



ST MARGARET'S

SCHOOL



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An Education for Life

Lara Péchard Head



Welcome to St Margaret's School. We are a co-educational independent day and boarding school in Hertfordshire. We have a reputation for supporting pupil wellbeing, whilst bringing on academic talent and progress. Our pupils go onto a range of destinations including some of the top Russell Group universities, American universities as well as competitive apprenticeships.

We are extremely fortunate with our location, as we are based inside the M25 and within a short distance from all the major airports, yet set in over 60 acres of beautiful grounds. Our site benefits from being green, with historic buildings and modern facilities. We are a family school; a through school offering education from 2 to 18.

Teaching staff are dedicated to teaching and enjoy working here. Relationships are a strength. Alumni often comment on how happy their time was here and the friendships they forged are often for life.

We often say that there is no typical St Margaret's pupil, and this really is true. Our pupils go on to careers in medicine, law, aeronautical engineering, design, working in emerging markets and into the arts. We pride ourselves on working for and with individuals. It is important to us that all pupils feel valued at all stages.

Whether you are looking at entry into Nursery or for Sixth Form, there is a buzz around the School. Whilst there is an emphasis on academic challenge there is also an impressively extensive offer. Pupils benefit from a wide ranging co-curricular programme that encourages breadth, enjoyment, self-reflection and excellence. The best way to experience St Margaret's is by booking in for an open day or tour. Here you will meet the pupils and staff, see warm relationships that encourage our pupils' confidence and growth. So, come and visit and see for yourself that this is a beautiful school, with a culture of learning, kindness and purpose.



The Nursery

The Nursery at St Margaret's is a term time nursery for children from 2 years old, during their preschool years, before they start in Reception. Children immerse themselves in play-based learning in a beautiful, light and spacious space, allowing them to create, play and explore the world around them.

The Curriculum

The children follow the EYFS curriculum. We work with the individual at the heart of our practice, supporting children's next steps across all areas of the curriculum. The curriculum focus areas are communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

Alongside these sessions, the children take part in our little linguists lessons, music, Playball, Balanceability, and outdoor learning with plenty of time and space outside.

Children in Pre-Reception (one academic year before Reception) will continue to focus on the skills and curriculum areas preparing them for Reception at St Margaret's.

The Day

The core day is 8am to 4pm, with drop off available from 7:30am and wraparound care available from 4pm to 6pm, (5pm on Fridays) these hours are bookable as a chargeable extra.

The Sessions

One session equates to one half-day, with 10 sessions available over the week. There is a minimum number of 6 sessions for children in Pre-Reception (one year from starting Reception), with the minimum number for Lower and Upper Nursery set at 4 sessions.

In the term after a child has turned 3, they may be eligible for 15 hours funding. If families are accessing funding for 15 hours, we ask that children attend The Nursery for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

Admissions

Children will be able to join The Nursery once they have turned 2 years old. This will mean children will be able to start during a term, at a time that is convenient for the family and subject to space availability.

Once your child is attending The Nursery, please do contact the School on admissions@stmargarets-school.org.uk if you would like to increase your sessions. We will confirm if additional spaces and sessions are available.

Uniform

Children in Lower & Upper Nursery are able to wear their own clothes, but many families do choose to purchase the optional navy sweatshirt and polo shirt.

We ask that children in Pre-Reception do wear uniform; this is a tracksuit in the winter months and a summer dress or navy shorts and polo shirt in warmer weather. Children should have indoor shoes and outdoor shoes, which can be either trainers or wellies.

Food

We cater for a range of dietary requirements. During your first meeting with the Nursery Manager, they will learn more about how your child eats and how the food should be prepared.



Junior School

Ages 4-11

St Margaret's Junior School has strong foundations built on the School's fine roots and tradition. The building is equipped with bright inspiring classrooms, including a fully equipped science lab, a food tech room, art room, music room and two halls, one affectionately known as The Playbarn. Children also have lessons across the wider school, in our purpose-built music block, performing arts centre and art studio.

The Curriculum

The Junior School has an engaging curriculum and high quality teaching. The children are happy and equipped for a changing world and they move onto the Senior School in a seamless fashion.

