



St Mary's School
Waverley
Founded 1888



GIRLS IN A CLASS OF THEIR OWN



St Mary's School, Waverley, was established in 1888 and, as the oldest school in Johannesburg, provides a relevant, 21st century global education. St Mary's is a school rich in history which exudes spirit and integrity is reflected in the Anglican tradition of the school. St Mary's girls are open, friendly, confident and comfortable with their individuality. The school remains unpretentious, real and relevant.

HISTORY OF ST MARY'S SCHOOL

In 1888, recognising the need for the education of girls, the Reverend John Darragh established St Mary's School for Girls. Soon after its opening, the school moved from the dusty goldfields of Jeppestown to a fine building in Belgravia. In 1934, the school relocated to the present site in Waverley where it has flourished. The ability to adapt and overcome obstacles has always been a defining feature of the school. As Johannesburg has developed into a global city, so St Mary's has become a school inextricably linked to the changing world around us.





SPIRITUAL ST MARY'S

The development of spiritual values has become a greater priority in this world of change and excitement. It is these values which are critical for the development of a humane, flourishing and integrated human who is able to cope successfully with the demands of a turbulent world. The chapel which stands at the heart of the school plays an integral part in the life of the school.

While spiritual needs can be met outside the confines of formal religion, the spirituality of a faith-based school provides a firm framework for individual discovery and strength. The boundaries inherent in our Anglican school are clear and these allow for the development of true creativity. Our faith is one which promotes love and compassion and these values are intrinsic to the school. A child valued for whom she is grows in an understanding of herself and can learn to face the world courageously.

The school welcomes and has respect for other religious beliefs.





GRADE 000 TO MATRIC

St Mary's caters for pupils from pre-school education through to their final examinations administered by the Independent Examinations Board (IEB). The school's aim has always been to be a leader in the education of young women and set the pace for educational change. The school believes in an unconditional positive regard for all in its care. There is a long history of outstanding matriculation results with an unbroken record of a 100% pass rate. Both the very talented and those who find their studies challenging fulfil their potential as they develop a positive work ethic and are encouraged and supported by an experienced, highly qualified and dedicated staff. What is important to us is that one can always expect a first class effort from St Mary's girls in all their undertakings.





LITTLE SAINTS AT ST MARY'S

The Pre-Primary phase is known as Little Saints and consists of Grade 000 and Grade 00. Children are able to enrol in the school in the year that they turn four. At Grade 000 and 00 levels, St Mary's provides co-educational schooling for both boys and girls. Through our constructivist educational approach, we aim to nurture each child and provide building blocks for the future. The creative Reggio Children approach is key to the development of strong competent little people and allows them to construct their own meaning through exploration of the world around them. Implicit in this approach is the defence and promotion of the rights and potential of all children. Creativity, communication and a strong focus on the learning opportunities provided by play contribute to this successful approach.

Little Saints hums with the happy noise of children busily doing what they enjoy most and do best – playing. We agree with Friedrich Froebel, the German educationalist, who said “Play is the serious business of childhood.”





JUNIOR ST MARY'S

The Junior School's focus is on catering for each girl's intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development.

Our academic programme concentrates on the core skills of Mathematics and language development. The girls are divided into smaller groups in these classes, allowing for individual enrichment and the consolidation of concepts.

Our teachers are committed to the individual development of each girl to be in a class of her own.

