

St. Catherine's High School

Malta



Founded in 1909 more than
one hundred years of educating
Maltese and International
students

Committed to academic excellence, development of critical thinking,
formation of value-led citizenship, and focus on innovative pedagogies

At St. Catherine's High School, there exists a welcoming, family atmosphere...an atmosphere of warmth, security, trust and friendliness where firmness is mixed with encouragement and challenge to stimulate the students, boys and girls, from the tender age of 2 up to the age of 16 years.

Ever since its inception in 1909, our School has committed itself to responding to the educational needs of local and foreign students by developing innovative curricula based upon teamwork involving teachers, staff, parents,

and students. This teamwork is built upon mutual respect, support and understanding.

We want our students to be happy, to have high self-esteem and to develop confidence in themselves and their abilities, so that they can learn to handle new situations and accept the challenges that life has to offer.

The ethos of the School, which is a family run school, is founded on the principles of holistic development of children and teens - and focuses in the early years on the experiencing and learning to

cope with a wider social environment; to be reliable and show concern for each other and their property; to value other cultures and other people's rights to their beliefs.

St. Catherine's High School at a glance:

- founded in 1909;
- run by the same family over the years;
- population - 600 students;
- age - 2 years to 16 years;
- mixed ability, mixed gender classes;
- 87-100% pass rate at SEC level.

Didici Et Vixi ...



1909

Didici Et Vixi I have learned and I have lived.

Learning is a fundamental tenet of life and at our School, we believe that learning is for life and life is a continuous process of learning...



Statistics:

Our School has consistently kept up high academic standards over the years:

1. Our SEC results

At the end of Senior 5 (age of 16 years), our students sit for the local exams in view of their furthering their education at Sixth Form level. Over the past years, our School has consistently scored between 87 and 100 % pass rates for all subjects with our Senior 5 students.

2. Furthering education

As per the TRACER report study, issued each year by the Education Department, over 85% of our students continue to study at Sixth Form level after terminating their Secondary

After-School Programme:

At School, we offer a broad based selection of after-school activities for all year groups, including:

- Tennis
- Drama
- Gymnastics
- Catechism Classes
- Rounders
- Football by Coerver
- Beginning Maltese for Foreign Students
- Volleyball
- Art

We also offer a daily After-School Club (from 1:40 pm to 3:30 pm) where children are helped to do their HW and also do some craft-based fun activities.



We want our students to enjoy school, to develop enthusiasm, perseverance and a questioning approach to life that will prepare them for the future challenges of life. We see children as individuals with differing needs and strengths and as such, our aim is to extend and support all our students and to help them achieve their full potential. We have high but realistic expectations. We want students to give their best, appreciate what they can do well and what they can ameliorate, be it in the academic sphere, as well as, the personal and social dimensions. We work hard so that our students develop a lively interest and curiosity about the world in which they live by experiencing a wide curriculum that includes creative arts and physical activities - thus, developing a love of learning that will stay with them throughout their life.

Our School - History and Premises

Our School is situated in a prime area in Malta, in Pembroke, off the main road leading to Bahar Ic-Caghaq and Bugibba, and enjoys extensive seaviews from all sides of the building.

Founded in 1909, St. Catherine's High School is a private co-educational institution run by lay staff under the direction of the Principal, Mrs. Marie Midolo, the School Administrator, Mr. Paul Midolo, and the Flutterby, Juniors and Seniors Management Teams.

At present, the School is open to students, boys and girls, ranging from Flutterby Kindergarten (2 year olds) through the Junior and Senior School, up to the standard required for the Secondary Education Certificate (16 year olds).

The classes are spacious, 25 feet by 25 feet, airy and well equipped. Facilities include: an equipped gym with parquet flooring, a music hall, an assembly hall seating 200 people, a computer lab (20 computers), a projection room, a fully equipped science lab, a home economics room with 4 cookers and sinks, an art room and a canteen serving warm and cold snacks. Our recreational areas include a 7-a-side artificial turf ground, a turf pitch for the Junior classes, 3 outdoor courtyards equipped with play zones for the Early Years, a multi-purpose ground for basketball, volleyball and other ball games and areas for table tennis and chess.

St. Catherine's High School Institution is also the umbrella institution for the A-Class Academy of English (for foreign students, younger and older, who would like to learn English), as well as the local agent of The University of Sheffield's School of Education post-graduate programmes (MA in Early Childhood Education, MA in Educational Studies and the PhD).

School Hours and Timetable

School starts at 8:00 am and ends at 1:40 pm (for the 4 year olds up to the 16 year olds). Lessons are of 40 min duration (7 lessons per day) with 2 breaks - a 30 min and a 20 min break.

In our Flutterby Child Care Centre, we offer both basic hours (8:30 am to 12:30 pm) and extended hours (7:30 am to 1:30 pm).

After-school clubs and activities then run from 1:45 to 2:45 or 3:30 pm (depending on the activity).



Teaching and Learning at our School

Schools today are very different from what they were 20, 15 or even 5 years ago. As such, it is our professional duty and vocation to offer your son or daughter the best education that we can. We take this duty seriously and over the past 100 years, we have been constantly extending our own expertise and knowledge of education so that we can help your child to prepare for the future and be able to give you sound advice that will support you to help them.

Central to our philosophy of teaching is the belief that all children are individuals. We know that children have differing needs and strengths, that they learn at different rates and that learning does not take place in a smooth progression but that children will have sudden spurts of learning usually followed by a level period of consolidation. To this effect, all these factors are taken into account when we plan our lessons and select the most appropriate method of teaching to deliver the curriculum. As such, students work in same age groups and mixed ability classes, and work is done at times in whole class groups and at other times in small teams, depending on the task at hand.

