



St. Helen's College

Excellentiam e Concordia



# Welcome

Established in 1924, St. Helen's College is a school built on family values providing an outstanding education for boys and girls aged 2-11.

Our carefully managed class sizes and expert, experienced staff ensure plenty of individual attention for pupils, leading to superb standards of academic achievement. Many of the country's top senior schools, in both the independent and maintained sectors, are within easy reach and a very high proportion of our children pass the 11+ test for local Grammar schools and/or gain scholarships to some of the best local independent schools. Recent inspections have noted our excellence in every area, and highlighted the oracy and communication skills of St. Helen's College pupils as a significant strength of the school.

We believe that the most important qualities are love, harmony and growth. Our caring and dedicated team

of specialist staff, our friendly, inclusive, co-educational pupil body and our natural buildings and grounds create a home-from-home environment in which young children can thrive. Excellent pupil behaviour and strong parental support are also key for the success of our harmonious and ambitious community. We know that children learn best when they feel happy, secure, loved and valued and the academic, personal and co-curricular successes of our pupils prove it!

St. Helen's College is part of the Forfar Education Group, who are committed to ongoing and ambitious investment in facilities and resourcing for pupils.

The first step on your journey is to visit us, so please contact us to arrange a tour. We look forward to welcoming your family to St. Helen's College.

[admissions@sthelenscollege.com](mailto:admissions@sthelenscollege.com)

01895 234371

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St. Helen's College is a haven of harmony.

Independent Schools Inspectorate, (ISI)

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# Our Nursery

Our nursery provision is open year-round, and children may join us from the September after their second birthday. They will spend a year in our Ducklings class before moving to our Nursery.

The Nursery is housed in bright, purpose-built rooms with plenty of accessible, green outdoor space. Children enjoy playing and learning inside and outdoors using grassed zones, playground areas with specialist age-appropriate play equipment, sheltered areas and specialist bug-hunt and mud kitchen spaces. Adventure playgrounds and plentiful outdoor toys and games help to encourage physical development and a love of the world outside.

Our highly qualified, caring Nursery staff focus on young children's development, providing excellent pastoral care and following the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to ensure that every child is treated as an individual and able to develop and progress at his or her own pace. Staff extend children's communication skills, social skills, knowledge and understanding through questioning and encourage plenty of different types of physical activity to ensure development of motor skills. There is plenty of learning through

play, of course, and more focussed learning activities too.

Our Nursery environment is one of safe, harmonious care and support, and provides a superb basis for the next stage of your child's education. Our St. Helen's College teachers support the Nursery children's development by offering specialist teaching sessions in music, sport, drama and Spanish within the Nursery day. Children have the opportunity to perform regularly to parents and peers to develop their confidence. When the time comes, children from the Nursery are supported with their transition into the Reception classes at St. Helen's College. They enjoy transition time in the Reception classrooms, meeting their Reception teachers in advance, and information about each child's progress, personalities and individual needs is passed carefully from Nursery to Reception teachers. Since Nursery and Reception are on the same site, children enjoy a gradual transition from their Nursery keyworkers, who often pop in to Reception to visit and support them once they have moved on!

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I could not believe how quickly and happily my son settled ... the start was so well-planned, calm and organised.

Mrs. Van Santen-Smith, Parent

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The curriculum is carefully planned so that pupils gain new knowledge and develop skills across the subject range. Checks on pupils' learning are systematic and methodical. This means that leaders have a secure understanding of pupils' progress.

ISI, November 2024

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# Love of Learning

We pursue excellence and aim to inspire a lifelong love of learning. All pupils are challenged to extend themselves on their individual learning journey. Boys and girls work hard, discovering a thirst for knowledge and developing a mature and adaptable approach to learning which prepares them for the future.

Some of the best senior independent schools and Grammar schools in the country lie within easy reach, and our Year 6 leavers go on to thrive at a wide variety of these. We guide parents closely through the senior school selection and application process. 11+ preparation for pupils includes timetabled lessons in verbal reasoning and non-verbal reasoning and we provide scholarship preparation in academic subjects, art, drama, music and sport. We provide individual interview practice for pupils too.

The school curriculum is varied, balanced and inspiring. Children at Upper School move between specialist teaching spaces including science lab, music room and art studio where lessons are delivered by passionate subject specialist teachers. Every opportunity is taken for outdoor learning too, using our peaceful school garden areas and beautiful nearby Court Park.

## Core Subjects

English focuses on reading and comprehension, the foundation of all learning in primary education. All children read every day; guided reading takes place throughout the school; our two libraries are popular, vibrant places (staffed at Upper School by a specialist librarian) and we run reading clubs, reading sessions for parents and reading challenges. World Book Day is an annual whole-school highlight.

