



Frequently Asked Questions

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is a very important decision and we are happy to answer any questions you might have about St Peter's School.

We have provided answers to several frequently asked questions. You will also find a great deal of information on our website: www.stpetersyork.org.uk

Please visit our Sixth Form pages for specific information about Sixth Form life at St Peter's including the curriculum and testimonials from current pupils:
www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/sixth_form

Please do read these FAQs and look at our website before our Virtual Open Evening and contact marketing@stpetersyork.org.uk if you have any further questions.

Admissions

Please visit the Admissions sections of our website for further information about how to apply to St Peter's School and a link to our online application form:
www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/admissions

What are the key dates for the application process?

St Peter's School is oversubscribed. You should aim to apply at least a year in advance wherever possible. For Sixth Form, you should apply before 31 October.

Please see the key dates below for 2021 entry:

Saturday 31 October 2020	Deadline for Sixth Form Applications
Saturday 7 November 2020	16+ Assessment Day
First week of December 2020	Sixth Form Offers
Thursday 31 December 2020	Deadline for Help with Fees Applications
Friday 8 January 2021	Deadline for Music Award Applications
Saturday 16 January 2021	13+ and 14+ Assessment Days
Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 January 2021	Music Award Auditions
Monday 25 January 2021	Entrance Exams for pupils applying to Years 4-6
Thursday 28 January 2021	Entrance Exams for pupils applying to Years 7-8
Friday 12 February 2021	Help With Fees Offers

Will my child need to sit an entrance exam?

Sixth Form candidates are assessed in their preferred subjects for A-level, in addition to completing an interview. Candidates will receive specimen papers once they have applied for a place. Reports,

references and predicted grades are considered. Our minimum academic requirement for entry to the Sixth Form is six GCSE at grade 6, or equivalent. However, entry is extremely competitive and, in most circumstances, it is likely that candidates will need to perform well above this level to be successful in securing a place.

We hope to hold all entrance exams and assessments at St Peter's School. We will contact you as soon as possible should this situation change due to government restrictions.

Overseas candidates who are unable to attend at St Peter's on entrance exam day may make arrangements to take their tests closer to home. Gillian Bland, our Admissions Officer, will be pleased to provide advice and guidance in making these arrangements.

What happens if we are given a place on a waiting list?

Sixth Form candidates who perform particularly well in the November exam will be offered a place by the first week of December. However, those candidates who perform less strongly may be placed on a waiting list, with final decisions being made in February.

We may choose to make a firm offer or a conditional offer to Sixth Form candidates. Where a conditional offer is made, the candidate must meet any specified criteria – such as achieving certain grades at GCSE – before the place can be confirmed.

What levels of fee assistance do you offer?

We offer Help With Fees bursaries to Sixth Form candidates whose families cannot otherwise fund a place. Our fee awards are means-tested. We can cover between 10% and 100% of school fees, depending on your financial circumstances. For those who need 100% support, we can also contribute towards the cost of uniform and some trips and activities.

All enquiries and applications are handled in confidence. Your details will only be known by the very small team that processes and assesses your application, and awards of fee assistance / bursaries are kept confidential throughout a child's time with us.

Please visit our website to find out more:

https://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/admissions/help_with_fees

What are the latest exam results for St Peter's?

Pupils at St Peter's School consistently achieve outstanding academic results, a testament to the extraordinary talent and dedication of our pupils and the commitment of our inspirational teachers. St Peter's School appears 14th in the list of top 20 UK Co-ed boarding schools for 2019 based on A-level results, A* and A grades obtained and the number of pupils with exam success. The School also appears in the top 100 independent schools, ranked by A-level success.

Our latest exam results are available on our website:

www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic/exam_results

Academic

What is your approach to teaching and learning?

Sixth Form pupils are given greater independence and the Sixth Form curriculum at St Peter's encourages breadth and depth of learning, as well as intellectual curiosity. We also encourage pupils to expand their knowledge, with regular trips and talks by visiting academics and subject specialists.

Our Sixth Form Extension programme aims to prepare Sixth Formers for life after school, including activities such as Sixth Form Speaks and Sixth Form Exploration Week. Both Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth pupils also take a St Peter's Enrichment Programme (StEP) course within their timetabled curriculum. Within the course pupils study a wide variety of topics such as financial planning, CPSHEE, careers, university preparation, cookery and communication skills.

Please visit the academic pages of our website for more information:
www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic

Which academic subjects do you offer at A Level?

