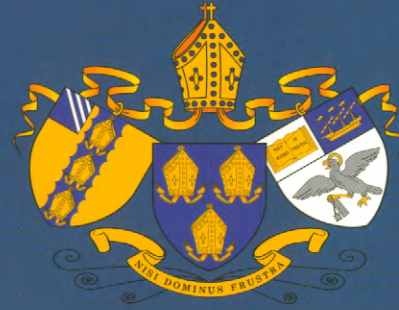




ST ELPHIN'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1844

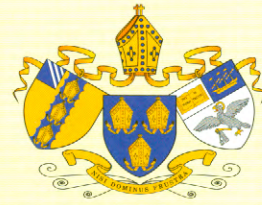


Traditional Values
Modern Education



ST ELPHIN'S SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



Introducing St Elphin's



I am delighted to introduce St Elphin's School to you in this prospectus and hope that it answers most of your initial questions.

We understand that choosing the right school for you and your child is one of the most important decisions you will make.

This prospectus will give you an insight into our School, but it can only offer you a brief glimpse. To gain a real understanding of the friendly atmosphere and stimulating environment we can offer your son or daughter, I invite you to visit during a normal school day to see us at work.

In preparing this prospectus, I asked members of the School what they liked the most about St Elphin's. The quotes you will see as you read through it are just a small selection of the responses I received.

My staff and I are very proud of St Elphin's and our achievements. The School has established an impressive academic record which places us amongst the top schools in the country. We are particularly looking forward to September 2004 when the school will finally become co-educational throughout.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to come and experience the unique surroundings and atmosphere for yourself. To arrange an appointment, please telephone the School or return the enclosed enquiry form.



I look forward to welcoming you to our School soon.

Dr Deborah Mouat, Principal

**"St Elphin's is a place where individuals can feel appreciated
and all aspects of work and creativity are encouraged."**



The School's Ethos & Mission

St Elphin's is a co-educational School surrounded by some of the country's most idyllic countryside. The School is now in its 160th year, celebrating its centenary on the current site at Darley Dale in 2004.

We offer continuous and integrated education on one site for pupils aged 2 to 18 years. Flexi-boarding is offered to fit in around modern family life and we have a small, happy group of boarders.

The School has an Anglican foundation, and welcomes pupils of all faiths. We aim for a Christian ethos to permeate every aspect of our School community.

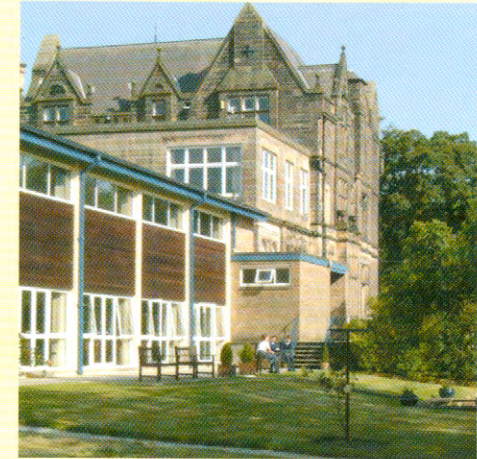
Our mission is to develop fully the intellectual, spiritual and physical potential of every child in line with their ability.



In a rapidly changing society, we believe that our pupils need to be equipped with knowledge of the latest technology as well as flexible and transferable skills to enable them to succeed in future education and the world of work.

We offer traditional values within a stimulating and happy environment, providing the guidance, discipline, support and care that children need.

We seek every opportunity to praise and reward children, underlining our belief that children's self-confidence will always develop to its full potential through encouragement rather than criticism.



"Teachers here are always supportive in what you do and say and they encourage you to do your best in everything."

Life at St Elphin's

Daily, we aim to provide the same care and concern for each child's happiness and well-being at School as they would receive at home.

The School offers small, intimate class sizes which allow our staff to allocate maximum time with each pupil.

We insist on politeness, co-operation and consideration for others. Our pupils can be with us from Nursery to Sixth Form and it is important to us that the environment fosters lifelong friendships.