Maths is taught in a systematic and creative way to ensure that every child masters the building blocks. As children progress, they are exposed to higher level maths and in the upper years most children are working well above their national curriculum level. The subject is enriched with online maths competitions, high level Maths Clubs for the most able and pupil-run maths clinics for younger children.

Science is taught through hands-on investigation, and pupils devise their own experiments, make their own predictions and draw their own conclusions. Much enrichment takes place outside of the classroom, with fieldwork on day and residential trips, and visits to study centres and areas of scientific interest. Our Upper School science lab is a very popular room!

## Other Subjects

We also teach timetabled lessons in Languages, History, Geography, Computing, Art & Design, Drama, Music, PSHCE, RE, Reasoning and Physical Education/Games.



# Pastoral Care and Personal Development

We provide first class support and pastoral care for all pupils in an environment of love, harmony, courtesy and fairness. Carefully managed class sizes, excellent staff/pupil ratios and a flourishing house system allow us to take every opportunity to hear the pupil voice, offer careful guidance to pupils and celebrate the children's many successes. At every point, the needs of each individual child are placed first.

Our innovative personal development programme - which covers every child from the age of 2 - 11 - includes Mindfulness, Positive Psychology, Philosophy for Children and Citizenship Education. Carefully planned and delivered lessons and

opportunities for practice encourage pupils to enhance self-awareness, responsibility and excellent communication skills.

We nurture kind, tolerant, compassionate and responsible citizens who embody an outward-looking community spirit and healthy competition. St. Helen's College pupils are resilient and adaptable; they are happy; they take pride in their community, celebrate success and reflect with maturity when faced with disappointment or failure.

From Nursery, pupils are given many opportunities to represent themselves, their classes and the school by becoming Eco Representatives,

Charity Representatives, School Councillors, Student Librarians, Junior Travel Ambassadors, Sports Captains and more. Our oldest pupils enjoy becoming leaders: as well as Head Boy/Girl and House Captain roles, our Year 6 pupils become subject prefects.

The values of St. Helen's College become the values of our pupils: love, harmony, family, resilience, kindness, determination, growth. The school motto, written by our pupils, shows how proud they are to promote a community founded on these principles:

**Strive for excellence**

**Help others achieve**

**Care for one another**

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It is such a nurturing environment where the children enjoy learning. We love how approachable and accessible the staff are. They genuinely care about our children.

Mr. & Mrs. Jarrett, Parents

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# Involvement and Challenge

We offer a unique and wide-ranging programme of co-curricular activities including sports, music, drama, arts and technology. We typically have over fifty co-curricular clubs on offer each term such as taekwondo, karate, yoga, chess club, coding club, choirs, orchestra and other music ensembles, language clubs, jewellery making, bushcraft or outdoor sculpture.

Our busy programme of trips, workshops, focus days and visiting speakers enriches pupils' learning. Younger children may visit local farms and play centres, enjoy workshops delivered by the Travelling Natural History Museum and visiting dramatists, explore a Planetarium and visit Windsor Castle and the Roald Dahl Gallery. Older children enjoy Ancient Greek workshops and go on day trips to St. Alban's Cathedral, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Amersham Field Centre, Hampton Court Palace, The Houses of Parliament and many more.

Our carefully planned programme of residential trips in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 encourage independence of spirit, personal maturity and excitement and curiosity in the world and its secrets.

In Year 3, children visit Shortenills Environmental Education Centre in nearby Chalfont St. Giles for an overnight stay, where they experience sharing a dormitory for the first time and take part in many literacy-based activities.

In Year 4, pupils spend three days at Flatford Mill in the stunning Suffolk countryside, enhancing their understanding of the British Isles and of Constable's work. They also build independence skills, learning to look after themselves in practical ways and cementing friendships.

Year 5 children travel to the Isle of Wight for a week, taking part in fun and challenging activities such as leap of faith and giant swing, as well as visiting beaches and other areas locally to examine erosion and other coastal geographical processes and features.

Year 6 children take a trip to Spain linked to their language learning, enjoying an immersive linguistic and cultural experience. The trip includes visits to shops and markets, learning to cook local dishes such as paella, fun outdoor activities and a tour of Cádiz, one of the oldest cities in western Europe.



# Creativity and Expression

We believe that confidence in creativity and expression, alongside first class communication skills, are essential attributes in the ever-developing modern world.

