



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

St Mary's

THE PLACE TO BE

ME

GCSE courses 2024-26

**Results and Leavers' Destinations**

**#PlaceToBeMe**

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse)

# GCSE RESULTS 2023

★ **44%** A\* (9-8) grades

★ **65%** A\*/A (9-7) grades

★ **91%** A\*/B (9-5) grades



# P RIDE IN THE STORIES BEHIND THE SUCCESS

Each summer we celebrate our exceptional academic results with great pride. They represent the hard work of our pupils and the dedicated support of our teachers and parents.

At St Mary's, academic excellence is balanced by the value we place on characteristics and talents that examinations cannot measure. We see the stories behind every A\* (9-8) grade: the pupils who possess great courage or kindness, those who champion change, light up a stage or take the lead with confidence.

As this year's pupils enter our Sixth Form, I look forward to watching their individual stories evolve. Looking to the future, I feel great optimism about the potential held within this compassionate, capable generation of young people.

**Mrs Charlotte Avery**  
Headmistress





# WHICH PATH WILL YOU CHOOSE?

When choosing your GCSE options it is important to think about your future. Our subject-specialist teachers and dedicated careers department will be happy to support you in your decision-making.

St Mary's pupils go on to secure places on renowned courses at leading UK universities, conservatoires, art schools and international universities.



# Destination universities and courses 2023

## **Anglia Ruskin University**

International Business Management  
Nursing (Adult)

## **BIMM (British and Irish Modern Music) University**

Performing Arts

## **Cardiff Metropolitan University**

Criminology

## **City and Guilds Art School London**

Art & Design (Foundation)

## **Durham University**

Biosciences  
Classics  
Philosophy, Politics and Economics

## **Imperial College London**

Chemistry

## **Kingston University**

International Business  
Law with Professional Experience

## **Lancaster University**

Psychology and Management

## **London College of Communication**

Art & Design (Foundation)

## **Newcastle University**

Geography

## **Queen Mary University, London**

History

## **Royal Veterinary College,**

## **University of London**

Veterinary Medicine

## **SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) University of London**

Japanese

## **UCL (University College London)**

Ancient World  
Anthropology  
Geography  
Psychology with Education  
Russian and Spanish

## **University of the Arts London**

Art & Design (Foundation)  
Photojournalism and  
Documentary Photography

## **University of Brighton**

Interior Architecture

## **University of Bristol**

Economics

## **University of Cambridge**

Economics  
Medicine  
Music

## **University of Cumbria**

Outdoor Adventure and  
Environmental Studies

## **University of East Anglia**

Business, Finance and Economics

## **University of Exeter**

Exercise and Sport Sciences  
Psychology

## **University of Manchester**

Politics and Modern History

## **University of Nottingham**

Politics and International Relations

## **University of Sheffield**

Psychology  
Zoology

## **University of Southampton**

Computer Science

## **University of Surrey**

Criminology

## **University of Sussex**

Business, Management  
and Economics

## **University of Warwick**

History of Art

## **University of York**

Human Geography  
and Environment

# GCSE AND IGCSE COURSES 2024/26

Follow in the footsteps of our brilliant class of 2023. Gain the grades, support, confidence and skills you need to achieve your future goals.

## CORE SUBJECTS

**English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Religious Studies**

Pupils for whom English is not their first language have the option to choose English as an Additional Language (EAL).

## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Choose **six options**, including **two** or **three science** subjects.

SCIENCES	OPTIONAL SUBJECTS		
<b>Three science IGCSEs:</b> Biology/Chemistry/ Physics  OR <b>Two science IGCSEs:</b> Science Double Award covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Art and Design Classical Civilisation Computer Science* Design Technology Drama English Language Support (ELS)	French Food Preparation & Nutrition Geography German History Latin	Learning Support Mandarin Chinese Music Spanish Textiles

\*Computer Science can be selected as a 7th optional subject, if students select three separate science courses (biology, chemistry, physics).

