



ST. MARGARET'S

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educating girls since 1846



The only girls' school in Aberdeen, St Margaret's has over 400 pupils ranging in age from 3 to 18. Our school is large enough to offer flexibility and choice in terms of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, but small enough to ensure that each girl is well known within a friendly and family atmosphere. St Margaret's staff are experts in teaching girls and are committed to supporting each girl to be all that she can be both inside and outside the classroom.

At St Margaret's we have specialized in girls' education since 1846. We believe that a single-sex education offers girls the space in which their intellectual and physical identity can blossom, a space which is free from stereotype, full of challenge and rich with opportunity and care. It is in this sort of environment that the girls can develop the self-esteem and confidence which will enable them to fulfil their potential and make a positive impact on the world.

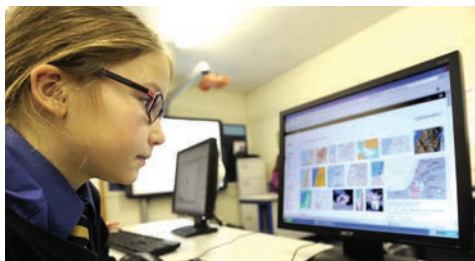
We provide our pupils at all ages and stages with a rich variety of extra-curricular opportunities. Music, sport, debating, drama, dance, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and many other activities are available. These are enjoyable in themselves, but they also help girls to develop the skills and personal qualities which they will require to be successful and happy beyond school.

This prospectus tells only a small part of our story. We look forward welcoming you to St Margaret's and sharing with you what a special place this is.

Anna Tomlin

Miss Anna Tomlinson
M. Theol (Hons), PGCE

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE





“The Junior School is a friendly, happy and welcoming environment, where the girls work hard and have fun as they rise to the challenges we give them.”

*Mrs Norma Murray,
Head of Junior School*

There is certainly an academic focus at St Margaret's. We are a selective school, and almost all of our sixth year girls go on to university every year.

An important part of St Margaret's is the Nursery, where foundations are laid in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. Transition to the Junior School is smooth, involving simply stepping across the landing to the 1 Junior classroom. To complement our highly qualified junior teachers, specialist teachers of music, PE, drama, French, food technology, art, Latin and science contribute to the junior curriculum.

St Margaret's truly is an all-through school, and so our 7 Junior girls have some lessons in the senior area of the site. Their regular lessons in the science laboratories allow real practical work to be done within the separate disciplines of physics, chemistry and biology.



“In Senior School girls are given every opportunity to flourish in an environment of academic excellence, and to become confident and independent learners.”

*Mrs Susan Lynch,
Deputy Head*

In I Senior, girls follow a wide curriculum so that they gain experience of many subjects. Subject choice is introduced gradually from II Senior, and girls can select from a wide range of subjects to suit their interests and career plans.

Independence is encouraged throughout the school, and differentiated teaching in small classes enables all to make good progress. Girls and staff strive for academic excellence. All girls are expected to do their best, and to achieve from national examinations the qualifications which are commensurate with their talents.





CHOICES AND CHALLENGES

We have over 50 clubs, teams and extra-curricular activities for the girls to join.

Our aim here is to have happy, confident girls who know their strengths when they eventually leave us for the wider world. In single-sex schools, girls don't just enjoy equal opportunities, they enjoy all opportunities, whether they be in the arts, sport, science, expeditions, career insights or other extra-curricular activities. Giving girls opportunities to try a wide range of academic subjects and extra-curricular activities is key to bringing out their full potential. Each girl can certainly discover for herself what she is good at and have the chance to develop her talents to the full with the support of our dedicated staff. We actively encourage girls to represent the school in the wider community and regularly celebrate their successes.

With only their fellow girls in the classroom and on the sports field, girls in single-sex schools have the space in which their intellectual and physical confidence can blossom. There are no limitations here in a single-sex environment which sees many excel in what can still be regarded as male-dominated subjects such as physics or chemistry.





“St Margaret’s is a close-knit community where staff and pupils work together in order that we may all achieve our goals.”

VI Senior pupil

We have high expectations of our girls, socially and academically. As they leave us, our girls have a strong sense of self and a determination to succeed. They are confident, resilient and ready to make the most of life’s challenges. Our girls go on to be very successful in their chosen careers.

There are many opportunities for leadership at St Margaret’s in classes, clubs, sports and music. Many girls become prefects and, under the leadership of the Head Girl and her team, contribute significantly to the development of the school.



CULTURE

Our girls succeed not only academically but also in the performing arts. We are renowned for our high standards in music and drama.





Girls at all stages from 1 Junior to VI Senior are involved in our drama productions, not just performing, but producing and directing too. There are two junior shows, which are performed in our own school hall each year. There is an annual senior production which is performed in a city centre theatre to give girls the exciting experience of working in a real theatre to packed audiences.