Our carefully planned programme of performance opportunities and competitions runs from Nursery through to Year 6 and includes class assemblies, Nativity plays, Christmas shows, grand musical productions, an annual Speech Competition, an annual Singing Competition, music concerts, art exhibitions, talent shows and much more. Every child learns to express themselves clearly, perform publicly and showcase their talents with confidence.

Our thriving art, music and drama departments provide an enormous range of opportunities. There are four school choirs, including three which are open to all pupils and our elite Chamber Choir, for which children must audition and which has reached finals of national competitions including multiple appearances at the finals

of the prestigious Barnado's Choral Competition, which led to performances at high end music venues in central London and at Birmingham Symphony Hall.

All classes from the earliest pre-school class onwards are taught curriculum music lessons by specialist music staff, and all pupils will learn the recorder and ukulele in class lessons during their time at Upper School. In addition, music staff, including our team of visiting peripatetic music teachers, offer individual lessons in the full range of instruments and singing, and we offer individual LAMDA lessons in public speaking/dramatic performance too. Our string, guitar, recorder and brass/woodwind ensembles and our school orchestra provide many performance opportunities and pupils give individual music performances at our informal Month End Music Recitals and our formal concerts. There are several co-curricular music clubs available, including percussion club from Reception onwards.



“The decision to prioritise oracy skills and to provide opportunities for pupils to use them, results in highly articulate, confident individuals. Pupils readily express their thoughts and opinions. This is a significant strength of the school.

ISI, November 2024

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Our children are so  
happy. They, and  
we, have developed  
firm friendships to  
last a lifetime.

Mr. & Mrs. Knight, Parents

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# Sport

St. Helen's College has a long-standing tradition of sporting opportunity and excellence. Our wide-ranging physical education offering, split into PE lessons and Games afternoons, encompasses sports and games for both boys and girls including football, rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket, athletics, basketball, handball, cross country running, rounders and more. Children have the opportunity to play representative sport at house level within the school and against other local schools. Our record of competitive sporting achievement is very strong indeed, and our teams have a strong history as champions of local Borough or independent school competitions/ tournaments, as well as football and netball league champions.

All children are taught swimming from Year 2 to Year 6 by specialist instructors in the beautiful pool at the nearby Hillingdon Sports Complex. They are encouraged to develop water confidence

and water safety awareness from a young age and are taught the different swimming strokes and how to have fun in the pool too!

Sports Days are highlights of the year and begin from Nursery with age-appropriate activities. In the upper years, Sports Days are held at the Hillingdon Sports & Leisure Complex using the full range of professional athletics equipment.

We also offer a diverse range of co-curricular sporting opportunities which encourage children to have a go at other sports, including karate, taekwondo, golf, yoga, strength and conditioning clubs and multi sports clubs.

For several years we have taken part in the TCS Mini Marathon, offering children and parents an opportunity to run part of the London Marathon course. We also keep sport fun with events like our annual Santa Dash and our Staff v. Pupil Rounders afternoons in beautiful nearby Court Park.



# Wraparound Care and Holiday Club

At St. Helen's College we understand how busy life is for working parents and families, and we aim to offer a helping hand by providing an extended school day. Our wraparound care is available exclusively to St. Helen's College pupils from Reception upwards and is staffed by familiar, experienced, highly qualified personnel employed directly by the school.

All of our Wraparound Care services are bookable online through a parent app and bookings are fully customisable for each family. Charges are extremely reasonable.

The St. Helen's College Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 a.m. each morning, serving a light breakfast of toast or cereal and providing a quiet, purposeful start to the day.

The St. Helen's College After School Care Club runs from the end of the school day until 6.00 p.m. during term time. A range of activities are planned and offered and children enjoy outdoor play time whenever possible. Pupils may also do their homework independently at After School Care if they wish. A light tea is provided at around 4.45 p.m.

The St. Helen's College Holiday Club runs during most weeks of the school holidays and offers a range of fun arts & crafts, sports, ICT and drama/music activities as well as lots of time for free play.

# Prepared For The Future

We ensure that pupils are prepared in the best way possible for a happy, fulfilling time at the senior school of their choice and for future success in their personal and professional lives.

**Our setting** – on the edge of Court Park, in a quiet corner of Hillingdon – is perfect for young children. We nurture pupils in an age-appropriate environment, resisting pressures to grow up too soon while ensuring that they achieve academically and extend themselves in all areas, so that they are ready to attend first class senior schools including Haberdashers Boys' And Girls' Schools, Merchant Taylors Boys' School, The John Lyon School, The North London Collegiate School, St. Helen's School Northwood, Royal Masonic School For Girls, Royal Grammar School Wycombe, Beaconsfield High School, Doctor Challoner's Grammar Schools, Langley Grammar.

