



St Swithun's
WINCHESTER



Why work at St Swithun's?

Ethos:

St Swithun's is an 'appropriately academic' school which means that we celebrate intellectual curiosity and the life of the mind, but not to the exclusion of all else. We expect our pupils to develop individual passions and through them to acquire a range of skills and characteristics.

These characteristics will include a willingness to take risks, to question and to debate, and to persevere in the face of difficulty. In the words of Samuel Beckett: "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better." If a girl can immediately excel at everything we ask of her, we as educators must set the bar higher.

We want all girls to learn about life beyond the school gates, to appreciate the rich variety of our world, to develop an understanding of compassion and to value justice. We encourage all pupils to become involved in fundraising and community work. They should appreciate how their decisions and their actions can affect those around them.

"As staff, we find we are teaching girls who are energetic and insightful and, moreover, girls who like nothing more than learning from others' enthusiasms, specialisms and interests – no matter what role they have or take in the school. It's a real privilege to sense that these are the girls who will be changing the world in the future."

Community:

St Swithun's was founded by Anna Bramston, daughter of the Dean of Winchester, and Christian values underpin our approach to education. We provide a civilised and caring environment in which all girls and staff are valued for their individual gifts and encouraged to develop a sense of spirituality and of kindness. We believe that kindness and tolerance are at the heart of any fully functioning community. Our staff are friendly and supportive.

"St Swithun's is a vibrant place for both girls and staff alike. The friendly and loyal atmosphere ensures that the boarding environment is one which captures the true meaning of 'community'. Opportunities available to girls are diverse and plentiful and it is enjoyable to see girls flourish and thrive beyond the curriculum."

"The staff are a social bunch. We meet for drinks after key school events, and occasionally for dancing, poker and meals out. Many of the staff try to keep fit and we meet up to use the gym, the school pool or to go running in the early mornings or at lunch times."

**Location:**

The school is set on an impressive and attractive campus of 45 acres overlooking the Hampshire Downs and within the South Downs National Park. The school is within walking distance of the centre of Winchester, and only a 50 minute train journey from central London.

Winchester is well connected by road, rail, air and sea, allowing convenient and affordable holiday opportunities for staff. There is also easy access to the New Forest, the south coast and the West Country.

Winchester and its surrounding areas offer outstanding local cultural, historical, sporting and entertainment opportunities in addition to fantastic access to outdoor pursuits. Southampton and Winchester University are in close proximity, as are a wide range of good state and independent schools.

"I can honestly say that relocating to Winchester from London four years ago was one of the best decisions of my life. There's a reason why this city comes out top in lifestyle surveys again and again. This is a jewel of a cathedral city: it is abuzz with cultural and artistic life, and filled with historical and architectural gems. Fantastically, it's also on the doorstep of some of the UK's most beautiful countryside. I can throw on my trainers on a Saturday morning; turn left out of my house, which is located in the centre of Winchester, and find myself running in the South Downs five minutes later. I love to spend time in the great outdoors, and with the Dorset coast and the New Forest within spitting distance, as well as

the south coast, there's no shortage of beautiful places to explore, by bike, on foot, or even in a kayak!"

Facilities:

It offers girls excellent teaching, sporting and recreational facilities. The school buildings are modern and well equipped. As well as the normal academic classrooms and science laboratories, there is a magnificent performing arts centre with a 600-seat auditorium, a music school, an art and technology block, a sports hall and a full-size swimming pool. There is an impressive library, higher education and student guidance department and ICT facility. The grounds are spacious and encompass sports fields, tennis courts and gardens.

The senior school has six boarding houses for its 225 full and weekly boarders, with separate houses for those in their first and second years and those in the upper sixth.

A brand new junior school opened in September 2015.