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUBJECTS

Consider adding **one** additional off-timetable subject to your selection:  
FSMQ Additional Mathematics, Classical Greek GCSE, Latin (Level 1 Certificate),  
Dance GCSE, Physical Education (Short Course 1/2 GCSE)

## EXTEND AND ENHANCE

Alongside your academic studies, St Mary's is full of opportunities to extend learning, gain experience and to explore your interests. Further off-timetable options include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the STEMM Award schemes.

Visit: [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/extend](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/extend)

Details correct at time of going to print, September 2023

GCSE course details: [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse)

# CORE SUBJECTS



**69%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in English Literature



**59%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in English Language



**44%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Mathematics



**54%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Religious Studies

## English Literature

This course invites you to consider human behaviour and our complex world through the exploration of literature. With texts including poetry, 19th century writing, Shakespeare, contemporary fiction and drama – there is plenty to spark curiosity and inspire discussion.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/english](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/english)

## English Language

Develop your ability to express ideas clearly, engage in discussions and to consider different points of view. Using the English language to communicate effectively is a vital life skill, no matter what your future career path!

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseenglishlang](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseenglishlang)

## Mathematics

Master the mathematical tools you need for everyday life through this engaging, varied course. Key topics include algebra, statistics, geometry and probability – skills that will prepare you for higher level study across a wide range of subjects.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsemaths](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsemaths)

## Religious Studies

Explore Christianity and Judaism, as you deepen your understanding of religion in society. You will consider religious, societal and personal responses to moral themes including: relationships; the environment; medical ethics; war and peace; human rights and social justice; and the origins of the universe and life.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsers](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsers)

## English as an additional language (EAL)

If English is not your first language, you can opt to study EAL as an alternative to GCSE English qualifications. Our EAL course leads to the internationally recognised Cambridge English qualifications.

**stmaryscambridge.co.uk/eal**

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: Science

Your course selection must include **two** or **three** science IGCSEs.

 **87%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Biology

 **77%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Chemistry

 **84%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Physics

// ST MARY'S  
EMPOWERED  
AND  
ENCOURAGED  
ME. THEY  
ARE REALLY  
STRONG ON  
WOMEN IN  
SCIENCE SO  
I FELT REALLY  
SUPPORTED. //

St Mary's pupil

## Option 1: Three separate science IGCSEs

### Biology

Choose IGCSE Biology to understand the structures and functions that underpin life itself, from the tiniest cell to complex ecosystems and topical issues such as genetic modification and food production.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsebiology](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsebiology)

### Chemistry

Study atoms, chemical equations, metals, atmospheric gases and more! As you perform practical experiments to test, separate, identify and titrate you will reveal key patterns and themes in chemistry, across different contexts.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsechemistry](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsechemistry)

### Physics

From creating electrical circuits to exploring the Big Bang, IGCSE Physics will develop your problem-solving and analytical skills as you explore how our world works, through topics such as electricity, waves, astrophysics and magnetism.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsephysics](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsephysics)

## Option 2: Science Double Award

### Science Double Award (worth two IGCSEs)

The Double Award course covers all three science subjects. This option is ideal if you are uncertain if you want to continue studying science post-16, or plan to pursue science but wish to include other subjects in your overall selection.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse-science](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcse-science)



# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: STEM

 **61%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Computer Science

 **100%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Design Technology

 **69%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Computer Science

Develop problem-solving and creative thinking skills to tackle real-world problems using computational thinking. Computer science is the UK's fastest growing employment sector and through this course you will gain valuable skills for the workplace of the future, including coding with Python, HTML, systems architecture, software and data representation.