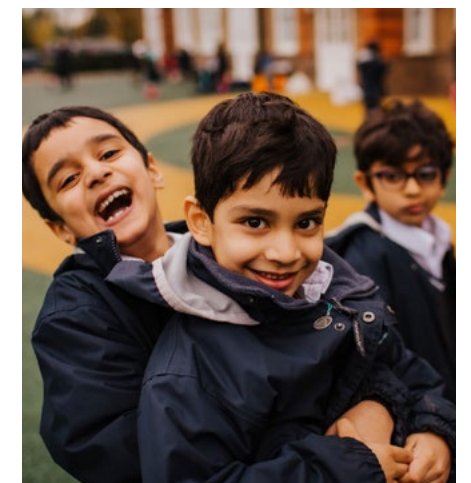
Our youngest learners start at St Margaret's in our EYFS, where children can join our Nursery or Pre-Reception class before they start Reception.

The EYFS at St Margaret's is underpinned by the best practice from the EYFS Curriculum. Our key resources in our planning are our individual children, we reflect on a child's journey, are present with them in their learning and plan to support their next steps.

Our children in Y1 and Y2, build on the foundations they have secured in their early years. Our considered curriculum focuses on supporting and stretching the pupils' learning in core subjects, while offering them broad curriculum experiences in STEM, outdoor learning, ADT, languages, drama and philosophy.

In Y3 and Y4, the children focus on building strong core skills across the curriculum. Technology is used as a key part of the delivery of academic learning and children are well supported to make progress in all areas. The curriculum uses themes and high quality texts that children use to reach their focused outcomes.

The children in Y5 and Y6 continue to build on the broad and balanced curriculum with an emphasis on core skills, to enhance knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. Children use technology to access learning, as well as developing their own tool kit for independent study.



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a key part of what makes St Margaret's the right choice for your child, we know the children and provide a supportive environment where they feel happy and secure and want to learn and do well.

The children in the Junior School understand and value the opportunities open to them and value themselves as lifelong learners. The voice of the pupil is key, children are encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings through our Junior School council, as well as during informal opportunities where children from the earliest age are confident to come and talk about any concerns and suggestions they have with each other and staff.

Our Wellbeing Assistant and Welfare Officer work with our School Nurse, Play Therapist and wider pastoral team to ensure all children are happy and cared for and they can make progress in a safe environment.

Joining The Junior School

Our main points of entry are via The Nursery and Reception. However at times, we also have occasional places across the School and would be delighted to hear from families that are interested in joining St Margaret's.

Once families have visited the School for a tour, registered children will be invited for an age-appropriate assessment and taster session.

Our Y6 pupils automatically have a place in the Senior School, if they have been in attendance at the Junior School before Y5. All pupils at the Junior School sit the Senior School entrance exam.

Wrap Around Care

We provide wrap around care from 7.30am- 6pm (5pm on Friday). Breakfast is taken in the main school dining room and our After School Care for our youngest children is in their dedicated learning environment and outdoors, while our children in Y3-Y6 complete one hour of supervised study. At 5pm the children in ASC come together for further homework, board games and outside play before they are picked up.

Clubs

We offer a range of activities in the Junior School for pupils from EYFS to Y6, including activities such as Choir, Natural History, Lego, Sewing, Football, Swimming, Netball, Sketch Club, Chess, Ballet, Skateboarding, Taekwondo and many others.





Senior School

Ages 11 – 16

In the Senior School, our aim is to provide an all-round education which is both challenging and flexible. We nurture St Margaret’s pupils who are confident, courteous and considerate students who enjoy life and love learning. All benefit from superb teaching by committed subject specialists, underpinned by excellent pastoral care.

Small classes, a beautiful spacious campus and optional supervised study each evening are some of the distinctive elements in a St Margaret’s education.

Years 7 – 9

The curriculum is broad and balanced to allow the strengths of different individuals to be discovered and fostered. Regular educational visits and opportunities for residential trips extend knowledge and deepen friendships. A wide variety of co-curricular clubs and activities are also available both after school and during the lunchtime period.

