



St AUBYNs

ROTTINGDEAN

## Welcome to St Aubyns

I am delighted to welcome you to St Aubyns. Our school of around 200 pupils offers a traditional and broad education for your child in the context of a well-established family ethos. Preparing children for a wide range of senior schools locally and nationally we take pride in ensuring that each individual child receives the attention pastorally, creatively and academically that they need.

With a spacious and well-equipped campus just outside Brighton we provide an array of opportunities for children to develop their talents. Girls and boys, boarders and day pupils flourish here. I warmly invite you to visit us to see this remarkable school for yourselves.



*Simon Hitchings*

HEADMASTER

# Our Vision

There is a clear vision for the development of the whole child at St Aubyns:

Children at St Aubyns are helped to feel **happy, secure and valued** within the school community, providing the foundations for each child's **intellectual** development through acquiring basic skills and receiving appropriate challenge in the classroom;

- **Creative and cultural** development through a strong programme of performing and fine arts;
- **Spiritual** development through the Christian ethos of the school and the central place of the Chapel;
- **Social** development through pastoral care in small tutor groups and a sense of community throughout the school;
- **Physical** development through experience of a wide range of sporting and other activities.

Development in these areas helps to prepare a child for **transfer to senior school** at the age of 13.



## An educational community

At the heart of St Aubyns' vision is a community in which confident, settled and happy children are able to grow as individuals. Personal confidence is the groundwork on which wider educational development is built.

Our sense of community is developed through a positive family atmosphere with all children well known to all staff. The relationships between teachers and pupils are friendly but respectful. The children know they can approach adults easily if they have anything troubling them.

The quality of pastoral care is outstanding. Small tutor groups of around 14 enable Form Tutors to provide effective academic and pastoral oversight and guidance appropriate to the children's age as they progress through the school. The staff meet on a weekly basis to discuss individual children and any concerns raised in the 'Care Diary'. Form Tutors are the first point of contact for parents wishing to discuss their child's progress and development.

We are fortunate to have our own chapel in the



main school building. This carries a sense of the school's history with its memorial to the Old Boys who died in the world wars. This is where we hold our assemblies for Prep and Pre-Prep separately, with the Headmaster, teachers and groups of children setting the school's ethos in a Christian context. Every other Friday a service for the Prep Department ends the week. The chapel is a most important venue for each section of the school to express the togetherness of the school community.

Opportunities to perform to each other and to parents in drama, music and dance, to develop individual talents in activities, and to represent the school in matches help to give children a sense of their own identity and to develop the confidence which feeds into social and academic development.

“ St Aubyns has been like a home for me. The adults here are warm-hearted and always ready to help ”

CONNOR, Year 8 pupil



## A Brief History of St Aubyns

St Aubyns has a history which is reflected in its buildings and in many of its customs. Pupils develop an awareness of the tradition of which they are becoming a part.

Prior to 1895 the main building of the school, formerly a private house, passed through several hands, most importantly as a house for the private pupils of Rev T R Hooker, vicar of Rottingdean, and later as Field House School.

In 1895 Mr C E F Stanford, housemaster of a school in Winchester, moved with his pupils to Rottingdean and named the school St Aubyns.

Chapel built in 1912.

From 1895 to 1996 St Aubyns was a boys' boarding school preparing pupils for leading national schools.

1995 Pre-prep opened.

1996 Girls joined St Aubyns.

2002 Nursery opened.

# A Typical School Day

The Pre-Prep day runs from 8.45am to 3.30pm, with optional activities and After School Care until 5.30pm.

We have an extended day for Years 3 to 8 (flexible by arrangement for Years 3 and 4) which enables us to provide, in addition to a full academic programme, a range of other activities and a supervised prep session.

8.10am	Registration
8.20am	Chapel
8.45am - 10.30am	Lessons
10.30am	Reading
10.50am	Break
11.15am - 1.00pm	Lessons
1.00pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Break
2.00pm - 3.00pm	Lessons
3.00pm - 4.00pm	Games
4.00pm	Break
4.20pm	Activities
5.00pm - 5.30pm	Prep



# Academic Progression

Establishing basic skills, stimulating enthusiasm for learning and providing challenge for children of all abilities are the hallmarks of teaching at St Aubyns. As a small non-selective school we provide for each individual's needs in small classes of about fourteen pupils.

The curriculum at St Aubyns is designed to lead to Common Entrance and Scholarship exams at 13+ as the means of entry for most children to their next school. The curriculum is well-planned from Nursery to Year 8 to enable this progression. At the same time there is a breadth to the educational experience that all the children enjoy.

In Nursery and Reception the foundations of learning to read, to write and to count are laid. From Reception the children have French lessons, Dance, Drama and Music with specialist teachers. For most of their lessons until the end of the Pre-Prep in Year 2 children are taught by their Form Tutor in one of the Cottage classrooms.

