



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

Founded nearly 80 years ago in September 1941 by Miss Phyllis Burden, with just four pupils in the Rectory in Pewsey, St Francis School is now a thriving IAPS co-educational day prep school and nursery for pupils aged 0 to 13, with 260 children on roll.

In 1984 the School moved out of Pewsey village to Haybrook House (which now houses the Pre-Prep department and Little Saints Nursery), and the neighbouring Travancore House (housing the Prep Department) was acquired in 1990. The current School is situated in 17 acres alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal, in Wiltshire's picturesque Pewsey Vale, six miles south of Marlborough. Although a village, Pewsey is well-situated mid-way between the M3 and M4 motorways, and with a mainline railway station with regular express services to/from London Paddington (75 minutes) and Exeter/Penzance.

At the School's most recent full ISI inspection, all areas in Years 1 and above were graded as 'Excellent', and EYFS was congratulated on raising the standards significantly to 'Good with Outstanding Features'.



We are first and foremost a friendly, family school priding ourselves on being a happy and welcoming community. The main Reception Office is to be found in Travancore House along with the school's administrative offices and a dedicated meeting room. The Music Department, the Library, a Common Room for pupils in Years 7 and 8, and the Learning Support hub are also in this building.

A purpose-built, modern, three-floor teaching block (fittingly named the 'Burden Building' after the school's founder) was opened in 2005 containing spacious general and subject specialist classrooms including an Art Room with a Food Technology area, and the Staff Room.

Across the school campus can be found the following facilities: a separate dining room and kitchens in Haybrook Hall (which is also used for music recitals, smaller drama performances and parent meetings); the Hemery Hall sports hall-cum-theatre (used for drama productions, music concerts and assemblies as well as for sport, and in the evenings by the local community for activities such as county cricket nets, badminton and tennis); an indoor climbing wall in the Hemery Hall; playing fields providing pitches for football, rugby, hockey, cricket, rounders and athletics and ample space for cross country; a woodland area for our Kindling Forest School; and a double tennis/netball court.

A further building, the Cannon Centre, was completely refurbished and developed in 2016 to provide a modern Science Laboratory, and a Design Technology Lab downstairs, and a Drama Studio upstairs.

A brand new Nursery building was opened in the grounds of Haybrook House at the start of the Autumn Term 2017, at the time when Little Saints Nursery expanded, taking younger children from babies and providing childcare for 51 weeks a year. The redeveloped Nursery has proved to be a very popular and thriving part of the organisation.



Although the entry to St Francis School is non-selective, the outcomes for Year 6 (11+) and Year 8 (13+) pupils are exceptional with many gaining scholarships, exhibitions and places at a broad range of schools. We pride ourselves on the fact that every child gains a place at their first choice school. After their time at St Francis, pupils mainly transfer to Dauntsey's School, Marlborough College and Warminster School, as well as to other senior day and boarding schools including to Bryanston, Downe House, Eton College, Godolphin, Milton Abbey, Monkton Combe, Pangbourne College, St Mary's Calne, Sherborne, Stonar, and to St John's Academy in Marlborough.

As a PSB School (Pre-Senior Baccalaureate), the learning ethos is very much based on developing core values, skills, attitudes and behaviours alongside subject knowledge and subject skills which are required for children to succeed and flourish in an ever changing world. The School's learning focus is summarised in the mnemonic CLICK (Collaboration, Leadership, Independence, Challenge and Kindness). Pupils belong to one of four 'Houses' (Alfred, Brunel, Cromwell, Marlborough) which compete in a range of cultural, sporting and fun activities. Our 'house' points are called CLICK Points as they are awarded based on the individual child's development in the core skills areas.

St Francis is a 'Google Workspace for Education' school with digital development very much part of the future strategy: from September 2021 the use of Chromebooks by all pupils will be further enhanced. Specialist teaching starts in Nursery and Pre-Prep with music, sport and French; from Year 5 all classes are taught by specialist subject teachers.

The School's motto 'Deus dabit incrementum' has been translated into modern parlance as 'Use your God-given Talents': with our range of facilities and the expertise of the staff, we provide opportunities for children to find and develop their talents, both outside as well as inside the classroom. Children are encouraged, recognised and celebrated in their achievements.



The School is a Charitable Trust (Registration No. 298522 known as the Hayfran Trust) with a Board of Governors, and also a Company limited by guarantee. It is a member of ISC and the current Head, who is known by the title of 'Headmaster', is an active member of IAPS; his successor, if not already a member of IAPS, will be eligible for election to membership. The title of the next Head (Head, Headmaster or Headmistress) will be decided by the Chair of Governors and the person appointed.

The Headmaster is supported by the Senior Leadership Team which consists of the Deputy Head (responsible for pastoral and day-to-day logistics); Deputy Head Academic; Head of Pre-Prep; Nursery Manager; and the Bursar.

The Governing Body is made up of eight members who provide financial, HR, legal, medical and educational expertise. They meet as a Full Board once a term and are very supportive of the Headmaster and the School as a whole. They give additional support through sub-committees which deal with Education, Finance, Health & Safety, Human Resources and Strategy. Several of the Governors, including the Chair, are past parents of the school.



Whilst the school takes great pride in its history and plans are being made to celebrate the 80th Anniversary in the 2021-2022 academic year, there is also a focus on future development. The next project is to establish a multi-sports surface and outdoor, all-weather cricket nets.

Further details about the School can be found at www.st-francis.wilts.sch.uk.