Please note: if you are studying three separate science IGCSEs, you can choose Computer Science as an additional seventh option.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsecomputerscience](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsecomputerscience)

## Design Technology

Study a wide range of materials to ensure that you have a broad knowledge and understanding of design and technology and that you are able to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to use within 'design and make' activities. NB A minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 12 students applies to this course.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsedt](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsedt)

## Food Preparation and Nutrition

Be creative and collaborate with others as you develop your technical skills in this rewarding, practical subject. As well as producing delicious food, you will study nutrition to understand the science that underpins cookery and deepen your knowledge of healthy eating.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/food](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/food)



# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: Arts

 **79%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Art and Design

 **53%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Drama

 **100%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Music

## Art and Design

Build your technical skills as you respond visually and critically to the world, developing creative ideas using a range of media. This course enables you to express your own identity, as well as exploring how art provides a unique window into other cultures and historical events.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseart](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseart)

## Drama

Broaden your knowledge of drama by studying contrasting works including the brilliant play 'An Inspector Calls'. This varied course invites you to experience and respond to live theatre, as well as creating your own work and showcasing your skills as a performer or designer.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsedrama](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsedrama)

## Music

Explore traditional and contemporary musical styles through this accessible, flexible course – including classical, pop, jazz and film music. With freedom to compose your own music, you can explore your own creativity, alongside developing experience as both a solo and ensemble performer.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsemusic](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsemusic)

## Textiles

This course introduces students to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. It will give students the opportunity to specialise in areas of particular interest and allows the creation of designs and products of woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose. NB A minimum of 5 students and a maximum of 12 students applies to this course.






 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsetextiles](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsetextiles)

//  
THE MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT  
IS PRETTY  
AMAZING AT  
ST MARY'S  
AND THEY  
HAVE BEEN  
ENTHUSIASTIC  
FROM THE  
GET GO. //

St Mary's pupil

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS:

## Languages

 <b>68%</b>	9-7 (A*/A) grades in French
 <b>73%</b>	9-7 A*/A grades in German
 <b>100%</b>	9-7 (A*/A) grades in Latin
 <b>83%</b>	9-5 (A*-B) grades in Mandarin Chinese
 <b>74%</b>	9-7 (A*/A) grades in Spanish

### French

Develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, through a range of relevant, engaging topics. Learn to convey key information in French, covering a variety of aspects of your life.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsefrench](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsefrench)

### German

From enjoying meals with a host family, to travelling on public transport, booking holidays and sharing your hobbies, daily routines, career ambitions and views on social issues – this course offers all the skills you need to communicate effectively in German.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegerman](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegerman)

### Latin

Discover the influence of Latin on the English language, as you translate key mythology and historical texts from ancient Rome. Delve deeper into this fascinating world of gods and gladiators using translated work, written by some of Rome's greatest thinkers.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcselatin](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcselatin)

### Mandarin Chinese

Chinese is the world's most prevalent language, with one trillion native speakers, and is an official language in Singapore, Malaysia and Taiwan. This course is available to students who have been studying Chinese as a second language for three years (native Chinese speakers can take GCSE Chinese as a first language at the end of Year 10, but no lessons are provided).

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsechinese](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsechinese)

### Spanish

Develop Spanish language skills to communicate in a variety of situations, including the workplace. As your skills develop, you will also explore aspects of Hispanic culture and its traditions and festivals.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsespanish](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsespanish)



### English Language Support

If English is not your first language, this option provides extra assistance with language skills to aid progression in other subjects. It can be taken as an alternative to a Modern Foreign Language and support will be tailored to match your individual learning needs.

**This option does not lead to a qualification.**

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/els](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/els)

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: Humanities

 **42%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Classical Civilisation

 **73%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Geography


 **58%**

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in History

## LEARNING SUPPORT

If you undertook Learning Support lessons in Key Stage 3, you can choose to continue these in Years 10 and 11. These lessons will respond to your individual needs and typically include support with coursework, revision and key topics.

