with understanding and enjoyment.

As you would expect in this important period of your daughter's development, great emphasis is placed on the teaching of literacy and numeracy within a full and varied academic curriculum.

Junior House has excellent facilities for learning, including its own Learning Resource Centre with a networked bank of computers and specialist areas for Art and Design Technology.

Your daughter's educational experience will also encompass creative and physical activities. St Margaret's has an outstanding reputation in the fields of Music and Drama, and opportunities abound for pupils to develop their talents individually, or as a group, be it in the Junior Orchestra, choirs, or in dramatic productions. Physical Education is an integral part of the school curriculum and comprises many activities, including swimming, hockey and netball.

Our overall objective is that your daughter will enjoy and benefit from an all-encompassing educational experience, which will prepare her for a natural transition into Senior School.



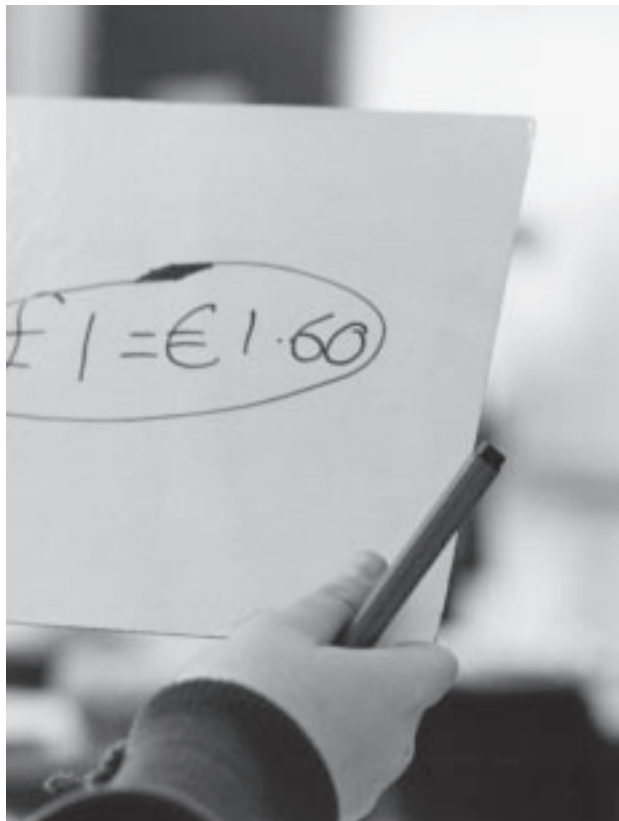


the sum of the parts

The world is one of geometric curves, surfaces, shapes and designs. From the waves of the ocean and the shape of the galaxy to the form of a pine cone, we find the harmony of shape and design. From the symmetry of a butterfly to the shape of a snowflake, nature is a myriad of mathematical concepts - symmetry, proportion, perspective, ratios and patterns.

In the 13th century Thomas Aquinas stated a fundamental truth of aesthetics: 'The senses delight in things duly proportional,' that is, there is a definite relationship between beauty and mathematics.

The world of numbers can often be a daunting prospect for some. Our philosophy on teaching this very important subject is to ensure pupils approach it with a sense of fun, curiosity and eagerness.





quintessentially english

Outstanding achievements at GCSE and A level culminate in regular University placements including Oxbridge.

The English Department is a dynamic and stimulating environment where, in an integrated way, your daughter will learn the core requirements of reading, writing, spelling and listening. The energy, enthusiasm and expertise of the English teaching staff have stimulated students to achieve the successes that have now become commonplace.

Throughout the course of the year cultural excursions are organised, including trips to see local and regional theatre productions.

Resources in the department are modern and engaging, and pupils are encouraged to pursue individual reading interests, explore genre in writing, and to relish discussion and debate.





setting the scene

Drama is a vibrant and varied subject which has something to offer each and every pupil. As part of the creative arts, it is a practical subject which enriches both culturally and aesthetically. Physical and emotional awareness, confidence and understanding, are integral to developing knowledge of theory, skill and practice. We will empower your daughter by providing an artistic awareness of historical, political and social issues. Beyond all else, Drama is about that most important of life skills, relationships.