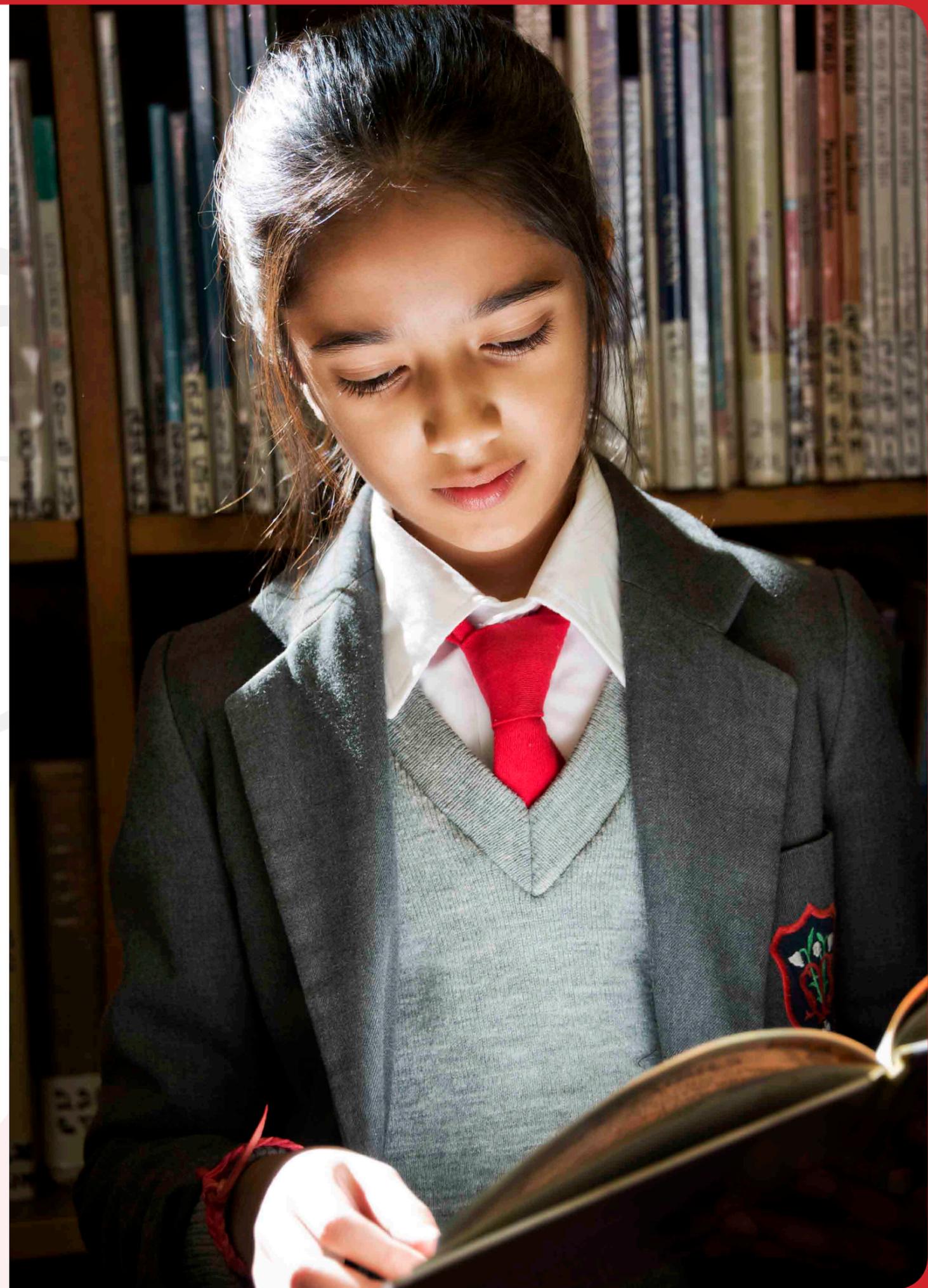
St Mary's offers an extensive co-curricular programme to encourage all the girls to explore and develop their talents beyond the classroom. From Grade 4, our girls become involved with various community and environmental awareness projects.

We offer a wide variety of sporting activities and try to accommodate as many players as possible in school teams. The value of team participation and sportsmanship is immeasurable.

In cultural activities, the focus is on fun and imagination in safe and inclusive ways to inspire our girls. Our superb facilities and talented staff encourage creativity and enthusiasm.

AFTERCARE FACILITY

Aftercare facilities are available, so that working parents can have peace of mind that their children are being well looked after while they are at work. Aftercare is available until 17h45 every weekday and a special programme is designed for the holidays.





SENIOR ST MARY'S

At St Mary's every teacher wishes to create an environment that will foster a girl's love of learning. The school prides itself in offering a unique teaching and learning experience where pupils can flourish as individuals, yet function together within the scope of a broader learning community. St Mary's School, as an independent school, writes the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) final examinations. The standards set by the IEB have been benchmarked internationally and St Mary's has excelled in these performance indicators. The rigorous academic curriculum is enriched by a focus on working towards a common goal of critical and creative thinking skills which are crucial to each girl's future success in her work, community and personal life.

We have a fully wireless campus and all subjects require the application of information technology skills. We encourage innovation and creativity with a blended approach to teaching and learning which uses a variety of ITC platforms and devices. This approach, across subject disciplines, has assisted in the fostering of independent work beyond the classroom and further instils the goal of making the learning experience at St Mary's real and relevant for our 21st century girls.

The St Mary's teachers are current in their approach to lessons and recognise the importance of adaptive expertise in being able to adjust to the ever-changing demands placed on education without compromising standards and values. We pride ourselves on the superb calibre of our committed teachers.

We offer academic tours to both local and overseas destinations and focus on the relevance of the education offered to our pupils. Our girls write Mathematics, English, Afrikaans, Accounting and isiZulu Olympiads and have enjoyed great successes in these challenging external academic endeavours.





CREATIVE ST MARY'S

St Mary's boasts a state-of-the-art performing and visual arts centre, which allows the girls to have access to superb facilities for the development of creativity in all spheres.

A 500-seat concert hall or theatre, natural light art studios, music practice rooms and loud practice rooms, dramatic arts venues and a superbly fitted dance studio give the girls the facilities required to extend their exploration of their creativity. Visual Arts, Dramatic Arts and Music are firmly entrenched in the curriculum and the girls are encouraged to explore their talents in a wide range of cultural activities. These include: choirs, orchestra, a jazz band, string ensemble, marimbas, dance, debating, public speaking, photography and film editing. Private lessons in a wide variety of instruments are available to the St Mary's girls.

