



**HEAD OF HISTORY &
POLITICS**



ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL
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Staff, supported by the senior pupils, promote positive behaviour so that in lessons and around the school, pupils, almost without exception, show respect and consideration for each other.

ISI Inspection Report 2024



WELCOME TO ST BENEDICT'S

Thank you for your interest in this key post at St Benedict's School.

We recognise that applying for a new role is a significant commitment, and we approach every application with the same care and attention that you put into making it.

At St Benedict's, we are proud to offer an education that blends tradition with innovation, rooted in Benedictine values while preparing our pupils for the future.

We combine academic ambition with a commitment to developing the whole person. Through our High Performance Learning programme, every pupil is encouraged to think deeply, act creatively, and aim high achieving excellent GCSE and A level results. Our most recent ISI inspection confirmed the outstanding quality of our provision and the strength of our outcomes. Small class sizes and impressive facilities enable us to offer the very best in teaching, sport, music, drama, art and pastoral care where students develop resilience, leadership, and friendships that last a lifetime.

Our goal is to nurture confident, independent young people who are ready for the challenges of their next chapters whether that be transitioning to secondary school, Sixth Form, university, or life beyond school.

Our success rests on the dedication and professionalism of our staff. The atmosphere here is purposeful, supportive and good-humoured, with a genuine sense of community that is often remarked upon by visitors. We are proud of our record in nurturing professional growth; many colleagues have progressed to senior positions here and beyond, supported by excellent opportunities for development.

St Benedict's is more than just a school; it is a community. Inclusive and welcoming, we work in partnership with families, and our pupils benefit from the unique opportunities of being part of a through school from Nursery to Sixth Form.

This is the St Benedict's education: academic excellence, outstanding pastoral care, and a community where every child can thrive.

I encourage you to explore our website to gain a fuller sense of life at St Benedict's. I hope you will be inspired to apply and to contribute to our continued success and the flourishing of our community.

With best wishes



Joe Smith
Headmaster



OUR SCHOOL

St Benedict's is a leading independent co-educational Catholic school situated in leafy Ealing, West London. We offer the distinct advantage of a seamless education from Nursery through to Sixth Form, enabling pupils to begin their first steps in the Nursery at age three and continue through to Year 13 within one supportive, values-driven community.

Inspirational teaching, strong tutorial guidance and exceptional pastoral care lie at the heart of the education we provide. Together, these pillars shape a cohesive, all-through school experience that supports pupils at every stage of their development, equipping them with the confidence, independence and resilience to thrive, ensuring they are well prepared for key transitions and the opportunities that lie ahead.



Junior School & Nursery

The Junior School and Nursery offer a vibrant, nurturing environment where children grow in confidence and curiosity. Shared facilities with the Senior School and a thoughtful induction programme help pupils feel secure and well supported from the start.

Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire, preparing pupils for the rich academic and co-curricular opportunities ahead. Most pupils continue into the Senior School without the need for the 11+ examination, ensuring a smooth and confident transition to Year 7.

Senior School

St Benedict's Senior School provides a dynamic setting where students are encouraged to discover their strengths and develop a lifelong love of learning. The broad, ambitious curriculum fosters curiosity, creativity and resilience, with specialist teaching and facilities across a wide range of subjects.

Personal development and pastoral care are central to our approach. Each student is supported by a dedicated tutor and a strong network of staff, ensuring every young person is known and valued. A rich co-curricular programme in music, sport, debating and outdoor education complements academic life. By Year 11, students are well prepared to make informed choices about their future.



Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is a vibrant, aspirational community where students are challenged to think independently and contribute positively to the wider world. With a broad choice of A level subjects and enrichment opportunities, students are supported by expert teachers and receive tailored guidance on university and career pathways.

Leadership, service and reflection are central to Sixth Form life. Students mentor younger pupils, take part in outreach and volunteering, and help shape the school community. By the end of Year 13, our students leave St Benedict's as confident, thoughtful and compassionate young adults, ready for the opportunities ahead.





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We get so many opportunities to take part in different activities outside of lessons.

Student Year 12 //

Academic Life

We are proud of our strong record of academic achievement, with pupils securing excellent examination results and progressing to the UK's top universities each year.

St Benedict's joined the renowned High Performance Learning (HPL) World Class School Award Programme, a recognition reserved for top schools globally that lead in innovative educational practices. This milestone reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and our ambition to deliver unparalleled learning outcomes for our students.

Co-curricular Life

At St Benedict's, personal development is shaped by an exceptional co-curricular programme. Students can explore a wide range of interests through clubs and activities in the arts, STEM, sport, debating, outdoor education and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The St Benedict's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) is very active and runs overnight training exercises and leadership courses throughout the year.