Parents and carers play a huge part in each child's journey. A partnership develops between school and home to provide the best all-round education and care for each pupil, and our school's 'open door' policy ensures that communication between home and school is excellent. Together, we ensure that our children build solid foundations for a lifetime of happiness and self-enrichment, learning to take responsibility for their own development and acquiring the academic and personal skills and knowledge which form a springboard for their future.

When they leave St. Helen's College, our pupils take with them the St. Helen's College values, the confidence to 'have a go' at anything, the desire to excel and an inclusive, community spirit. Ex-pupils - Old Helenians - frequently come back to visit us, delivering workshops and talks for our children, judging pupil competitions or performing music or drama, for example, to inspire current pupils.





St. Helen's College is owned and governed by Forfar Education. Founded in 2019 by CEO John Forsyth, it specialises in the education of children. Named after the area in Scotland where John's family comes from, Forfar has a strong family ethos: honest, transparent, hardworking and always putting the needs of the children first. As a group, Forfar owns and manages schools in the UK and across Europe, firmly believing that competition is a good thing and that resilience, kindness and leadership are key life skills for of today's young people.

Alongside other Forfar schools, St. Helen's College benefits from guidance, governance and support from the Forfar team and advisory board in its pursuit of academic excellence. With access to a broad range of resources, skills and expertise across all schools, we collaborate and share best practice. Not only is this a brilliant opportunity for staff development and training but it also provides excellent inter-school activities,

such as debating competitions, music, sport and access to outdoor learning.

Forfar's schools equip children with the confidence and resourcefulness that prepares them to grow, thrive and find success in an ever-changing world. This approach ensures that the needs of each child are at the heart of our schools to create friendly, welcoming communities that empower children with the tools to be successful.

- We create environments where staff, parents and the wider community are proud of their school and feel part of it
- We provide solutions for busy parents, and we expect them to abide by the same values that we teach their children
- We believe in recruiting inspiring, well-trained teachers every step of the way, critical for unlocking the potential in every child
- We are a 'down to earth' transparent organisation that treats everyone the same

- We will not compromise on keeping your child safe or on our teaching quality
- Through our focus on providing an outstanding education tailored to each child, we support every child to achieve more than they may have thought possible
- We are generous and patient with families and staff that face unforeseen difficulties
- We encourage independent learning, a community spirit, and we empower pupils to embrace responsibility and learn to celebrate diversity in a spirit of understanding and tolerance that helps them become better global citizens

If you would like further information about Forfar Education please contact the Chairman, John Forsyth, directly:

[jf@forfaireducation.co.uk](mailto:jf@forfaireducation.co.uk)

07443 103805

# Admissions

If you have not already done so, please arrange to visit the school and see for yourself the advantages of choosing the very best early education for your child. We run regular Open Mornings and we are also pleased to arrange individual tours for families during term time.

Following a successful tour of the school, the next steps of your application are as follows.

## Step 1: Register your child

by completing our online registration form at [www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com) and paying the relevant registration fee.

## Step 2: Depending on your child's age,

We will arrange a play session, assessment or taster day for your child to allow us to get to know your child more, including their current stage of development and academic ability. This will also allow your child to meet their potential new teachers and peers and experience our learning environment.

## Step 3: Upon successful assessment/taster days,

We will endeavour to make you a formal offer of a place. The offer is sent electronically and you are asked to read and formally accept it within a strict deadline. You can formally secure and accept your child's place by accepting the offer and paying the acceptance deposit.

## Step 4: Once you have accepted an offer,

We will guide you through the rest of the admissions process, including arranging meetings for you with relevant staff and ensuring that you have everything you need for your child's start. We aim to do everything possible to support you and your child during this transition.

## We are a popular school and early registration is advisable.

More information about the school, and the registration form, are available online at [www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com).

Please telephone 01895 234371, visit [www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com) or email [admissions@sthelenscollege.com](mailto:admissions@sthelenscollege.com) to book a visit or if you have any questions.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Keep up to date with what is happening at school by following us on social media.

 [@sthelenscollege\\_hillingdon](https://www.instagram.com/sthelenscollege_hillingdon)

 [@sthelenscollegehillingdon](https://www.facebook.com/sthelenscollegehillingdon)

 [@sthelenscollegehillingdon](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sthelenscollegehillingdon)

 [@sthelencollege](https://twitter.com/sthelencollege)





## St. Helen's College

St. Helen's College, Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX

T: 01895 234371

E: [admissions@sthelenscollege.com](mailto:admissions@sthelenscollege.com)

[www.sthelenscollege.com](http://www.sthelenscollege.com)

# Forfar

Part of the Forfar  
Education Group