The start of the Prep Department is Year 3, known as Transition; at this stage the children enjoy additional specialist teaching in History, Geography, RS, Art, ICT



and DT, while still having the close attention of their Form Tutors in the core subjects.

In Year 5 most children start to learn Latin. A programme of Extra Studies for others gives them support with fundamental skills. Ancient Greek and Spanish are on offer as clubs for those with linguistic interest. RS is replaced in Years 7 and 8 by our own Global Eye programme teaching the children to think broadly and deeply about the world and their place within it.

Many classrooms are equipped with data projectors and Interactive Whiteboards and are linked to the school network. The ICT suite enables all children to work at their own computer and this resource is used by teachers in all subjects. The Science Lab, Art Room, Ceramics Room and Design Technology Room provide specialist facilities for children to explore these subjects in exciting ways.

“ Every day I go home feeling that I have achieved something ”

HORATIO, Year 7 pupil



# Learning Plus

The school's belief that each child requires individual planning for their education is met in large part by the Learning Plus Department.

An Individual Learning Profile (ILP) and its accompanying Individual Learning Programme is prepared and regularly reviewed for each child in Years 3 to 8. This is used by all the teachers to differentiate their teaching to help and challenge the pupils appropriately.

Setting is used to enable children to learn at a pace suitable to them. ILPs also direct pastoral care and the choice of activities for the development of interests and talents.

Learning Plus meets the needs of children across the ability range. More academically able children are moved on to extension tasks and take part in extension lessons and Gifted and Talented workshops. Some children who require support will receive one-to-one sessions. Learning Plus Assistants work with individuals and small groups in the classroom.

# Parental Involvement

Parents of children at St Aubyns are very much part of the school community. We welcome parents into school throughout their children's time here to pick them up from the classroom. Parents attend performances, Friday chapel services and matches against other schools. Parent help in the classroom and on trips is encouraged. A parent organisation, known as FOSIA (Friends of St Aubyns), is active in helping parents to contact each other and in organising social events for parents and teachers. Money raised through these events is used for projects within school.

Communication with parents about their children's progress is detailed and frequent. There are full reports with comments on each subject at the end of the three terms. In the Prep Department grades for effort and achievement are sent home twice termly.

Formal parent consultations with teachers are held for each year group twice a year, and informal meetings are easily organised.

www.staubynsschoolbrighton.co.uk



## Our Website

More details of the school's activities, curriculum and policies, and links to inspection reports are available on the school website. News articles are frequently posted describing sporting, dramatic and other school activities. The school's weekly newsletter, the Bugle, can be found under Latest News – this is a detailed record of the past week and looks ahead to upcoming events.



## Creative Arts

Self-expression and the confidence which comes through performance are fostered at St Aubyns in the creative arts. All children take part in music, drama, dance and art, and excellence in each area is cultivated.

The innovative Arts Express programme is a key feature of St Aubyns' commitment to involving all pupils in the creative arts. All children have two days a year when workshops focus them on a chosen theme often leading to a performance.



those with particular interest and talent. Each year a number of pupils take exams on musical instruments, in acting and verse and prose, and in various dance styles. Scholarship Art and DT activities focus the most able children on developing their skills.

The school's facilities include a Performing Arts Studio with lighting and sound decks, a well-equipped Music classroom and practice rooms, Chapel, Dance Studio, Art Room, Ceramics Room and kiln, and Design and Technology Room.

Drama productions for different year groups ensure that many children are involved in working together on stage. There are choirs and instrumental groups throughout the school with the Chapel Choir and Orchestra setting the lead. Concerts showcase talent and endeavour in music, dance and drama.

Curriculum time is supplemented by activities for



# Boarding at St Aubyns

Boarding encourages children in a caring environment to develop qualities of independence and self-discipline which prepare them for their move to the next school and for later life.

St Aubyns has a boarding facility for a maximum of twenty-five girls and boys. After the school day a programme of supper, supervised prep and activities leads to some free time in a comfortable Common Room before the boarders go to bed.

The Headmaster and his wife, the Matron and the Housemaster live on site and provide close care for those who board. Weekly boarders return to school on Sunday evening or Monday morning and are collected by parents at the end of school on Friday.

We transport children to Brighton train station on Friday evening when this is required. There is a popular option to flexi-board either on a regular basis for one, two or three nights a week or on an occasional basis at a day's notice.

## Sport and Activities

The challenge of taking up a new activity and the crucial skills of being part of a team are central to the position given to sport and activities at St Aubyns.

Our five acres of playing fields and the Sports Hall are the venue for Games lessons on most afternoons with matches against other schools on Wednesdays and occasional Saturdays. These focus on the team sports – netball, hockey and rounders for girls, football, rugby and cricket for boys. As we are a small school it is possible for most children to represent the school in matches at some point. All children also take part in swimming, in our own pool, and athletics.