Sport is a particular strength, with opportunities for all abilities and many pupils competing at county and national level. The arts also thrive, with strong music, drama and art programmes, including a vibrant choral tradition, instrumental ensembles and exhibitions that celebrate students' creativity.

PARTNERSHIPS

St Bernard's Preparatory School

The St Benedict's family of schools also includes St Bernard's Preparatory School, Slough. St Bernard's is an independent, Catholic, co-educational day school for children aged 3 to 11, offering a warm and nurturing environment where pupils are encouraged to thrive academically and personally. While there are separate Heads of St Benedict's Junior School and St Bernard's Preparatory School, the Head of St Benedict's is the Chief Executive of all three schools.

The Emmaus Partnership

St Benedict's launched the Emmaus Catholic Schools Partnership in 2019 with Sacred Heart High School Hammersmith, Cardinal Wiseman School, and St Augustine's Priory. Through this collaborative network, the Heads of all four schools have committed to strengthening Catholic education in West London. The Partnership enables shared expertise, joint initiatives, and enriching opportunities for pupils, who come together regularly for debates, concerts, lectures, and charity events.

OUR ETHOS, CULTURE AND VALUES

As a Benedictine school, St Benedict's is rooted in a 1500-year tradition inspired by the Rule of St Benedict – a practical guide for purposeful living, personal fulfilment, and community. Our motto, *a minimis incipe* – from the smallest beginnings – reflects our belief in the potential of every individual. It serves as a reminder that everyone has enormous potential, and that great things begin with small steps in a school where all can find and develop their talents to the full.

Our Benedictine heritage shapes every aspect of school life. Reflection, kindness, and hospitality are central to our ethos, guiding relationships across the school and creating an environment where people feel supported, valued, and able to flourish. These values underpin daily life at St Benedict's and help to foster a culture of integrity, curiosity, and confidence.

Inspirational teaching, strong tutorial support, and exceptional pastoral care are central to our educational approach. Colleagues joining St Benedict's become part of a dedicated team, committed to helping young people thrive academically, personally, and spiritually.

Our students have a strong sense of social responsibility and play an active role in charitable initiatives throughout the year. They raise funds for organisations such as Glass Door, YoungMinds, Shelter, and Aid to the Church in Need, and make regular donations to the Ealing Food Bank. Every Year 12 student takes part in voluntary service, whether by assisting in the Junior School, mentoring younger students, supporting local care homes, or working in charity shops.

Environmental awareness is integral to our community. Eco-Centric, our student-led environmental action group, works closely with the Senior Leadership Team to make St Benedict's as sustainable and eco-friendly as possible. The St Vincent de Paul (SVP) society further strengthens our community outreach by organising events and celebrations for elderly residents in the local area.

At St Benedict's, you will join a warm, purposeful, and aspirational community – one that nurtures both the young people in our care and the professionals who work alongside them.



A warm and engaging school with a strong moral core. Excellent pastoral care, solid academics, outstanding sport and a hugely rich extracurricular offering in a well-maintained setting.

The Good Schools Guide 2025

FACILITIES

St Benedict's provides a range of superb facilities that support both professional growth and a vibrant community life.

Our facilities are designed to inspire excellence and foster a strong sense of community among colleagues and students alike.

Highlights include:

- **The Atrium:** A versatile space for exhibitions, performances and school events.
- **Studio Theatre:** A modern venue equipped with advanced technology, perfect for productions, presentations and lectures.
- **Music Recording Studio:** A state-of-the-art facility for creative work and music technology.
- **Sports Hall Complex:** Featuring a dance studio, fencing salle and multi-gym, supporting a diverse co-curricular programme.
- **Sports Grounds at Perivale:** Fourteen acres of grounds with a spacious pavilion, floodlighting and a full-size all-weather AstroTurf pitch.



STAFF BENEFITS



St Benedict's is committed to supporting colleagues with a comprehensive package of benefits, designed to recognise your contribution and help you thrive both professionally and personally.

Financial

We offer highly competitive salaries for both teaching and support staff. Pay for teachers is above the maintained sector.

All eligible colleagues are enrolled in the Aviva pension scheme, which includes generous employer contributions: 16.5% for teaching staff and 5% for support staff. Permanent employees also receive life assurance at three times their annual salary.

Once probation is complete, permanent staff may be eligible for fee remission if their children attend St Benedict's. Families with children at the school also receive a 10% discount on uniform purchases.

To support travel, the school provides interest-free season ticket loans. Colleagues can also benefit from the Cyclescheme, offering savings of up to 42% on bikes and accessories, with interest-free payments over 12 months and additional tax and National Insurance savings.