At St Margaret's our girls perform music of all kinds in school, in the wider community, in different parts of Britain and abroad.

The long hours of individual practice, cooperation with others and perseverance in the pursuit of excellence have reaped rich rewards, for both our musicians and our appreciative audiences.

The ability to speak in public and to argue one's case is an invaluable skill throughout life. Our girls are introduced to this from an early age through debating and presentations to their friends or in school assemblies. All girls with a talent or interest go on to represent school in debating or public speaking competitions with regular success.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

From an early age we encourage our girls to express their creativity through art or dance.

From Nursery through to sixth year we offer the opportunity to participate in many forms of dance during PE lessons and through extra-curricular activities, which include street dance and highland dancing.

Our playing fields and pavilion are situated two miles away at St Margaret's Place, off Summerhill Road, near King's Gate. Our facilities include two full-sized hockey pitches, which convert to a 400m running track in the summer, five tarmac tennis courts and a grass netball court. We also make good use of the sporting facilities available at Aberdeen Sports Village.

The foundations of art and design are laid in the early years. Our art studio at the top of the main building is flooded with natural light and is an inspirational place to work. Girls' work, which includes not just paintings, but also jewellery and sculpture, is displayed throughout the school. Girls regularly enjoy success in art and design competitions all over Scotland.





SPORT

Sport plays a large part in the lives of our girls.

Physical education starts in Nursery and continues right through school. We encourage girls to try a vast range of sporting activities. We enter teams for many competitions in many disciplines and have gained significant successes over the years.

Everyone takes part in Sports Day, some as very serious competitors in our championship races, others just for the sheer fun of participating with their friends. We hope that by fostering a love of sport we shall help our girls to continue with it through their adult lives.



BECOMING A WHOLE PERSON

The academic focus is very important to us, but so too is the school ethos, which ensures that every pupil has the opportunity to enjoy full participation in the wider activities of the school.

Whilst academic results and extra-curricular achievements are important, becoming a well-rounded confident young woman is vital for success in later life.

Form teachers throughout the school are the first source of support for each girl. Classes from I Junior to II Senior also have class prefects who act as friendly and less formal figures from whom younger girls can seek help and advice.

As an all-through school, St Margaret's is able to ensure a smooth transition and progression from junior to senior stages. New girls entering at I Senior find that the process is facilitated by an induction day during the third term of 7 Junior; new entrants meet with girls already in school and establish friendships so that they already feel part of the whole school community by the time they begin their secondary school career.

Specialist guidance staff get to know our girls well and provide support during the important teenage years.

The well-being of every girl is paramount; we wish to ensure that all of our pupils are happy in school and confident in their progress.

Higher education and careers guidance is provided by experienced advisers. Girls in IV Senior also participate in a careers event, comprising external speakers and visits, and every girl in V Senior completes a week of work experience in a place of her choice.

Our ethos is a caring one: girls actively support one another and have teachers who will always do their best for them. We welcome girls of all nationalities and all faiths.

Aberdeen is a place where people from all over the world come to work, which gives us a real international flavour. Some of our girls are with us for many years and others for only a short time, but we hope that all will benefit from a St Margaret's education that is academically Scottish but has a worldwide dimension to it.



*“Attending St Margaret’s
has made a huge difference
to my life and has taught
me so many things.”*

11 Senior Pupil





A SENSE OF BELONGING



There is a strong sense of belonging here. Girls and staff are proud to be part of St Margaret's and all that the school achieves. We celebrate our successes and support one another in times of need, consequently developing strong bonds of friendship. Many older girls help younger girls with their studies or in sport.

We also look to support the outside community. Every class raises money for its chosen charity through an event or through enterprise. Junior classes entertain pupils at other schools and the residents of old people's homes. Many of our older girls from III Senior upwards take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our IV Senior girls compete in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, through which they work closely with a charity for some time.

When they leave, all girls can maintain friendships and their links with the school through the Former Pupils' Club. Parents and teachers are members of our very active Parent Teacher Association. Involvement in the many school events that are held helps our parents to feel part of our community.



“In my time at St Margaret’s I have been struck by the friendly and hardworking nature of the pupils who are keen to make the most of the impressive range of opportunities available to them.”

VI Senior Pupil

At St Margaret’s we have an aim to help girls develop into young women who are confident, resourceful and successful. Their experiences here will equip them to be future leaders able to make a difference to the world.

Our girls are challenged whilst being nurtured so that when they leave they can hold their own in whatever situation they find themselves.



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St Margaret's School for Girls (Incorporated), is a private company limited by guarantee and is registered in Edinburgh (reg. no. 12585). The company's registered office address is 17 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, Scotland AB10 1RU. The school is also registered as a charity with OSCR (reg. no. SC 016265).