Our policy when choosing teaching methodologies is that all children should benefit from it, not just a few. Such a system of teaching demands very careful planning, and the teachers are

constantly monitoring progress and development so that they know when to introduce the next piece of work that will challenge your son or daughter and still give them the opportunity for success.

In the Flutterby years (age 2-4), students are exposed to different tactile and sense-based activities so that their learning occurs through fun-based endeavours - with the aim of helping them achieve basic fine motor skills as well as social skills such as turn taking.

In the Pre-Junior class (age 4), our curriculum focuses on the initial stages of literacy and numeracy learning with special focus on the English language. Physical education is amalgamated in the curriculum as are lessons of cooking, drama and religion. ICT is integrated in the subjects in all the Junior School and Blogs, Wikis and Vokis are used consistently so that students start their journey in digital literacy.

In the Junior School (age 5 to 10 yrs), students are exposed exponentially to a broad base of subjects, namely Maths, English, Maltese, General Knowledge, Science, Religion, Social Studies, as well as the introduction of Italian as a foreign language. Physical Education remains a cornerstone in the curriculum and students have a lesson per day dedicated to this discipline. Cooking activities, Drama and Art Lessons also are included in

the students' programme of studies at this level. Digital literacy continues to be a fundamental tenet in this sector with each class equipped with 5 computers so that ICT is integrated in the teaching and learning of all the subjects.

In the Junior School, teachers are subject teachers and, as a result, students are exposed to a number of different teachers and methodologies, thus making their learning experience a more holistic one.

In the Senior School, the subjects on offer include: Maths, Maltese, English, Religion, Environmental Studies, Integrated Science Physical Education, and Personal and Social Development, Art, Home Economics Italian, French, I.T. (Senior 1) and E.C.D.L. (Senior 2).

At Senior 3 level, the students are then directed to choosing their Option Subjects amongst the following subjects:

Physics, Chemistry, Biology
Accounts, Computer Studies
Art, Home Economics,
Physical Education and
Environmental Studies while they carry on with the Core Subjects (see above).

Physical Education	Pre-Junior to Junior 2	Junior 3 to Junior 6	Senior 1 to Senior 5
<p>Dedicated to the formation of healthy children and future adults, and committed to the development of fine motor skills (Flutterby and Lower Junior classes) and athletic ability (higher Junior and Seniors).</p> <p>Our classes are divided into Sports Houses - the Pandas, the Eagles and the Dolphins and each student contributes points to the houses each time s/he wins a tournament, game, etc.</p> <p>Our classes participate regularly in inter-school tournaments and over the years have placed themselves in good positions.</p>	<p>Focus on basic movements such as catching, throwing, holding, rolling and kicking when using different implements</p> <p>Focus on participation in team work - concepts of time, weight and flow are introduced in simple game situations</p> <p>Focus on body awareness in own personal space and in larger general space</p>	<p>Focus on the performance of movement sequences with a partner or in a group. Games introduced are Football, Basketball and Handball</p> <p>Athletics such as Sprints, Relay Races and Obstacle Races are started at this level and basic skills in Throwing and Long Jump are introduced</p> <p>Basic tenets of fair play are taught at this level - acceptable and non-acceptable practices, and positive ways of dealing with winning vs defeat</p>	<p>Focus on advanced skills in Games: Football (different types of passes, shooting, dribbling, and goalkeeping); Handball (3 step rule; shooting with elevation, quick passing); Volleyball (services, digs, sets, spikes and blocks); Basketball (lay-ups, jumpshots, defence work, free shots), Swimming (in the PE option group)</p> <p>Focus on advanced skills in Athletics - sprinting, long distance running, baton passing, long jump, shot and discus throwing and tug-of-war practices</p> <p>Focus on Health-related Fitness - healthy habits, muscular strength and endurance, and cardio-respiratory endurance</p>

Collaborating with Parents

A student's security in the learning environment is greatly enhanced if there are strong links between the home and the School. To this effect, blogs are run by the Pre/Junior school teachers so that parents are kept abreast of their son/daughter's progress and achievements on a weekly basis. Monthly newsletters are issued to all the school to keep parents informed of day-to-day happenings, activities and their children's work programme. Our website (www.stcatherines.eu) is regularly updated with information, examples of children's work and photographs of events.

Consultation Parent Days are held twice a year for all levels (in November and in March) so that parents can meet the teachers in order to discuss their children's progress and records of achievement. Staff always welcome contact with parents and it is usually possible to have a brief word with staff at the end of the day. Parents are encouraged to call, email or phone should they wish to pass on any suggestions or to make an appointment with a member of the Management Team or the Principal, if there are more serious concerns. Such appointments would be arranged at the earliest, mutually-convenient time.

In our School, there is an active and friendly Parent Group which meets throughout the year to help raise funds for additional school equipment or projects, to foster involvement in school activities, to provide contact between families and to run activities that can be enjoyed by all. Over the years, the group has organised cake sales, outings and educational seminars for parents as well as baking exquisite Figollas and Christmas Logs which are sold at particular times during the year.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Halloween/Carnival Parties;
- Christmas and Easter Concerts;
- Christmas Parties;
- Animal Awareness Day;
- Lenten Mornings;
- Teachers vs Students Sports' Marathon;
- Sports Days;
- International Days;
- Marathon Walk;
- Boot Camps (in Summer);
- Trips Abroad (an Outdoor Adventure-based trip for Juniors and a Cultural and Educational Trip for the Seniors);
- Summer School (from age 2 to age 8 yrs);
- Parents' Outings;
- Students' Educational and Fun Outings.