Further savings are available through BHN Extras, which includes:

- Discounts of 2–8% on technology and home appliances
- A prepaid cashback card, offering up to 15% cashback at over 85 UK retailers (for £5 per year)
- Up to 15% off gift cards for major shops, supermarkets, and restaurants

Reduced-rate accommodation may be available to permanent staff, subject to availability. Free on-site parking is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Health and Wellbeing

St Benedict's is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all colleagues. Every permanent employee receives a comprehensive Health Shield Cash Plan, which enables you to reclaim everyday healthcare expenses, including dental, optical, and physiotherapy treatments. The plan also provides access to a wide range of wellbeing services, such as:

- A 24/7 virtual GP service for you and your dependent children, offering appointments, diagnoses, private prescriptions, referrals, and fit notes at any time
- An Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), available free of charge to permanent staff and their families, offering confidential support for personal or professional challenges
- Online health assessments
- Gym discounts

In addition to the EAP, staff may access subsidised face-to-face counselling if needed.

To help you maintain a healthy lifestyle, all colleagues enjoy a free, nutritious lunch in the School Dining Hall during term time.

We also offer free flu vaccinations, free eye tests, and a contribution towards prescription glasses.

Staff are welcome to use the school's on-site gym and take part in yoga and fitness classes.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is a central part of life at St Benedict's. The school invests significantly each year in high-quality training and supports staff through a comprehensive programme of:

- one-to-one and group coaching
- mentoring
- digital-teaching and classroom-practice training
- external courses and subject-specific workshops
- leadership development opportunities.

We provide structured pathways for those entering the profession through initial teacher training, as well as dedicated support for colleagues in their Early Career Teacher (ECT) years.

At St Benedict's, you will be encouraged to develop your skills and pursue your ambitions in a community that values reflection, growth, and excellence.



“
It has been a pleasure to contribute to the education of some formidable young people during my time here.”
Teaching Staff Member

THE DEPARTMENTS

HEAD OF HISTORY & POLITICS



History Department

We have 8 members of staff, some of whom also teach Politics.

It is a strong and successful department which aims for, and consistently achieves, high results in public examinations.

For GCSE we use the CIE exam board and we cover 20th century International Relations, and the German Depth Study, 1918-1945.

For A-Level we use the OCR exam board. We offer students two options: Modern History, or Medieval and Early Modern. In the former option we cover From Pitt to Peel: Britain 1783-1853; The Cold War in Asia 1945-1993; and Russia and its Rulers 1855-1964. In the latter we cover Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest; The Crusades and the Crusader States 1095-1192; and Tudor Rebellions 1485-1603.

The Department runs a History Society for our Junior pupils and a History Reading Group for our 6th Form. We arrange regular domestic trips to museums, castles and lectures, and welcome visiting speakers. We also run international trips, taking Year 9 to the First World War Battlefields and Year 10 to Berlin every year. We have taken our 6th Form to a variety of locations linked to our A-Level courses, including Moscow and St Petersburg, Vietnam and South Korea. More locally, we take our Medievalists to Battle Abbey and our pupils of modern Russia to a conference in London each autumn.

Politics Department

For A level Politics we use the Pearson Edexcel exam board and currently offer the Global Politics option alongside the UK Politics and Government.

We teach the core political ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism, and currently the non-core idea of feminism.

The department takes pupils to Parliament every year and a politics conference at which high-profile politicians speak. It has taken a trip to New York and Washington D.C. every other year for over a decade. It also has an active wider role in the school including orchestrating mock elections and an annual PMQs event during Parliament Week, and running the Model United Nations society that attends conferences every half term.

THE ROLE AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Summary of the role:

To lead and further develop our thriving History and Politics Departments, where results are consistently strong

Reporting: to: Deputy Head Academic

Line management responsibility for: Teachers of History and Politics

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- to oversee and be responsible for the subject or curriculum areas under their leadership
- to review and implement schemes of work throughout the School ensuring it is appropriate to the needs of all pupils, including SEN provision, the use of ICT and opportunities for independent learning
- to monitor and evaluate departmental performance through lesson observation, scrutiny of pupils' work and analysis of examination results
- to support members of their department in promoting positive behaviour in their subject lessons and dealing with any disciplinary matters which arise as a consequence
- to facilitate the process of School self-evaluation by regular liaison and co-operation with the Deputy Head Academic and other members of the Leadership Team
- to monitor the progress of all pupils through the assessment and marking of coursework, tests and examinations; this to include the co-ordination of the setting of all internal examinations
- to ensure that there is a quality display of pupils' work in the teaching rooms which is updated on a regular basis
- to encourage, support and make available staff training and development, regular departmental discussion and the introduction of new ideas and techniques
- to delegate appropriate tasks to other members of the Department to support their own professional development
- to present a results review to the Headmaster and Deputy Head Academic of public examination performance, successes and areas for improvement
- to manage the allocated Departmental budgets and to ensure that the Departments are adequately equipped by maintaining a good level of provision, ordering books, equipment and materials and control of new and old stock
- to assist with the appointment of staff and to ensure that staff and students working within