Years 10 – 11

Pupils take their GCSEs and are encouraged to choose varied subjects to maintain the breadth which is a mark of their earlier education. High levels of teacher contact time underpin academic success and pupils go on to achieve grades that lead to successful university applications, whilst having time to pursue hobbies and interests and develop those life skills essential for success in later life.

Quality Resources

The Senior School has recently completed a new music centre build, which, along with our well equipped performing arts studio and performance space in the main hall, ensure our pupils can enjoy the arts throughout the curriculum. Sports are a key part of life at St Margaret’s: our dance studio, all-weather pitches, sports centre and large grounds ensure pupils can enjoy a wide range of sports and activities. A new computer science laboratory recently joined our facilities, near to our range of top end science laboratories. Our brand new library provides a popular study centre for pupils.



Sixth Form

Ages 16 – 18

With over twenty A-Level subjects from which to choose, St Margaret’s Sixth Form students have access to a broad range of inspiring and challenging courses.

Over a two year period, Sixth Form students become independent, curious and aspirational, developing in-depth passions and interests. At St Margaret’s Sixth Form, students mature into adults with a set of values, practical skills and the confidence that will stand them in good stead for life.

Our outstanding taught post-18 pathways preparation programme enables students to learn more and prepare for the next steps into adult life, be that the world of higher education, apprenticeships or entry level jobs.

Sixth Form students take advantage of the wide range of co-curricular activities and leadership opportunities on offer and everyone responds positively to being treated as adults and having greater freedoms and opportunities to assume responsibility.

Our induction programme is well known for its thorough introduction to A-Level study skills, Sixth Form life and making friends for life. Added extras such as timetabled university preparation lessons, a weekly lecture programme, Extended Project Qualification, critical thinking sessions and enrichment activities are all designed to enhance students’ personal skills and general knowledge whilst promoting community, leadership and a sense of individual purpose. Typically, our students gain access to the most competitive institutions, graduate schemes and entry level jobs in the world.

Facilities

- Spacious study rooms with individual study areas
- Common room with kitchen and restroom facilities
- UCAS and Careers Office
- Sixth Form Café
- Sixth Form parking
- Sports centre with swimming pool, gym and games facilities

First Class University Preparation

- Timetabled university preparation lessons
- Visits to universities, careers and apprenticeship fairs
- Interview and entrance examination practice
- Enrichment week: students are shown how to write personal statements and submit winning applications
- Weekly General Studies programme with external speakers
- Gap Year education and advice
- Individual and tailored support before, during and after applications
- Bespoke careers guidance and access to alumni networking events



Boarding

We are amongst one of the oldest boarding schools in the United Kingdom. We take great pride in this fact as it not only demonstrates our wealth of experience, but also our success in ensuring pupils are well looked after and above all, happy at St Margaret's.

We welcome pupils into our boarding house, which is situated on the upper floors of the main school building from Y7 onwards with separate accommodation for boys and girls.

The St Margaret's boarding experience is like no other. It is full of activities, lively and fun, however, we ensure school work is also a priority. A lovely community set amongst a 60 acre rural background and only 20 minutes from central London.

Full Boarding

Round the clock care at all times except the long school holidays, half-term breaks and the May Bank holiday weekend. There is always the flexibility for pupils to go home for occasional weekends to fit in with family events. All of the fun extra activities and excursions are included in the full boarding fee.

Weekly Boarding

Means that a pupil has their own bed in school which can be used up to 5 nights a week by arrangement. Weekend stays and all excursions are available to weekly boarders for a supplementary charge.

Occasional Boarding

Can be offered if we have a bed free in the accommodation appropriate to a pupil's age. This can take the form of one or two nights a week on a regular basis (up to 10 nights per term), just the odd night here or there, or a week or two during the year. These options are all helpful when parents are away dealing with business or family matters, or when pupils have particularly time consuming commitments at school such as play rehearsals or preparation for public examinations.



Co-curricular & Sport

At St Margaret's there are an abundant amount of opportunities to shine, not just in the classroom, but also outside it. Our vast choice of co-curricular activities form a core part of school life, so much so, that the school day is organised to accommodate many of them during lunchtimes as well as after school.