The current thinking is that pupils can easily be taught skills but creative and imaginative ideas are increasingly sought after in the workplace. St Mary's girls are encouraged to explore their cultural talents and become leaders in critical, lateral thought.





ACTIVE ST MARY'S

Tradition is one of the defining characteristics of St Mary's School and it is upheld strongly in our sporting achievements. More than 85% of the Senior School girls represent their school in athletics, swimming, diving, water polo, rowing, equestrian, hockey, tennis, squash, netball and basketball teams. They enjoy notable successes in these sports and many girls are selected annually to both provincial and national sports teams. Girls who do not play for a team still enjoy the experience of team sports and the thrill of the games.

The Aquatics Centre boasts an Olympic-sized, heated pool with superb diving facilities. There are 1m, 3m and 5m boards, a diving bubble and a hot tub to encourage our divers. Dry land work occurs during the winter months. We have water polo facilities and ergo training is available for the rowers.

The AstroTurf provides an excellent base for the training of all our hockey players from the juniors to the 1st team. Glass-backed squash courts, tennis and netball courts all add to the excellence which defines St Mary's sport.



ST MARY'S LIFE

St Mary's offers a unique boarding experience, either termly or weekly, from Form I (Grade 8) to matric. There are comfortable homes, each with a charming and friendly ambience. Dedicated staff monitor the academic, social and emotional progress of each girl, ensuring that she thrives in this environment. The boarders are taken on outings and their experience in boarding is as rich and warm as possible.

From Grade 4, each year group is taken on an annual camp or tour experience, designed to address the specific needs of that developmental age. The camps form an integral part of extending the girls' education beyond the classroom and allow learning within a different and often challenging environment. St Mary's is committed to raising awareness of each individual's role in preserving our natural heritage and developing habits which will contribute to the sustainability of our planet. To this end, all aspects of environmental responsibility are encouraged.

Our pupils live in world in which challenges are complex and multidimensional and require them to be talented problem solvers, clear and articulate thinkers, caring and skilful in engaging with people different from themselves, and capable of resisting conformity and self-interest. The St Mary's curriculum addresses this by giving our Form II (Grade 9) girls the opportunity to experience a two week wilderness school in an environment which encourages curiosity and allows for learning about self through reflection and personal physical endeavour.

Senior girls have the opportunity to participate in exchange

programmes with schools in Australia, Tasmania, the United Kingdom, Ghana and India. The experience of living the lives of others from different cultures and countries extends our pupils' understanding of the wider world and develops a more global perspective.

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY

For our girls to take their place as decent citizens of a challenging world, it is essential for them to develop a real and deep concern for others. Throughout St Mary's history, we have tried to make a difference in the community and to add value to the lives of our girls. We believe in sharing our privilege as that is the very essence of an Anglican school.

We are closely related to a number of community and service projects. We are committed to sharing our expertise, facilities and resources and aim to include and serve communities in need.

St Mary's Community Affairs department has been active since 1990 and the St Mary's/Alexandra High Schools' Programme currently supports more than 280 pupils from Alexandra. These young people are offered extensive tuition in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and English to supplement their education. They are offered IT skills and are taught how to run micro-businesses.

The programme mission is to serve the Alexandra community by making a measurable contribution to raising the level of learning and teaching.

The Senior School has St Mary's Samaritans (SAMS) who organise their own charity programme each year.



SUPPORT AT ST MARY'S

To care for our girls, we have qualified nurses, educational psychologists and therapists on campus. Our support team provides guidance and assistance at all levels in the school. The counsellors work very closely with the girls, parents and staff to ensure that any problems encountered can be addressed professionally and confidentially.

GOVERNANCE AT ST MARY'S

St Mary's has a Board of directors comprising experts in a wide range of fields which includes the Bishop of Johannesburg as Visitor. The Board takes an active role in school governance and provides professional advice and global vision regarding school strategy.

PARENT/TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA consists of parents and teachers from the Senior and Junior Schools. The most important function of the PTA is to build, among the parents of children, a real sense of the community within the school.

ALUMNI

Our alumni have an enthusiastic and vibrant association which meets regularly and provides valuable networking and communication opportunities for our girls. They participate actively in many school functions and provide bursary opportunities for student teachers. Many of our alumni have achieved national and international recognition in their chosen fields. their chosen fields, from politics to culinary expertise.





ST MARY'S FOUNDATION

In order to assist St Mary's School to continue to achieve its high standards of educating girls, the St Mary's Foundation was established in 2008 to raise funding for:

- bursaries to make the school accessible to girls based on financial need and merit
- scholarships for exceptionally talented girls
- attracting, retaining and developing outstanding teachers
- ensuring that St Mary's School remains a socially responsible school which is cognisant of the educational needs within its community, assisting by sharing its resources
- the enhancement of the school's facilities
- a permanent endowment of significance to ensure that St Mary's School remains at the pinnacle of academic, cultural and sporting achievement