their departments receive help or advice as necessary

- to take overall responsibility for departmental co-curricular activities, visits and field trips by ensuring they are organised and conform with School policies, particularly Health & Safety
- to carry out appropriate risk assessments in the event of an unforeseen absence by a colleague, to ensure that appropriate work is set (including prep) and, if the absence is prolonged, that work is marked
- to arrange regular departmental meetings with minutes kept in the Departments
- to contribute to the co-curricular life of the School

Person Specification

Essential:

- a graduate in History or joint honours including History
- able to demonstrate excellent classroom practice for teaching and learning
- able to lead and coordinate a busy department
- demonstrate excellent leadership skills
- expected to have good inter-personal skills and to command the respect of pupils, colleagues and parents
- strong written and oral communication skills
- ambitious, energetic, enthusiastic and able to plan independently and collaboratively for the further development of the departments in line with the agreed aims of the School
- committed to their own and the team's professional development.
- empathetic to the Catholic and Benedictine ethos of the school

Desirable

- will preferably hold qualified teacher status
- ideally have experience of or be willing to teach A Level Politics

HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to be considered for this role, please complete our online application form. We are only able to consider applications submitted using the school's application form.

The closing date for applications is **12 noon on Tuesday 5th May**.

Interviews will take place **during w/c 11th May**. We encourage early applications, as we may close the vacancy earlier than advertised if we receive a high volume of suitable applications or make an appointment from early applicants.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact our HR department on 020 8862 2185 or email recruitment@stbenedicts.org.uk.

Safeguarding Statement

St Benedict's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo all appropriate safeguarding checks relevant to the post, including online searches, checks with current and previous employers, and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We value the diversity of our community and are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all. We welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds and do not discriminate on the grounds of any protected characteristic. Our aim is to create an inclusive environment where every member of our community is respected and able to thrive.

Accessibility

We are committed to making our recruitment process accessible and welcoming. If you require the application form in a different format, or need any adjustments or support to complete your application, please contact us on 020 8862 2185 or at recruitment@stbenedicts.org.uk. We will be pleased to support you to ensure your needs are met.



It's a school where everyone feels welcome, no matter their background.

Year 12 student



WHY WORK WITH US?



//
A school that truly allows students to develop outside the classroom.

Parent //



//
Since my arrival I have received a generosity of spirit and kindness from every single member of staff.

Teaching Staff Member //



//
The teachers here really care and want to help students succeed.

Year 11 student //

LIFE IN EALING



St Benedict's is set on a spacious site in a quiet, attractive, and safe residential area of Ealing, in west London. Just 20 minutes from central London, the school enjoys close proximity to world-class museums, galleries, theatres, and historic landmarks, while offering staff the comfort and community of a green suburban setting.

Ealing, known as the "Queen of the Suburbs", has long been celebrated for its wide, tree-lined avenues, elegant Edwardian architecture, and excellent transport connections. The area's rich history is evident in features such as the beautiful Ealing Abbey, which sits at the heart of the local community.

Ealing offers an exceptional quality of life, with numerous parks and commons – including Walpole Park, Ealing Common, and Pitshanger Park – providing extensive green space for walking, sport, and recreation. The lively town centre features a mix of independent shops, cafés, restaurants, and cultural venues, including the renowned Ealing Studios, the world's oldest continuously working film studio.

Transport links are outstanding. The Elizabeth Line, along with Central, District, and Piccadilly tube lines, and excellent bus services, make travel to central London, Heathrow Airport, and beyond fast and convenient.

Recent regeneration has brought new cultural spaces, fitness centres, dining options, and family-friendly facilities, adding to the area's vibrancy. This blend of green space, strong community, excellent amenities, and connectivity makes Ealing an ideal place for staff to live and work.



HOW TO FIND US

St Benedict's School

54 Eaton Rise
Ealing
London
W5 2ES

By Train

St Benedict's School is approximately a 10-minute walk from Ealing Broadway station, served by the Elizabeth Line, Central Line, and District Line, providing fast and convenient connections across London.

By Bus

The School is well served by local bus routes, including the 226, E2, and E9, all of which stop within a short walking distance.

Parking

While many of the roads around the School operate parking restrictions, free on-street parking can be found a short walk away. A staff car park is available on site, operating on a first-come, first-served basis.





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