There is an exciting Drama culture at St Margaret's, with a major production being performed each year. There are also opportunities to be involved in Youth Theatre, Touring Theatre Group, work performed at festivals, evenings of Drama from Shakespeare to contemporary scenes, ensemble pieces performed by the upper school and house plays.

Pupils studying Drama cover a wide variety of work, including news programmes, documentaries, film making and storytelling. GCSE and AS/A2 Drama are an option, and give students the opportunity to write, perform and direct plays, as well as increasing their understanding of technical skills such as lighting, stage management and set design.









the chemistry works

Physics equals fun is the motto written in large letters on the wall of the main Physics lab. This philosophy is applied across all of the three sciences taught at St Margaret's. By promoting Biology, Chemistry and Physics in stimulating ways, we ensure that an eagerness to learn and explore is consistently maintained. This is reflected in the continuing success of our A level candidates progressing to University places.

Our teaching staff are constantly seeking new and innovative ways of presenting the sciences. A new Physics course, which was introduced recently, offers up Physics in everyday, real-world contexts without sacrificing rigour. Investigating the breaking strain of crunchie bars as a model for internal bone structure proves very popular.

Our thriving Biology, Chemistry and Physics Departments are being rewarded with new purpose-built, state-of-the-art laboratories, which will help to ensure that the boundaries of the sciences are continually pushed, probed and explored.

IT girls

Information Technology continues to grow and has now reached a stage where it has integrated with our everyday lives.

St Margaret's identified how significant IT would become, and therefore invested heavily in new IT suites boasting both PC and Apple Mac systems with fast and filtered Internet connections. Your daughter will be given her own e-mail address and encouraged to use the Internet as a research tool for both projects and homework.

ICT is integrated into all subjects and used in many different forms throughout the school, ranging from electronic whiteboards to video conferencing.







verbal harmony

Enjoyment is the key to learning. We believe that if your daughter is enjoying her lesson and is inspired by the teacher, she will be more receptive to learn, eager to achieve and have a willingness to participate.

Languages are taught with enthusiasm and energy by a skilled team of specialists whose aim is to ensure that every pupil has a positive experience and achieves her potential. Each year three foreign language assistants (French, German and Spanish) work with small groups to refine oral techniques to increase cultural awareness.

Our links with European schools ensure that exchange trips to France, Germany and Spain are worthwhile cultural and linguistic experiences. We also welcome, on an annual basis, an international touring theatre company who perform in a variety of languages with productions aimed at Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and A level.

All pupils study French as their core language from year 7 until GCSE in year 11. German and Spanish are also introduced into the curriculum, with all three languages taught right up to A level. Our Languages Department can be justifiably proud of its achievements, with a continuous succession of students leaving to study languages at University.

We will promote your daughter's understanding of the importance of a world where international links are crucial, where interaction between countries and peoples is positive, and where the ability to communicate in languages other than English is necessary for the future of global citizenship.







presenting the past

The history of the Westcountry has been strongly influenced by the Norman occupation, and much later, by the impact of the Industrial Revolution and the textile industry. To appreciate other cultures and how these relate to our world, the History Department will take your daughter abroad to locations such as the Palace of Versailles, Paris and the Reichstag, Berlin. However, to understand more about modern Europe, and the situation in the Middle East, then a visit to Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland could provide a chilling insight!

History as a subject is unique in that it encompasses a whole range of other subjects, whether they be Renaissance Art, First World War poetry and literature, human geography, world politics or the sociology of the American black civil rights campaign.

Our philosophy of understanding the world through the study of its people and events has been a major contributing factor in the outstanding achievements enjoyed by our students at GCSE and A level.



our global village

Throughout the school the study of Geography is concerned with issues of global citizenship and environmental protection, as well as aspects of physical and human geography. Topics such as fair trade, the global fashion industry, water supplies, sustainability, deforestation, flooding, agriculture etc., are examined using a wide variety of teaching methods and resources, including videos, role play and fieldwork. Your daughter will be encouraged to undertake personal research through the Internet using the school's IT Centre, with emphasis being placed on the development of transferable skills.