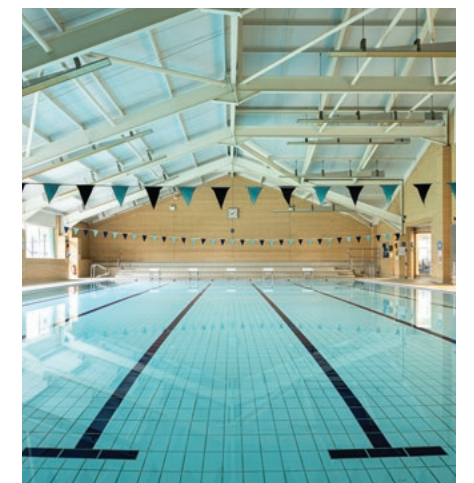
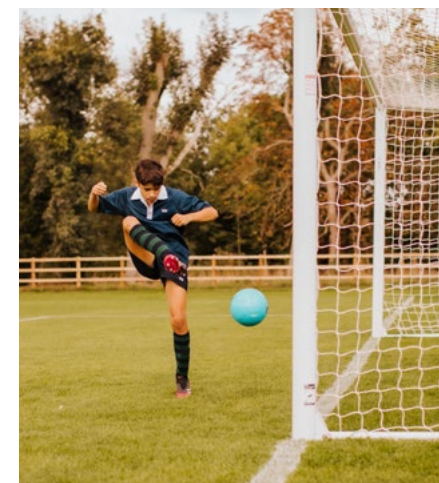
Every day, pupils from our EYFS classes through to Sixth Form take part in all kinds of co-curricular activities, to broaden their experiences and challenge themselves. With a choice of twenty musical instruments to learn from alone, our pupils can truly say they have an enriching experience at St Margaret's.

From academic enrichment clubs to volunteering; football and cricket to ballet; chess to speech and drama; Model United Nations to coding club, pupils are encouraged to push their limits and discover their passions, which often become part of their adult lives.

Volunteering and student voice is very important to us and students are regularly asked to give generously of their time in order to support the school's local and global community.

A few of the activities on offer are:

- Art, Design & Fashion
- Drama & Music
- Business, Economics & Enterprise
- Languages
- Sport
- Science enrichment beyond the classroom
- Leadership, Debating & Public Speaking
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Lifeskills & Wellbeing
- University & Careers Preparation





Our Campus

Exam Results and University Destinations

Our comprehensive post-18 pathways education programmes at Sixth Form ensure that students make well informed choices and undertake well supported preparatory activities for their adult lives. Though the vast majority of students go on to university from St Margaret’s, with last year 80% of students going on to Russell Group courses of study, students are increasingly opting for more modern routes through degree apprenticeships and overseas courses. Students are well supported in their preparation for these courses.

Case Studies



Jaynie

An academic high-flyer with 3A*s to her name, Jaynie was also a prefect and prominent STEM ambassador for students lower down the school, mentoring many younger students in mathematics skills and helping them grow in confidence and ability. Jaynie had offers from Oxford, Imperial and other Russell Group universities, but taking advantage of the comprehensive support available in the Sixth Form higher education and pathways programme, she instead opted to accept a degree apprenticeship with JP Morgan in IT and programming.



Matteo

Whilst at St Margaret’s Matteo was a passionate advocate for co-curricular and enrichment opportunities, which led to him becoming Deputy Head of School for Co-curricular. He attended many of the clubs on offer, but could often be found in Psychology Society. He set up his own Sixth Form Engineering Society alongside the physics department, which he used to develop skills and ready himself to go onto study aerospace engineering at Southampton University.



Naomi

Naomi is now studying Psychology at Nottingham. Our senior Sports Captain, she was at the heart of sporting events in the school and could often be found on the netball courts or raising money for sporting charity events. Naomi was also heavily involved in developing our Diversity & Inclusion Society within School and was a prominent supporter of diversity matters for Student Council. A keen psychologist, she was a regular member of the Psychology Society and hopes to pursue this passion for study at postgraduate level.



Charlotte

Charlotte studied Politics, RS and English Literature for A-Level and has plans to go into Law at postgraduate level. She was St Margaret’s Deputy Head of School for Lower School and enjoyed a variety of activities in Sixth Form such as Philosophy Society, charity events, writing for 1749, our sixth form magazine, and Law Society. She is now studying Law, Politics and Philosophy (PPL) at Warwick.