We offer a range of academic subjects at A Level and Pre U. We also offer the Extended Project Qualification. For a full list of subjects and information about the A Level curriculum, please visit the Sixth Form section of our website: www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/sixth_form

Daily Life at St Peter's

What pastoral support do you offer?

As a close-knit community, we pride ourselves on the pastoral care we provide for our pupils, which ensures that children feel safe, valued, happy and confident from the moment they arrive at school.

Our House System is at the heart of our pastoral care provision at St Peter's. There are six day Houses and four boarding Houses at St Peter's 13-18 and the House System fosters friendly competition and a sense of community, whilst providing a support network for our pupils.

We also have a team of dedicated pastoral staff whose care ensures that every child can make the most of their time at St Peter's. Our House Tutors, House Parents, Chaplain, medical team and dedicated support staff work together to support our pupils. A Listening Space is also available for pupils at St Peter's 13-18, where pupils can drop-in for an informal chat about any anxieties or concerns they may have during their time at school.

What sports do you offer?

Pupils at St Peter's School enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle. All pupils participate in sport, with over 250 sports teams and 15 different sports. In addition to our core sports of hockey, rugby, cricket, tennis and netball, pupils can enjoy a range of other sports including football, yoga, water polo, Pilates, rowing, squash and badminton.

Our pupils benefit from the excellent sports facilities on our 47-acre campus including industry-recognised sports pitches, tennis courts, netball courts, Astro-turf, a fully-equipped gym, an award-winning swimming pool and a new million-pound boathouse on the banks of the River Ouse.

What music and drama opportunities do you offer?

Music is an important part of life at St Peter's. We have one of the largest and most diverse Music Departments in the North. Over 150 pupils sing in the school choir and over 250 individual music lessons are offered every week. Pupils also benefit from instrumental teaching and practice rooms, a recital room, a fully equipped recording studio, a Bösendorfer concert grand piano, six Yamaha Conservatoire series grand pianos and a beautiful Andrew Garlick harpsichord. There are plenty of opportunities to perform with concerts throughout the year, including an annual concert at York Minster.

Drama is also a popular co-curricular option at St Peter's, as well as being taught as an academic subject, thanks to our vibrant and thriving Drama Department. Pupils enjoy trips to theatres locally and nationally to see plays and productions, inspiring them to stage their own productions each year. We have three main performance spaces: the newly refurbished Memorial Hall, the Shepherd Hall and the Dame Judi Dench Studio Theatre. Our legendary drama productions have included *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Hamlet* and *Beauty and the Beast* in recent years. Productions involve hundreds of pupils who participate as members of both cast and crew. LAMDA qualifications are also available to pupils at St Peter's School.

What other co-curricular opportunities are available?

There are over 80 different co-curricular opportunities available at St Peter's, enabling each child to develop their own interests and pursue their passions.

Examples of co-curricular activities at St Peter's 13-18 include Duke of Edinburgh, Community Action, Combined Cadet Force, Debating, Journalism, Eco Club, Science Society, Literary Society, Radio 627 and many more. For a full list, including musical ensembles and sporting clubs, please visit our website: www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/life_at_st_peters

How easy will it be for my child to make friends?

St Peter's is an exceptionally happy, friendly and welcoming community. There will be lots of opportunities for your child to make friends. Our House System helps pupils to establish friendships with children in different year groups, and pupils meet friends with similar interests thanks to the vast range of co-curricular opportunities available.

What are the school hours on Saturdays?

For children at St Peter's 13-18, there are academic lessons throughout the morning and a full games programme after lunch, with the school day ending at around 4pm. Saturday School is an important part of life at St Peter's, enabling us to deliver the best possible education to our pupils whilst giving them time to develop their own interests and fully embrace as many co-curricular and sporting opportunities as possible throughout the week.

Boarding

Being part of our boarding community allows pupils to dedicate more time to the things they love, putting them in the best position to take advantage of all St Peter's School has to offer. Over 30% of Sixth Form pupils choose to board at St Peter's.

You will find everything you need to know about boarding at St Peter's on our website, including information about how we are protecting our boarders during these challenging times:
www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/boarding

What are the living arrangements for boarders?

Our senior girls live in Dronfield and The Rise whilst our senior boys live in The Manor and Linton. Each House is overseen by Houseparents, a married couple who are also academic staff at the school.

Each of our boarding Houses is home to 30 to 40 pupils, which will usually include some siblings. Everyone gets to know everyone else very quickly and finds their own role in the House.

