



## **2020/21 FINANCIAL FAQs**

### **How often might fees be increased?**

The Governors normally review fees and inform parents of annual fee increases by the end of Lent Term each year. In light of the current economic situation, we have agreed to hold fees at the 2019-20 level for the 2020-21 academic year (no increase on the 2019-2020 fees). We hope that this will help provide further stability for any families finding times difficult at the moment.

The provision of lunches and coach services remains subject to future Government guidance. It is hoped that these services will continue to run, and the charges published on our Schedule of Fees will apply, however, if this is not possible, the Governors will review these charges in the light of the service that can be offered.

### **Are there any Payment Plans on offer to help spread the costs?**

School Fees can be paid in ten monthly instalments. This arrangement is provided by School Fee Plan, an external company, and takes the form of a credit agreement, at 0% interest. The monthly amount paid is an estimated figure for the cost of the school fees and extras for the year. The final payment will then be adjusted to reflect the total of the invoices sent out during the year. St Albans High School is an appointed representative of Premium Credit Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. School Fee Plan is a trading style of Premium Credit Ltd.

### **What is the Registration Fee?**

This is a non-refundable one off payment of £125 for Senior / Sixth Form, and £100 for Prep when you register your daughter for a place in the school. This covers the administration costs of each application.

### **What is the Acceptance Deposit?**

To accept an offer of a place, we ask parents to pay an acceptance deposit of £1,000 for the Senior School and £1,500 for Sixth Form. These amounts are held on account until your daughter leaves the School, and will then be deducted from your final bill.

### **Is there a sibling discount?**

If you have three or more daughters in either the Prep, Senior or Sixth Form, you will be given a 25% discount for your oldest daughter.

### **Do scholarships come with any financial award?**

Scholarships come with a tuition fee remission of 10% per scholar.

Scholarships are limited to 10% in order to ensure our Bursary Fund is as robust as it can be. STAHS is committed to providing as many fully-funded bursary places as possible for pupils to join our school who would otherwise have no means to access independent education.

### **What financial support is available?**

Bursaries are available up to 100% of tuition fees, to support families who may not consider our school because they cannot afford the fees. In addition, bursaries may include the costs of school trips, uniform and sports kit, school lunches, transport costs and weekly musical lessons. For more information visit our [Financial Support page](#).

### **What are the options for school lunches?**

Senior School pupils have three choices for lunch: daily school lunches, casual lunch when they choose or bring in their own packed lunches. All Prep School pupils have daily school lunches.

Lunch costs are detailed on the Schedule of Fees.

### **How much does it cost to travel by coach?**

Routes vary, and currently range from £585 to £710 per term. If you would like your daughter to travel on a casual basis (not daily), then the cost is £7.50 per journey.

### **How much will the school uniform cost?**

If you were to buy all the items on the school uniform list, then it would cost you approximately £700. We have a second-hand uniform shop, where items can be bought at a fraction of the price.

### **Is there a charge for the Clubs and Activities on offer?**

Most of the clubs and activities that we offer during lunchtime and after school are free of charge. There are a few exceptions for which charges are made, for example, Speech and Drama lessons (LAMDA), and at some Prep School clubs.

### **Can my daughter take private music lessons?**

Yes, the school has a large team of visiting music teachers who offer instrumental and singing music lessons. These take place during the course of the school day and for 10 individual lessons of 30 minutes duration, the cost is £210.

### **How much do school trips cost?**

There is a wide range of school trips each year, from day trips into London, modern language exchange trips to foreign sport tours.

Prep – all residential trips are chargeable. Day trips that form part of the curriculum are included in the fees.

Senior - all residential and day trips are chargeable.

Prices for day trips range from £3 - £60. Residential trips typically range from £250-£900, depending on the number of days and destination. Some subjects at GCSE have mandatory trips, such as Geography or Science field trips.

**Will I have to pay for my daughter's books?**

Text and exercise books are included in the school fees.

**What is the cost for sitting public exams?**

The cost of any public exam that your daughter sits is payable by the parent. Costs will therefore be incurred for all GCSE exams and A levels. The average GCSE exam costs £39.50.

Updated October 2020