



Boarding  
Prior Park  
College





## WELCOME TO BOARDING *at* PRIOR PARK COLLEGE

Set in fifty-seven stunning acres and overlooking the World Heritage City of Bath, Prior Park offers an exceptional environment for students to study, play and live.

Established in 1830 as a Seminary and boys' school with 36 students, Prior Park College has grown to become one of the largest fully co-educational, Catholic, independent, boarding and day schools in the UK.

Boarding is at the heart of the College; it is the life and energy of the school once the normal day has ended and it is the vitality that cajoles the school back into life each morning.





“ My house is my favourite place at Prior. I love helping people settle in and having chats with the younger pupils. The atmosphere, the people and the family environment feels very homely. ”



Many parents enjoy the structure and stability that boarding offers, particularly when there is often demands on the modern family and busy working parents. Equally, boarding students benefit from developing strong friendships and independence whilst learning about respect, flexibility and tolerance. The boarding environment thus enhances their life experiences.

Approximately 160 full and weekly boarders live in the family atmosphere provided by the two boarding Houses – St Paul's and St Mary's. Each is a small community where our boarding staff work hard to create a home-from-home environment with comfy communal living areas, fun games rooms, kitchen areas and an open door policy should any student want to talk privately with a member of staff.



## ST MARY'S

MRS LISA SEWARD  
Housemistress St Mary's

“ St Mary's house radiates a happy and nurturing community of girls with a sense of belonging. As the Housemistress for St Mary's I aim to foster a dynamic and vibrant home in which the girls' wellbeing is paramount to their educational experience here at Prior Park College. ”



## ST PAUL'S

MR ANTHONY LOVATT  
Housemaster Allen House

MR DAVID HOLMES  
Housemaster Roche House

“ Boarding life is never mundane; it is vibrant, varied and challenging. It naturally instils independence, companionship and loyalty. Being submerged within this caring boarding community is both motivating and inspiring. ”





## JUNIOR BOARDING

Younger boarders sleep in their own areas within the houses. The junior boarding apartments contain bedrooms, with no more than four pupils in a room, a communal social room and their own toilet and shower facilities.

Whilst it is important year 7 and 8 boarders have their own space within the boarding houses, we also encourage them to take a full part in house life. They frequently work and socialise with older students and they quickly become valued members of the boarding community.



## BOARDING ACTIVITIES

A full weekend programme includes; Saturday Active, cinema trips, sports fixtures, theme park outings, ten-pin bowling and Christmas shopping trips, amongst many other fun pursuits.

Saturday Active is a programme of courses that takes place every Saturday morning. There are over 25 courses to choose from over the year, ranging from sailing to computer programming. Saturday Active is compulsory for boarders in Years 7-10.

Evening boarder clubs take place throughout the week and include: creative club, basketball, cookery, music, fitness and pilates.

Our activities programme allows boarders to practice familiar interests and to explore some that are new.





## PASTORAL CARE

Dedicated staff and outstanding facilities help to develop as fully as possible the academic and other talents of each boy and girl and we aim to provide pastoral care of an encouraging, supportive and disciplined nature, thus providing an education of the whole person. Every pupil is valued and achievements are celebrated.

In the boarding community this learning culture is further enriched with dedicated, supervised Prep sessions in the boarding houses. Staff are available to answer questions or make suggestions for further avenues of enquiry, and peers and older students are, of course, also on hand for advice. The close bonds between the Housemaster or Housemistress, their teams of tutors and the boarders allow for vigilance in keeping track of each student's progress. This teamwork ensures that no student 'falls through the gaps'.

Boarders also benefit from being able to access on-site facilities after hours, including our state-of-the-art Sports Centre and Fitness Suite, ensuring regular exercise is always available. At the same time, our Catering department provide nutritious and delicious meals, suitable for all tastes and dietary requirements.





## OUR ETHOS

As a Catholic school, our values define us and our families. All faiths are welcomed as part of our community.

We encourage our students to live their lives by showing compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, understanding and love. We support our students to become faithful friends to each other and to develop a sense of service to society. Our beautiful Chapel is the focus of our spiritual life and also a peaceful haven in the middle of a very busy campus.

# INTERNATIONAL BOARDERS

Prior Park welcomes international boarders who gain an outstanding introduction to the very best British education. With its breath-taking location and easy access to London and its airports, Prior Park is very popular with pupils from all over the world.

For our British boarders, and indeed our day students, the benefits of making friends amongst our international community are extraordinary. A mixed boarding community broadens horizons and cultural knowledge which, in a global marketplace, can be very advantageous.

We welcome communication from parents as part of a three way partnership between student, home and school, and facilitate easy contact with home, be it via email, skype or telephone.

Our EAL (English as an Additional Language) programmes are run by skilled practitioners who have themselves experienced life in a foreign country and offer superb support and encouragement for our overseas students.





## BATH AS A LOCATION

Bath is a small but vibrant city in South West England, rich in Roman and Georgian heritage. It is the only city in Britain to have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and has many sublime examples of architecture including the Royal Crescent, Bath Abbey, The Roman Baths and Pulteney Bridge.

The city itself offers a diverse range of museums, galleries, green spaces and leisure attractions. It has a year round programme of festivals, theatrical, musical and sporting events. The College is located just a mile from the centre of Bath. Not only is the College set within extensive grounds, a five minute walk across the site leads to the National Trust Skyline Walk, a six mile round route offering a countryside escape – meadows, woodlands, an Iron Age hill fort, Roman settlements, 18th century follies and spectacular views down onto the city.

We are neighbours to the 18th Century Prior Park Landscape Gardens containing the Palladian Bridge – one of only four of this design in the world. Now in National Trust ownership, the Landscape Gardens were originally part of the Prior Park Estate owned by Ralph Allen.

Bath is easily accessible via mainline rail and major road networks, with Bristol International Airport only 20 miles away.



Please contact our Admissions Team if you would like further information on Boarding at Prior Park College, or to arrange a visit. You will also find a wealth of information on the school website.



## Prior Park College

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*11-18 Day and Boarding HMC Established Co-educational Catholic Senior School  
Senior school to The Paragon School, Bath*