Each House offers comfortable accommodation and lots of space, with common rooms, study areas, computer rooms, music practice rooms and a fully equipped kitchen which is replenished daily with fruit, cereal, bread, milk and snacks. Boarders eat their main meals in the School Dining Hall, making lunchtime an ideal opportunity to catch up with friends from the day Houses.

Sixth Formers benefit from greater flexibility and privacy, sleeping one or two to a room, with access to their own study areas.

A laundry service is available for pupils and each House has a Matron and team of staff to help ensure everything runs smoothly. In the senior Boarding Houses, boarders share some duties, with everyone doing their bit to contribute to a happy and efficient House.

Do you offer part-time or weekly boarding options?

Part-time boarding is not available to Sixth Form pupils. We believe that the independence that full-time boarding brings supports the transition to life beyond St Peter's.

How do you look after the welfare of boarders?

The welfare of our boarders is incredibly important and our Houseparents create a warm and friendly atmosphere in each House. A dedicated team of staff, including Houseparents, House Tutors, Matron and the medical team, are available throughout the week and there is always someone to talk to.

Boarders are encouraged to maintain regular contact with family and friends and they also benefit from our supportive pastoral system which applies to all pupils at St Peter's (see the above section on Daily Life at St Peter's).

What level of supervision and support is offered during prep time?

Houseparents and House Tutors are available to support pupils during evening prep time, should they require additional help. Pupils are encouraged to complete their prep work in designated study spaces or their rooms, and they are monitored during prep time which usually lasts from 6.30pm - 8pm on weekday evenings.

What activities do you offer boarders on evenings and weekends?

Our Houseparents regularly organise evening and weekend activities for our boarders. Boarders can enjoy access to the library, art block, music rooms, gym, swimming pool as well as the facilities in the boarding Houses, with lots of opportunity to practice skills, relax and play games.

Parents may visit in the evenings or may collect their children to go out to the theatre or for a meal. Boarders from one house may visit another house, though only in the downstairs rooms.

Weekend activities might include film nights, karaoke, baking competitions, ice skating or bowling, with regular trips to the Yorkshire coast and dales. With the centre of York only 10 minutes' walk away, boarders also enjoy exploring the city and everything it has to offer.

York boasts cafés, independent shops, beautifully maintained parks, museums, theatres, cinemas and a huge range of internationally renowned festivals encouraging children to try new things.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, after Games or Activities, senior boarders can spend some time in York with friends. Sundays are a chance for a lie-in, followed by a much-loved brunch, with boarders free to spend the rest of the day however they like, returning in time for tea.

How many exeat weekends are there per term?

An exeat weekend is a weekend holiday away from school. At St Peter's we have three exeat weekends a year. The boarding Houses will be closed during exeat weekends, normally from 4pm on the Friday until 6pm on the Sunday.

For international pupils, it is the responsibility of the pupil's Guardian to ensure accommodation arrangements are communicated to Houseparents in advance of an exeat weekend.

Personal Development

What leadership opportunities are available to Sixth Form pupils?

Sixth Form pupils are encouraged to develop their leadership skills, with increasing levels of responsibility in all areas of school life. They may choose to lead a co-curricular club, activity or charity initiative, direct a school play or participate in competitions locally and nationally. Each individual is offered the opportunity to embrace all that the school offers, whilst also finding their own sense of independence through new opportunities to lead, innovate and contribute. Pupils are supported throughout this process by a dedicated team guiding and nurturing them through this important period of transition and development.

What HE and careers support do you offer Sixth Form pupils?

Our award-winning Careers Department offers specialist advice and guidance for Sixth Form pupils, whether they wish to continue to Higher Education or pursue other opportunities including gap years, apprenticeships and careers in the Armed Forces. The Careers Department organise regular talks with guest speakers and we also host an annual Futures Fair in March which is attended by pupils and parents from schools across York. More information is available on the Careers section of our website: www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic/careers

What are the latest leavers' destinations for Sixth Form pupils?

Approximately 90% of Sixth Form pupils go straight on to further or higher education study upon leaving St Peter's, choosing establishments both in the UK and overseas. Around half of our pupils go on to elite and Russell Group Universities (which includes Oxford and Cambridge) in the UK. In the 2020 cohort, 79 of our pupils (73%) gained places at Russell Group Universities, including Oxford or Cambridge. You can view our latest leavers' destinations on our website: www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic/careers/destinations