Guest speakers from Dartmoor National Park, The Environment Agency and CPRE visit the school, and groups from the school have taken part in activities intended to provide practical illustrations of problems studied in the classroom, such as immediate disaster relief work. A level students attend lectures organised locally by the Geographical Association, and teams from the school have enjoyed success in the GA's Worldwide quiz.

Fieldwork activities take place at all stages in the school, and include the study of coastal features, local industry, Dartmoor and the structure of Exeter. Students studying AS level in year 12 take part in a residential course at a Field Studies Council centre in North Somerset, as part of their studies.

For several years, staff in the Geography Department have been involved in an EU-funded Comenius Project that links schools in the UK, Belgium, Germany and Denmark. These links have provided students at St Margaret's with opportunities to undertake work in conjunction with students from their partner schools in their countries.





sociology

Sociology is a study of the social world around us and how this social world operates in terms of influencing our daily lives.

We all tend to accept the 'social arrangements' we grow up with as being somehow natural, or at most, too complicated to understand. So, the family is the natural way to bring up children and schools are the obvious place for young people to learn.

For most people then, the social world is 'just there', channelling our lives. We cannot change it and it is not really worthwhile trying to understand it.

There is a consequence to this argument (that the social world is fixed and natural) which is very important. This is when people try to understand their own position in society, rich or poor, isolated or popular. They usually do so by saying it is their own personal abilities and weaknesses which cause them to be as they are.

Well, sociologists do not agree with most of this! We regard it as our job to understand society and the way it influences us.

We will encourage your daughter to broaden her vision of society by using building-block concepts such as values, beliefs, norms and identity in conjunction with special tried and tested methods of studying social life. We believe that by providing your daughter with these initial life-skill tools, she will be more prepared to deal with the social world that surrounds her.



good sport

We actively promote the enjoyment of physical activity and an active lifestyle through the medium of sport. This is achieved by providing a varied programme for our students.

Hockey, netball, gymnastics and dance are taught in the autumn and spring terms, athletics, tennis, rounders and swimming in the summer. Options are offered in Key Stage 4 with more emphasis on individual sports, including badminton, aerobics and physical fitness disciplines.

A/S Physical Education is available in Year 12, which will provide your daughter with the opportunity of studying the subject in greater depth and extending her level of expertise.

Teams enter national, area and inter-school competitions, and students are encouraged to join local clubs to enhance their playing experience and develop competitive skills. If your daughter shows particular ability in any given sport, she will be put forward for area and county trials.









music to your ears

Music positively resonates through the walls of the school. From classical to jazz, from orchestral to choral, St Margaret's music reputation increases with each performance, and is now nationally recognised.

Our music tutors, who themselves are extremely accomplished musicians, will teach, encourage and make music the fun and pleasurable experience it is. The dedicated Performing Arts Centre provides the perfect environment to learn and perform.

The three orchestras, concert band, saxophone quartets and jazz bands ensure that there is always an opportunity to develop and hone musical skills.

St Margaret's is noted for its thriving choral tradition and boasts six choirs, all of which perform a huge variety of music at the numerous school concerts. In addition to concerts, services, competitions and tours (including Venice), the Music Department also puts on ambitious musical productions with the Drama Department, including such shows as *The Boyfriend*, *The Sound of Music* and *Guys and Dolls*. These performances are always sold out, and receive high critical acclaim from all who attend.





the art of design

Individuality and personal expression lie at the heart of much of the work produced in the Art Department. A visit to one of our end-of-course exhibitions will confirm that we value the unique qualities which each student brings to her work, and we celebrate these differences. We are successful in merging the traditional styles of large-scale paintings and batiks with contemporary 3D approaches, experimental photography, installations and video.

Building confidence is a priority at all levels: at a younger age this is done in part by designing tasks with a high success rate; with older girls by developing personal work with continuous support.

Your daughter will be given the widest possible opportunities to explore ideas, materials and processes. Critical awareness and historical knowledge provide a sound basis for developing your daughter's own ideas, with ambition always encouraged, in terms of both the scope and the quality of the final works.





body and soul

Caring for body and soul at St Margaret's underpins our commitment to your daughter's well-being and complete development. Praised in a recent study for our 'excellent' standards of pastoral care, the school employs a Chaplain and Matron who are supported by a Pastoral Team and Sixth Form peer mentors.

