



St. Elphin's School





Founded in Warrington in 1844, and named after a little-known saint who perished in battle in the 7th century, St. Elphin's School moved to the Derbyshire countryside in 1904 and is now well-equipped to educate girls for the 21st century. It is a friendly, caring, Christian community, striving for excellence in all areas. The School has up to 300 boarding and day pupils – girls from 3½-18 and boys aged 3½-7 – and is small enough for every pupil to feel at home. It provides a good all-round education, encouraging pupils to co-operate with others and communicate effectively. Courtesy, poise and self-discipline are important aims. A prospectus, of course, can give only a brief outline of school life. I hope that what you read will encourage you to visit us to discover more.

Peter Pollard

Peter Pollard
Headmaster.





Curriculum

The School admits girls of wide-ranging academic ability, but with small classes and a generous staff:pupil ratio it is able to cope successfully with this spread of ability. Proof of the levels achieved may be seen in the fact that 7 places have been gained at Oxford and Cambridge in a recent four-year span. Academic excellence is thus an important goal but never the only concern of the staff. Girls are encouraged to develop their own talents and a balanced curriculum is always sought.

In the senior school girls are 'unstreamed' for the first year. Thereafter they are 'streamed' and put into 'sets' according to ability in mathematics and French. Between the ages of 11 and 14 all girls follow a broad curriculum in the usual subjects. Science and computing are given due importance; all girls take French and A Form girls study Latin.

In the fourth and fifth years there is a framework of basic subjects which is combined with an options scheme carefully devised to suit the requirements of each 'year'. Most girls will take between 7-9 subjects in the G.C.S.E. examination.

Any sensible combination of subjects is generally available in the Sixth Form, and girls usually study three subjects to 'A' level (London Board) as well as following general courses in a wide range of subjects, academic, practical and recreational.





Facilities

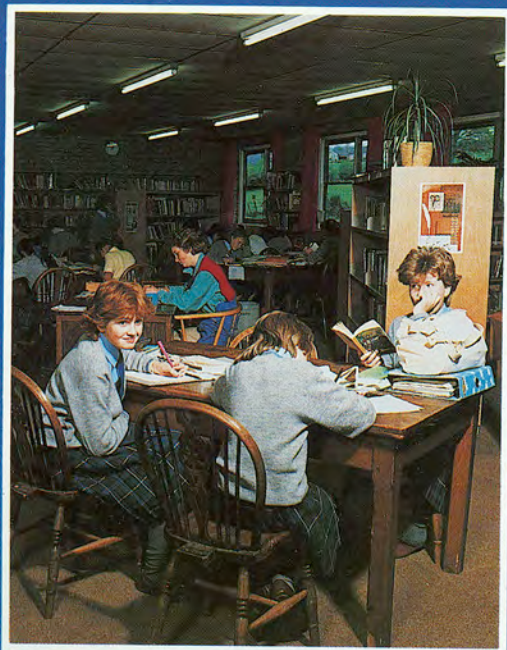
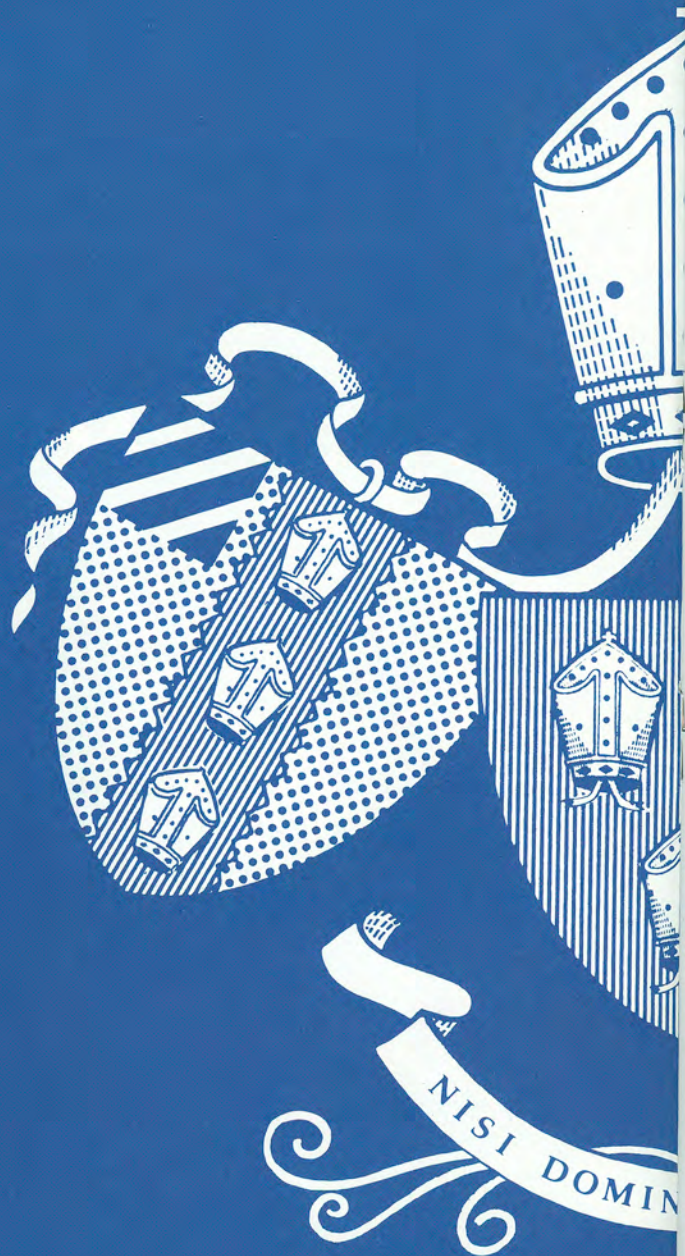
St. Elphin's has excellent facilities for a school of its size. During the past 25 years an assembly hall/dining room now serving all meals in cafeteria style, a large gymnasium and three new teaching blocks have been built. Within these buildings are four science laboratories, the library, spacious rooms for art, craft and home economics, and many other specialist rooms, including one for computing.

