



## 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](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk)

There are separate sections of the website for St Peter's 2-8, St Peter's 8-13 and St Peter's 13-18. Here you will find specific information for each area of the School.

Please do read these FAQs and look at our website before our Virtual Open Events and contact [marketing@stpetersyork.org.uk](mailto: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 each section of the school and a link to our online application form:

- [www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_13\\_18/admissions](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/admissions)
- [www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_8\\_13/admissions](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_8_13/admissions)

### What are the main entry points for St Peter's?

Pupils may choose to join us at St Peter's 2-8, St Peter's 8-13 or St Peter's 13-18.

The standard points of entry for St Peter's 8-13 are at ages 8, 10 and 11, (Year 4, Year 6 and Year 7). Each year we are usually able to offer up to six Year 4 places, ten Year 6 places and eighteen Year 7 places. Occasionally places are available at age 9 and 12 and can be considered on request.

Most children joining the Senior School will join at age 13 in the Third Form, or age 16, for the Lower Sixth. If spaces are available, it is also possible to join the Fourth Form at age 14 at the beginning of the two-year GCSE programme.

### What are the key dates for the application process?

St Peter's School is oversubscribed. You should aim to apply for all entry points at least a year in advance wherever possible, and certainly before 31 December.

Please see the key dates below for 2021 entry:

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	8+ Offers and Help With Fees Offers

## **Will my child need to sit an entrance exam?**

Entrance exams are held for all children applying to St Peter's 8-13 and St Peter's 13-18.

Children applying for years 4-8 will be assessed at St Peter's 8-13. For families living some distance away, arrangements can be made for the assessments to be administered at the child's current school with the permission of their Head Teacher. The entrance assessments will include computer-based Maths, English and reasoning tests, a creative writing paper and a group task. We do not expect pupils to prepare or revise for the tests as they are designed to show us how a pupil thinks, rather than what they have covered in the curriculum.

For Third Form (Year 9) candidates, the assessment consists of tests in Maths, English and general intelligence, together with an interview. Children applying for St Peter's 13-18 will receive specimen papers once they have applied for a place. We also take reports and references from the child's current school into account. If a child sits the Common Entrance exam, the results of this will also be considered. We will generally let you know about the outcome of your application within two weeks of the entrance exam.

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 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?**

St Peter's 8-13 candidates are informed by letter of the outcome of the application process in February. Should a year be oversubscribed, some pupils may be invited to join a waiting list, from which offers can be made at any time up to the beginning of the new school year.

Third Form candidates are informed of the outcome of their application in February. Again, they may be placed on a waiting list should their year group be over-subscribed.

## **What levels of fee assistance do you offer?**

We offer Help With Fees bursaries to children whose families cannot otherwise fund a place. Help with Fees is usually only available to pupils entering Year 7, Year 9 or Sixth Form.

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](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](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic/exam_results)

### **How do you ease the transition from 2-8 to 8-13 and 8-13 to 13-18?**

Whether children join St Peter's at Nursery or Sixth Form, they will instantly feel a sense of belonging. Our warm and welcoming community transcends age boundaries, and children are encouraged to mix with pupils in other year groups. Our senior pupils often visit St Peter's 2-8 to help deliver PE sessions or listen to the younger children read. In St Peter's 8-13, the House System brings together children from different year groups, so that when pupils make the transition to St Peter's 13-18, they will be greeted by lots of familiar faces.

## **Daily Life at St Peter's**

### **What is your approach to teaching and learning?**

St Peter's has a reputation for academic excellence, and we instil a lifelong love of learning in our pupils from a young age. Highly qualified, specialist staff teach an extensive and exciting curriculum at St Peter's 8-13 whilst our senior pupils at St Peter's 13-18 benefit from a varied and challenging curriculum, delivered by inspirational and supportive teachers.

Please visit the academic pages of our website for more information about the approach to teaching and learning at each stage of the St Peter's journey:

[www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_8\\_13/academic](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_8_13/academic)

[www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_13\\_18/academic](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/academic)

### **What pastoral support do you offer?**

As a close-knit community, we pride ourselves on the pastoral care we provide for our pupils. From Nursery to Sixth Form, our pastoral care 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. 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. Over two thirds of pupils at St Peter's 8-13 receive tuition on individual instruments and there are many opportunities to play in ensembles or join the school choirs.

Music is an integral part of both the formal and informal curriculum at St Peter's 8-13 and this continues at St Peter's 13-18, with 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 8-13 include Animal Projects, Pottery Club, Computer Club, Chess Club, Eco Club, Photography Club, Geology and Fossils, Cookery Club, Programmable Electronics, Street Dance, LEGO Masters, Quiz Club, Science Club and much more. For a full list, including musical ensembles and sporting clubs, visit our website: [www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st\\_peters\\_8\\_13/life\\_at\\_st\\_peters/activities](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_8_13/life_at_st_peters/activities)

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](http://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, regardless of when they choose to join the School. 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 8-13, the school day begins at 8.20am on Saturday but ends at 12 noon. 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.

Junior boarding is available for children in Years 7 and 8 at St Peter's 8-13. Boarders in years 9 and above join the senior boarding community at St Peter's 13-18.

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](http://www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters_13_18/boarding)

### **What are the living arrangements for boarders?**

There are five boarding Houses at St Peter's. Each House is overseen by Houseparents, a married couple who are also academic staff at the school.

Our junior boarders live in Wentworth where boys sleep in the older side of the house, whilst the girls have the newer modern extension. Our senior girls live in Dronfield and The Rise whilst our senior boys live in The Manor and Linton.

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.

Many bedrooms in the boarding Houses are shared between pupils. 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?**

St Peter's 8-13 day pupils are welcome to stay occasional nights, weekly or full boarding. Over the last few years we have had increasing demand for pupils to have an overnight base at Wentworth House for just a few nights a week and have tailored our boarding options to the needs of our pupils and parents, whilst not diluting what we offer to those who board seven nights a week.

- Full boarding: 7 days a week in Year 7 and Year 8
- Part-time boarding: A minimum of two nights per week, up to four nights per week, Monday to Friday (subject to availability and a termly commitment is required)
- Weekly boarding: Five nights boarding in Wentworth (Monday to Friday)

To enable our pupils to benefit from the boarding experience, a part-time package is also offered to Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils. This may suit the varying needs of those families who want boarding as part of a St Peter's education. Part-time boarding runs in parallel with our full-time and day offering in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Forms.

Part-time boarding for Third, Fourth and Fifth Form pupils is a commitment to three nights per week, except Saturday, which is not available. On Sunday part-time boarding starts from 6.00pm.

Part-time boarding is ideal preparation for full-time boarding in the Sixth Form, where the independence that it brings supports the transition to life beyond St Peter's. Part-time boarding is not available to Sixth Form pupils.

### **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-times?**

Houseparents and House Tutors are available to support pupils during evening prep-times, 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.