Scholarships & Bursaries

Scholarships

At St Margaret’s scholarships are awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement or promise and the programme is built on the offer of opportunity and experience, rather than fee remission.

Our programme focuses on the core attributes of scholarship: creativity, commitment, resilience, intellectual curiosity and perseverance. Scholars are closely monitored throughout their time in the school and expected to display these characteristics in order to remain within the scholarship programme.

By providing stimulating opportunities to learn well beyond the curriculum, the scholarship programme focuses on nurturing and fostering the creative talents of individual pupils, and candidates are encouraged to consider applying for a scholarship solely on the basis of their passion, dedication and commitment.

Academic scholarships are available at 11+, 13+ and 16+. Applications for 11+ and 13+ entry will automatically be considered for an academic scholarship on the basis of success in the entrance examinations and interviews that take place in the autumn/winter of the preceding academic year of entry.

Scholarships are also awarded on the basis of assessments in: Art, Drama, Music, Sport and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) at 11+, 13+ and 16+ entry points. At 16+, specialist scholarships are also awarded for contribution to the St Margaret’s community.

Pupils can apply for one specialist scholarship along with an academic scholarship. All scholarships are reviewed annually. There is one application form for all scholarships (including the Sixth Form academic scholarship) which can be downloaded from the website.

Please note that we will only consider scholarship applications from candidates who are registered for entry to the School.

If you require financial assistance please refer to the section on bursaries. Simultaneous applications may be made for both a scholarship and a bursary.

Scholarships Available

11+	Academic	Art, Drama, Music, Sport & STEM
13+	Academic	Art, Drama, Music, Sport & STEM
16+*	Academic	All subjects & Community Service

*At 16+ candidates may apply for academic scholarships in two subjects



Bursaries

St Margaret’s is committed to broadening access to the School. Within the resources available, means-tested financial support for the payment of school fees can be provided to parents/guardians of pupils who have been offered a place following the normal admissions and selection process.

Such support is known as a bursary which is awarded in the form of a discount of tuition fees payable, depending on the financial, compassionate or other pertinent circumstances of applicants.

Bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on parental circumstances.

The Bursary Application Process

Step One

Parents seeking a bursary are required by 30 November for entry the following September to complete an application form which seeks to establish the financial circumstances of the household. The form, which requests details of income, expenditure and capital assets, must be accompanied by full documentary evidence. The completed forms together with the necessary documentary evidence, are to be submitted to the Director of Finance & Operations (DFO) at finance@stmargarets-school.org.uk normally at the time of registration but in exceptional circumstances prior to this. All people with parental responsibility (even if separated and one parent makes no contribution to living costs) must complete the form.

Step Two

The DFO assesses all applications in order to establish the likely level of support which will be required in order to allow the child to attend the School and prepares a recommendation in accordance with the St Margaret’s School Scale of Awards which is considered with the Head. A joint recommendation is then reached.

Step Three

After the recommendation has been presented to the Chairman of the Governors’ Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration, the parents are then advised whether their child is to be offered a place at the School and of the bursary offer.

To find out more, please contact the Admissions Department at admissions@stmargarets-school.org.uk





Timing of the School Day

September 2023 Timetable

Junior School		Senior School	
07:30 - 08:00 Breakfast Club			
08:00 - 08:15 School opens for early arrivals			
08:15 - 08:25	Form Rooms Open	08:15 - 08:25	Form Rooms Open
08:25 - 08:55	Form Time	08:25 - 08:50	Registration
08:55 - 09:55	Period 1	08:55 - 09:50	Period 1
09:55 - 10:50	Period 2	09:55 - 10:50	Period 2
10:50 - 11:10	Break	10:50 - 11:10	Break
11:10 - 12:05	Period 3	11:10 - 12:05	Period 3
12:05 - 13:05	Lunch	12:10 - 13:05	Period 4
13:05 - 14:00	Period 4/Outdoor Play	13:05 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 14:15	Registration	14:00 - 14:15	Registration
14:15 - 15:15	Period 5	14:15 - 15:10	Period 5
15:15 - 15:50	Period 6 – Staggered Home Time	15:15 - 16:10	Period 6
16:00 - 17:00 Mon - Fri After School Care		16:15 - 17:00 Mon - Fri Supervised Study	
17:00 - 18:00 Mon - Thurs After School Care		17:00 - 18:00 Mon - Thurs Supervised Study	