Junior Department

Those joining the junior department receive sound teaching in all basic subjects; the work is presented creatively with time allowed for projects and educational visits. They also have the advantage of specialist teaching from senior school staff and use of senior facilities in subjects such as science, French, art, craft and music.

Careers Guidance

Careers guidance is considered essential and begins in the third year. A careers team of three trained advisers, including the Deputy Head, plans visits, lectures and discussions. Most girls have 'work experience' with local firms once they have completed their examinations in the fifth year. The school is also a member of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation, which offers career guidance to parents, staff and girls in member schools.





Extra-Curricular Activities

As well as being an integral part of the curriculum, music, speech and drama and sport involve all girls outside the classroom.

Music

St. Elphin's has an orchestra, instrumental groups and three choirs, all of which perform regularly. Many girls learn instruments, there is a house music competition and orchestral 'workshops' are held, frequently incorporating pupils from other schools and colleges.

Drama

Many plays and 'musicals' have been staged in recent years. The school is well represented at the annual Buxton Festival of Speech, Drama and Music, and the house drama competition gives acting experience to most girls.

Sport

With its gymnasium, extensive playing fields, tennis courts and large all-weather games area, St. Elphin's can offer many sports: hockey, netball, tennis, athletics, gymnastics, rounders and badminton. Swimming lessons for all girls are held throughout the year at the nearby Matlock Lido. There is a full programme of matches in main sports and girls are often chosen to represent the county.

Other activities

In addition, the School encourages debating, runs societies, arranges numerous outings, organises trips abroad, holds dances with neighbouring schools and ensures that boarders are fully occupied at weekends. Girls participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Fund-raising events are considered important; within the last few years, an active Social Services Society has raised considerable sums of money for national and local causes, and has played its part in the local community.





The Chapel

St. Elphin's was founded for the daughters of Anglican clergy, and the chapel remains central to school life. Girls are encouraged to develop their Christian faith and life as fully as possible through private prayer, corporate worship and sound teaching. The Chaplain has responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the school community and he prepares girls each year for Confirmation in the Chapel.

Pastoral Care

Junior boarders aged 7-10 live in a separate area in the main school. There are four senior Houses with

approximately 50 girls in each, aged 11-16. Housemistresses are responsible for the welfare of these girls. Having completed G.C.S.E. courses, girls move to the Lower Sixth Form block, with its excellent recreational facilities. The Upper Sixth Form live in a separate House with study bedrooms. Sixth Form girls, whilst living separately, remain members of their previous boarding house and help staff in the running of that house. Day girls are attached to boarding houses and are encouraged to participate in all House activities. Senior day girls are at school each day from 8:30 a.m. until 6:10 or 6:50 p.m. according to age. Junior School girls normally leave by 4 p.m. A resident nursing Sister is available at all times; the school doctor holds a surgery at school twice a week.



St. Elphin's

FEES



St. Elphin's

STAFF



St. Elphin's

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS



St. Elphin's

GENERAL INFORMATION



St. Elphin's

GOVERNING BODY



Visitor: Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire
Patrons: The Bishops of Blackburn, Chester, Derby, Liverpool and Manchester
Trustees: The Rev. Canon J. C. Longbottom, M.B.E.
L. A. Hopkins, Esq., M.A.
J. S. Thornton, Esq.

Chairman of Governors: The Right Rev. M. Henshall, B.A.Dip.Thel., Bishop of Warrington

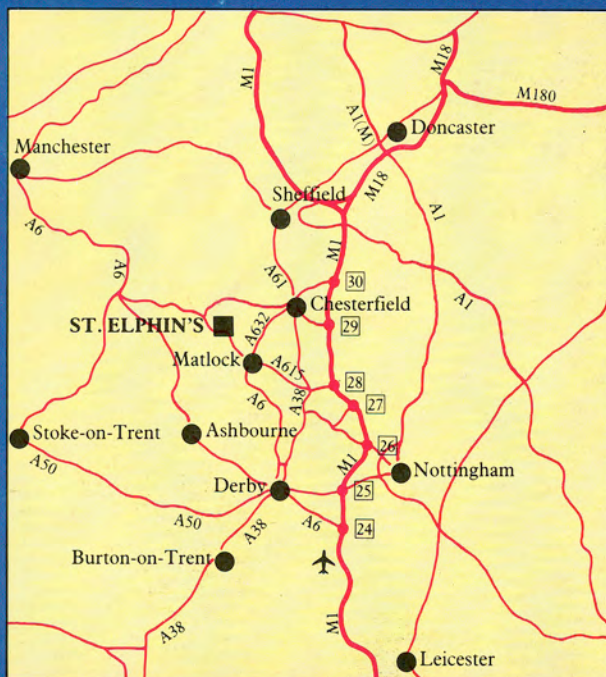
Vice-Chairman





St. Elphin's School

DARLEY DALE



St. Elphin's School,
Darley Dale,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 2HA
Tel. Matlock (0629) 732687