**Learning Support can be selected in place of one GCSE option, but does not lead to a qualification.**

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcselearning-support](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcselearning-support)

## Classical Civilisation

Explore the story of Hercules and Theseus, the foundation of Rome and the great battles, beliefs and cultural artefacts of the ancient world. You will also study the gods, monsters and cannibals of *The Odyssey*, as you consider themes of vengeance, love, justice and fate.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseclassics](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseclassics)

## Geography

Discover more about our awe-inspiring world, from rainforest destruction and extreme weather, to the impact of man-made developments such as Eko Atlantic. Closer to home, a fieldwork trip to Snowdonia National Park will develop your data collection and presentations skills – all part of the diverse geographer's skill-set.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegeography](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegeography)

## History

Interpret and understand how historical events have shaped our world, through questions such as: 'What happens when democracy fails?' or 'Why did the Holocaust take place?'. Explore international relations, the USA, British Society and Germany (1918-45) and understand some of the seismic shifts in 20th Century history.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsehistory](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsehistory)

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: Extra-curricular options

$\sqrt{x}$  67%

A-B grades in FSMQ Additional Mathematics (*A\* not applicable for this qualification*)

$\Omega$  100%

9-7 (A\*/A) grades in Greek

## FSMQ Additional Mathematics

Talented mathematicians can further their skills beyond the GCSE syllabus with this free-standing qualification, introducing higher level skills which form part of the A Level Mathematics course. Open to pupils in Mathematics Set 1 or 2 at the start of Year 10.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseaddmaths](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcseaddmaths)

## Classical Greek GCSE

Study this fascinating language through engaging stories of the ancient world. This qualification makes an impressive addition to any CV and is particularly valuable for aspiring medics and dentists. Please note: This course is taught after school, with pupils from St Bede's Inter-Church School.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegreek](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsegreek)

## Dance GCSE

The study of dance is active, physically demanding, intellectually stimulating and fun. This course places huge emphasis on practical dance work across a range of styles, as well as on the analysis of professional choreography. Please note this course is taught after school by our Dance Coordinator.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsestance](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsestance)

## Physical Education Short Course GCSE

If sport and exercise are your passions, this course, which is taught in Friday enrichment sessions, covers health, training and exercise, movement analysis and exercise physiology. Comparable to half a full GCSE.

 [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsepeshort](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/gcsepeshort)

// ST MARY'S  
ENCOURAGES  
YOU IN ALL  
ASPECTS OF  
SCHOOL LIFE:  
ACADEMIA,  
EXTRA-  
CURRICULAR  
AND CREATIVE  
SUBJECTS. //

St Mary's pupil





// I FEEL I HAVE BEEN  
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TO REACH MY FULL  
POTENTIAL AND I AM  
VERY HAPPY WITH  
MY RESULTS! //

St Mary's pupil



## NEXT STEPS

We welcome pupils with a broad range of academic abilities, who are enthusiastic and have a desire to engage in learning.

We accept applications to all year groups except Year 11, but typically girls join us:

- In **Junior School** for the complete St Mary's experience
- In **Year 7** (age 11+) to build towards Key Stage 4
- In **Year 9** (age 13+) to begin GCSE studies

### Visit us

We warmly invite you to arrange a **personal visit** or to attend an **open event**, to understand more about life at St Mary's and to meet our leadership team, staff and pupils.

Contact us for further information:  
**[admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk)**  
**[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit)**  
**+44 (0)1223 224 167**

### Further information

Academic results: **[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/results](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/results)**

Leaver destinations:

**[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/destinations](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/destinations)**

Annual review: **[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/magnolian](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/magnolian)**

I FEEL I HAVE COME FULL  
CIRCLE. THESE RESULTS  
COULDN'T BE A BETTER  
ENDING TO BEING AT A  
SCHOOL THAT TEACHES YOU  
TO BE YOURSELF RATHER  
THAN ANYONE ELSE.

St Mary's pupil




#PlaceToBeMe



## ADMISSIONS

St Mary's School,  
Bateman Street,  
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+44 (0)1223 224 167  
admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk

-  stmaryscambridge
-  @StMarysSch
-  StMarysSchoolCambridge

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk)

**gsa** | Girls' Schools' Association

**High Performance Learning**  
World Class School

**CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE**

**Excellence in Education**  
The Independent Association of Prep Schools

**independent schools council**

**GIRLS' SCHOOLS' CONFERENCE**