As a Christian school, we seek to help pupils adopt a sensitive and reflective approach to religious experience and belief. The Chapel is an important part of life at St Elphin's and links past and present.

Our catering staff prepare all food on site and produce nutritious meals to suit all tastes. Meals are served in the relaxed atmosphere of the Stopford Hall, where all members of the School meet.

Pupils with special dietary requirements can be accommodated easily.



On entering Reception class, all of our pupils wear our school uniform (please see additional information), including our distinctive sports kit. These items can be bought from our Uniform Shop which is conveniently located in the main school building.

"I love it when you walk down the corridor and everybody knows each other."





Encouraging Individuals



St Elphin's achieves excellent public examination results (please see enclosed information), a testament to our small classes, the hard work of our pupils and the commitment of our dedicated and enthusiastic staff.

One of the key strengths of St Elphin's is that we offer an integrated and structured education from entry in the Nursery to completion of studies in the Senior School Sixth Form Centre. We are always mindful of achieving a smooth transition through School so that each child's progress can be continuous and uninterrupted.

We are often told that our nursery, infant and junior department, Margaret Flood House, is a special place. From two years old, children receive a warm welcome in our happy and relaxed nursery. Each child's sessions are tailored individually to suit his or her needs and the day can be extended to accommodate busy parental schedules.



"St Elphin's has a long tradition of educational excellence and is an important local institution."
Duchess of Devonshire, whose two daughters attended St Elphin's.

"St Elphin's School is a happy, caring community that fosters very good relationships between its members.

Pupils' standards of achievement are higher overall than might be expected for their ages and abilities."

Independent Schools Inspectorate Inspection Report.

New technology is introduced at an early stage and French is taught in the Infants from age 5. Towards the end of the Lower School, more formal, separate subject teaching is undertaken and the facilities of the Senior School are often used.

On arrival at the Senior School, pupils follow a common curriculum which builds upon primary learning and extends the National Curriculum. The School places a strong emphasis on the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, while Information and Communication Technology (ICT) lessons are timetabled through to Year 11. ICT provision is throughout the school and all pupils may have an e-mail address and use the Internet (under supervision) at no cost.





Art, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Technology (CDT, Food and Textiles), Personal Health and Social Education Citizenship are also

important components of the weekly School timetable. From Year 10 to Sixth Form, additional subjects such as Sports Science, Business, Accounting and Theatre Studies are available. Please see the enclosed additional information for full details of the School curriculum.

Our boarders are an important part of the School community and our boarding houses are secure and friendly home from home under the direct supervision of trained staff. Flexible boarding ('sleepover') is also an increasingly popular option.

Sixth Formers have their own suite of refurbished rooms including study areas, common rooms, kitchen and showers. They are assured individual attention and a high quality learning environment to prepare them for further education and training. Specialist help is available to guide and inform students in their best career and future educational choices. Nearly all of our Sixth Formers proceed to higher education and pursue courses as diverse as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Business Studies and Fashion Design.





A Sense of Adventure

Sport is an integral part of the curriculum at St Elphin's and is enjoyed throughout the school as a fun and healthy recreational activity. We aim to promote a lifelong interest and enjoyment in physical activity and sport.

The School is situated on the edge of the Peak District and has tranquil, attractive and extensive grounds of some 36 acres. There are dedicated pitches (including all-weather), a running track, 6 tennis courts, play area and a fully-equipped sports hall.

As well as Physical Education our sports programme includes coaching in football, rugby, netball, rounders, hockey, athletics, swimming, tennis, cricket, cross-country running and self-defence. Years 11, 12 and 13 participate in a variety of externally organised activities such as skiing, canoeing, sailing, carting, paint balling and cycling.

We organise annual Sports Days for the different parts of the School and participate in numerous competitive inter-school fixtures. In this way, pupils are encouraged to develop the social and competitive elements of team games and skills.



After School and during breaks a varied programme of clubs and activities takes place every day including: Art, Chapel Club, Football, Ballet, Choir, Chemistry, Mathematics, Chess and Sign Language. Many others are on offer.