We have fully qualified first-aiders in both Junior House and the main school, and our open door policy allows your daughter to feel help is never out of reach. Whether it's a scratch, a worry, or a more complex personal issue that may need referral, girls will find confidential support readily available.

Part of the Woodard Corporation (a nation-wide organisation of Anglican schools), St Margaret's culture springs from a deep-rooted Christian ethos in our school and staff. We actively welcome and accommodate the religious practices of children from all faiths. The small chapel in the school is available for personal prayer. A variety of groups exist to help girls explore the Christian faith, and each year many choose to be confirmed.



zone six

It is vital that the Sixth Form is a well-integrated part of the school community. The older students provide positive role models for the younger pupils, while gaining invaluable opportunities for personal development. To achieve this, we will encourage your daughter to embrace a wide range of responsibilities during her time in the Sixth Form. These include organising House activities, supervising sporting events, writing or directing House plays and assuming an active role on the Student Council.

The Common Room provides a welcome retreat where your daughter and her friends can relax, listen to music and make hot drinks and snacks. There is a quiet Study Room, as well as the main Learning Resource Centre, which houses a well-stocked library with subject-specific books and magazines, newspapers and plenty of fiction. Adjacent is a computer suite with PCs and Internet access for research purposes, or for checking out the web site of the current pop favourite!







food glorious food

That's the message behind the teaching of Home Economics and Food Technology at St Margaret's. Whether it's year 5 pupils looking excitedly at the myriad colours, textures and flavours of fruits and vegetables, or year 12-13 A/S and A2 pupils studying more complex issues to do with what we eat and why, pupils cannot help but be enthused by the tempting focus of this subject.

Understanding nutrition and the choices we have is fundamental to the quality of our lives, an essential life skill, and the basis of our approach in lessons.

Our newly refurbished room is a hive of activity. Computers are used extensively for data analysis and research including taste testing, whilst the latest equipment is available for use in practical work.

Taking home and eating the results of lessons and homework, that may well involve in-depth research on a food commodity, must be an added bonus no other subject can boast.





a cut above...

How we dress ourselves and our immediate environment are the life issues that inspire the imagination of the modern textile designer; taking control of the world around us, defined by texture, colour and mood.

Textiles is taught from years 7 to 11 to encourage creative expression and practical life skills. The use of our computerized textiles machinery combined with specialized design software assists in translating creative ideas into practical solutions.

Pupils work to a design brief, allowing their abilities to be channelled whilst always being encouraged to reach a new potential. As well as creating exciting items of clothing and soft furnishing, topics such as consumer education, fabric construction, fabric finishes and the care of fabrics are also learnt.

...their future

Many thanks for all that you did for Charlotte during her seven years at St Margaret's. She is 'over the moon' at getting her grades for a place at Cardiff University doing Politics, Philosophy and Psychology.

Lesley Heath

With very many thanks to all my teachers for your help and support over the past two years. I'm very grateful to you all.

Love from Alex Brown

We are thrilled with Sophie's results and remain convinced that Sophie has had a first class education.

Mr & Mrs Hooper

I send my daughters to St Margaret's because it has a unique blend of care and encouragement that produces real people ready to live life to their full potential.

Mr Mason

I am writing to say thank you for making the five years I spent at St Margaret's so enjoyable. I am starting a National Diploma in sport and outdoor education this year, which I am very excited about.

Emma Dupain

My life as a teenager was not always easy and I can only believe that St Margaret's was a real encouragement, saving me from a future possibly not as bright as the one I face now. Thank you and all the staff who are too numerous to mention.

Gemma Fuller

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff involved in helping Rebecca to achieve good grades in her GCSEs. She was very pleased with the results, as were we. She would especially like to thank Mrs Prouse for spurring her on to the A in French.

Sim & Mike Cooke

Our warmest thanks and appreciation for all that St Margaret's has done for Georgia over the years.

Judith Gelen

I chose St Margaret's because I felt confident my daughter would receive a sound academic education, with the added benefit of outstanding music and drama opportunities.

Shirley Halden