*Nursery will run 08:00 - 16:00 with parents able to drop off between 08:00 - 09:00 and pick up from 15:20 - 16:00



Coach Routes

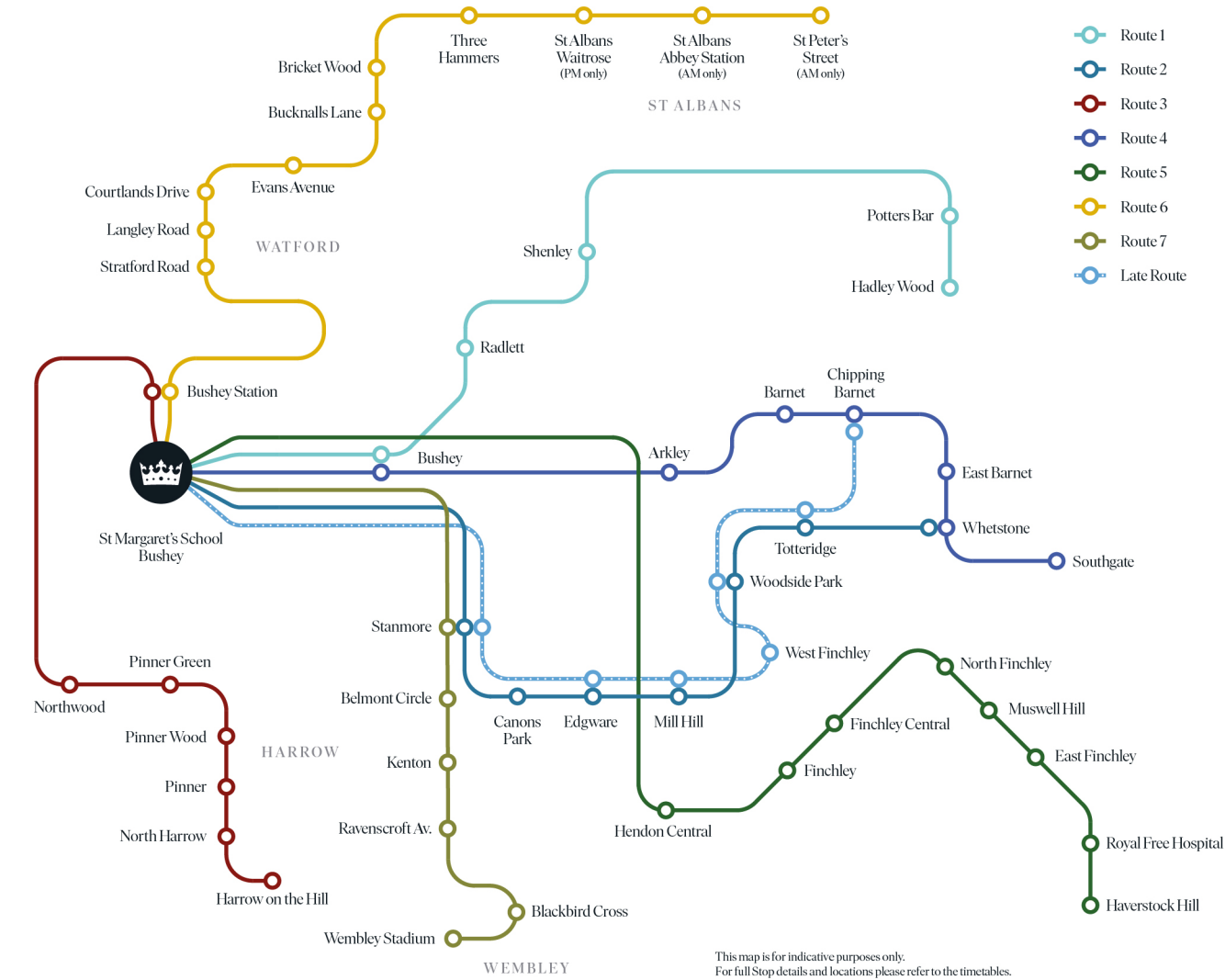
St Margaret’s organises dedicated coach services for its pupils. In general, coach routes operate in Hertfordshire and North London. All buses arrive at St Margaret’s School at approximately 08:15 and depart promptly at 16:15. Full timetables can be viewed on the website.