Educational trips and excursions are an important part of School activity and include theatre outings, expeditions to sites and museums, environmental centres and other places of cultural and historic interest in the beautiful Peak District. We run exchange visits to Europe as well as an annual visit to the Taizé Community in Burgundy.

Skiing trips are also popular. In 2004 we plan to run an Activities Week which will include a residential outdoor pursuits and adventure holiday during the Summer term. The School also participates in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.



"I especially enjoy sport and there are loads of playing fields and sports pitches."

Unlocking Creative Talents



St Elphin's has very strong musical, dramatic and artistic traditions. The opportunity to perform and exhibit is given to every child and our pupils excel in examinations in creative subject areas.

Professional tuition is offered in music and a wide range of instruments is available. The choirs, with their enviable record of success at local festivals are open to all and auditions take place for the Chapel Choir. The School's chamber and ensemble groups also regularly perform pieces from their wide repertoire and frequent tea-time concerts are popular with pupils, staff and parents.

Drama is an important means of building confidence and social skills and is an integral part of the curriculum from the Lower School upwards. Drama and Theatre Studies are offered at both GCSE and A Level.

We believe that art should be everywhere within the School and the colourful displays where pupils proudly show their work are enjoyed by everybody. Visitors to our School are always impressed by the burst of colour which greets them. A diverse range of media is used in painting, design and craftwork.

The Art and Textiles Departments are flagships of the School with several pupils attaining 100% at both GCSE and A Level. Many pupils pursue further education and careers in fashion, art and design.

**"One of my favourite things is the annual Lower School play.
I liked it when we dressed up and performed on stage.
It was also great fun to design the programme and poster."**





Partnership with Parents



At St Elphin's we place great importance on close, co-operative relationships with parents to ensure that our pupils feel motivated to achieve their potential.

Feedback on individual progress is systematic and continuous through assessments and reports provided to parents as well as a formal Parents' Evening.

The Principal and staff are available immediately after School on most evenings to deal with any questions or issues which may arise, or, if necessary, an appointment can be made to discuss matters in more depth.

Parents are an integral part of the School community and are encouraged to get to know one another by attending a wide variety of School events. Communication with parents takes place regularly through a newsletter from the Principal.

The Friends of St Elphin's are an active group of parents and teachers which organises a range of events. These not only provide fun and entertainment but also raise funds to purchase additional items to benefit our pupils.

Community involvement activities are also undertaken which have the extra benefit of educating pupils about the needs of others. One initiative raised money for a holiday in England for a group of children from Chernobyl.

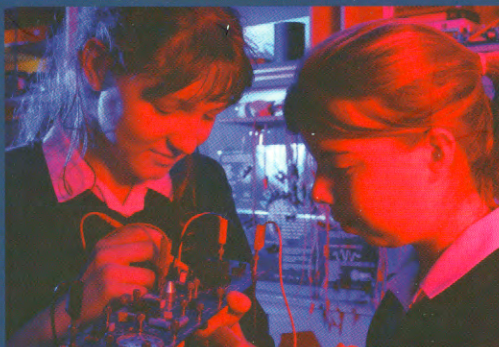
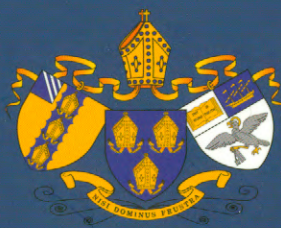
"The unique quality exists in the School that encourages students to grow as individuals and experience a true sense of belonging."

Letter received from parent of 6th Form student.





Everybody at St Elphin's -
pupils, staff and parents -
are made to feel welcome
and as important as
each other.



A Church of England School Affiliated
to the Woodard Corporation.

For further details please contact the School Secretary:

St Elphin's School, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HA

Tel: 01629 733 263 Fax: 01629 733 956

Email: admin@st-elphins.co.uk www.StElphins.org.uk

The information contained in this prospectus was correct at the time of publication, but it is possible that changes may have occurred since that date.