The activities programme offers the chance for



children to explore a range of interests and talents. These have included fencing, basketball, cricket nets, squash, tennis, and badminton, chess and bridge, French conversation, Spanish and Ancient Greek, Christian discussion group, many styles of dance (ballet, tap, modern and jazz), orchestra, Chapel Choir, drama, art and DT.

The place given to outdoor activity trips fosters the development of the team spirit of year groups in the school and challenges the children to confront new challenges together.

“What impresses me most about boys and girls from St Aubyns is their refreshing individuality and lively enthusiasm for learning”

Mr RICHARD CAIRNS,  
Headmaster of Brighton College



# Food at St Aubyns

St Aubyns is committed to providing a healthy and varied menu in the context of traditional family service at lunch. All the food is prepared in the school kitchens by our own chef who gets to know the children and any individual dietary requirements.

Food is served at the table by teachers who sit with the children encouraging conversation and keeping an eye on good manners.

There is a choice of food for children in Years 3 to 8, but we encourage them to try dishes they are unsure of. Fruit is always available for dessert and for snacks at break-times.

The chef's home-made cakes and biscuits are particular favourites at breaks.



## Pre-Prep and Nursery

In their first years at St Aubyns children acquire the basic building-blocks of literacy and numeracy while also learning to work and play together. The Nursery and Pre-Prep are integrated parts of St Aubyns with the same ethos of broad educational experience in a close community.

Our Nursery is for children from 3 years old; in most circumstances they join Reception in the September in which they are 4. The Nursery is housed in its own classroom block with its own play area; Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have classrooms in the Cottage and the Reception children use the play area directly outside this building. All of the children in Nursery to Year 2 use the wider school facilities such as the Chapel, ICT suite, Performing Arts Studio, Music Room, Sports Hall and playing fields. From Reception the children receive swimming lessons in our own pool.



Teachers in Nursery and Reception work together to plan according to the Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Basic skills are learned through topics and a range of activities in and around the classroom. However, the educational experience

at St Aubyns goes far beyond this. From Reception children are taught by specialists in Music, Dance, Drama and French. In Years 1 and 2 the curriculum is also divided into English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, RS, Art and DT. A prime emphasis remains on developing the fundamental proficiencies in reading, handwriting, spelling and working with number. Classroom assistants ensure very good ratios between children and teachers and one-to-one Learning Plus lessons for those who require it assist individual learning.

Children in the Pre-Prep enjoy a full experience of creative arts in their lessons and in the Arts Express programme. A range of optional activities is offered at the end of the school day from 3.30pm. This includes ballet for different ages, drama, chess, and football.

“ The teachers have the magic touch that allows the children to thrive - the most perfect of starts to their education ”

NURSERY PARENT



## St Aubyns Admissions

St Aubyns is an academically non-selective school. We use a Taster Day for prospective pupils to experience a typical day; children entering Year 3 and above are given some academic assessments to enable us to prepare an appropriate programme for them when they join the school.

This Taster Day is usually followed by an offer of a place at the school together with a copy of the Individual Learning Programme and Profile which has been drawn up on the basis of assessment, classroom observation and reports from the previous school.

Most commonly children join us at Nursery or Reception, at Year 3 or Year 4 as they move on from a Pre-Prep School, or at Year 7 as they transfer from a maintained primary school. Children can join St Aubyns in any year group when places are available.

# Minibus Routes

Pupils travel to St Aubyns from a wide area and we provide a minibus service for easier access to the school.

We have five minibuses whose routes cover Hove, Brighton, Hurstpierpoint and the Burgess Hill area, Lewes and Ringmer, and Seaford and places on the way from those locations to Rottingdean.

Parents are put in contact with the relevant minibus driver and a convenient pick-up point is agreed.



We arrived at St Aubyns as children, but will leave as young adults, prepared for the world ahead



CAMERON, former Head Boy



# Beyond St Aubyns

Prep School is a stepping-stone to the appropriate school in which your child will go on to take GCSEs and A Levels. In a small, comfortable environment your child will discover the gifts and abilities which will help you to choose the right senior school for them.



As a truly independent Prep School we prepare children for a wide range of senior schools locally and nationally. These next schools include academically more selective and non-selective, single-sex and co-educational, and day and boarding schools. Some senior schools have particularly strong specialist departments in the arts or in sport which may make it the appropriate school for your child.

Common Entrance is an entry exam taken by children in Year 8 shared by many independent senior schools, while other schools have their own entrance exams. There is a Common Academic Scholarship exam shared by many schools. St Aubyns has an enviable record in preparing

children for this diversity of exams at 13+. Pupils frequently win academic scholarships and awards in other disciplines to their next schools.

As your child progresses through Prep School you will hear about the senior schools to which St Aubyns children move on. When your son or daughter is in Year 6 it is advised that you visit some of these schools or any other which is of interest to you. The Headmaster has a wide knowledge of senior schools and will always be happy to advise you about the suitability of schools for your child. A consideration of academic, social and extra-curricular factors will assist you in determining the correct school at which to register your son or daughter.



## St AUBYNs

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