Coach Charges

- Per term full pass (5 return trips per week) = £56.20 per week
- Per term half pass (5 single trips per week, am or pm) = £28.10 per week
- Single Journey (ad-hoc booking) = £9.68

The coach service is only available to pupils in Y3 and above.

Routes are reviewed at the end of each academic year, please refer to the website for the latest information.



This map is for indicative purposes only. For full Stop details and locations please refer to the timetables.

Termly Fees From September 2023

Termly Fees

		Day	Weekly Boarding up to 3 nights	Weekly Boarding up to 5 nights	Full Boarding
Junior School	Nursery & Pre-Reception	£4,480 average per term	-	-	-
	Reception, Years 1 & 2	£4,704	-	-	-
	Years 3 – 6	£5,742	-	-	-
Senior School	Years 7 – 13	£6,873	£9,531	£11,256	£13,080
Supper with supervision (16:15 - 20:00)	Years 7 – 13			£16.85 per day	
Temporary/Occasional Boarding	Years 7 – 13			£68 per night	

The following activities are available at an extra charge

Individual Music Lessons	Speech & Drama Junior School	Speech & Drama Senior School
£250 per 10 lessons	£125 per term (small groups)	£250 per term (individual lessons)
		£186 per term (paired students)

In the event of parents wishing to withdraw a pupil early, a full term's notice, in writing, must be sent to the Head, otherwise a liability will be incurred for a further term's fees at the appropriate boarding or day rate. A similar full term's notice is also required if you wish your child to change status from boarding to day. In the case of discontinuing extra paid activities, a full term's notice, in writing, must also be given where the activity is to be discontinued at the conclusion of the term.

Deposit

A deposit of £1,000 (£2,000 for boarders) is required upon accepting a place at the School. The deposit is returned, minus any outstanding costs, at the end of the child's education at St Margaret's.

Entry to St Margaret's School

Key Dates in Admissions Process

Entrance for September 2024

Occasionally places become available in other year groups. The Admissions Team will be able to advise on possible vacancies.

Age in years	4+	Junior School Occasional Space	11+	13+	16+
Closing Date for Registration and Scholarship Applications	1 October 2023	1 November 2023	6 November 2023	6 November 2023	24 February 2024
Entrance Assessment	13 October 2023	9 & 28 November 2023	20 - 24 November 2023	20 - 24 November 2023	Not applicable for UK pupils. Overseas students will be advised by Admissions
Interviews	13 October 2023	9 & 28 November 2023	20 - 24 November 2023	20 - 24 November 2023	Ongoing
Offer Letter will be posted by	Within 10 days of assessment and receipt of school reference	Within 10 days of assessment and receipt of school reference	No later than 2 February 2024	No later than 2 February 2024	Within 10 days of assessment and receipt of school reference
Written Acceptances to reach St Margaret's School	Within 2 weeks of receipt of offer	Within 2 weeks of receipt of offer	No later than 5 March 2024	No later than 5 March 2024	As per the offer letter

Children can start in The Nursery from the day they are two years old. There are three academic year groups in The Nursery, with Lower and Upper Nursery, and our Pre-Reception class for children who are starting Reception the following year. Entry for our Lower and Upper Nursery is based on capacity and we recommend that families get in touch early as demand for space is high. Nursery assessments cannot take place before a child is 18 months old, but please do be in touch if you require confirmation of a space earlier than this. Entry for Pre-Reception is automatic from our Upper Nursery. Families looking to join in-year will be asked to complete the 4+ process as part of the Pre-Reception entry assessment.





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If you would like a tour of the school
or need any further information please
contact the Admissions Team.

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admissions@stmargarets-school.org.uk