

## 2024/25 FINANCIAL FAQs

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

Tuition fee charges are normally reviewed by the governors once a year and are typically announced at the end of the Lent term.

Any changes to charges for lunches and coaches will be advised around the same time.

### **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 fee of £150 (plus VAT at 20%, total payment £180) when you apply for a place in the school for your child. 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 Prep School, £1,250 for the Senior School (Y7 – Y11) and £1,500 for Sixth Form (Y12-13). These amounts are held on account until your child leaves the School and will then be deducted from your final bill.

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

If you have three or more children at STAHS, you will be given a 25% discount for your oldest child.

### **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 the [Bursaries](#) page on our website.

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

Senior School pupils have three choices for lunch: daily school lunches, casual lunch when they choose each day whether to have a school lunch or to 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 child to travel on a casual basis (not daily), then the cost is £12.50 per journey. For more information, please visit the [Coaches](#) page on our website. For specific queries please contact our Transport Manager email: [coaches@stahs.org.uk](mailto:coaches@stahs.org.uk)

### **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 £800. We have a second-hand uniform shop '2HUS' which is well stocked with good-quality items which 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 school day and for 10 individual lessons of 30 minutes duration, the cost is around £220 per term. Fees are paid direct to the visiting music teachers.

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

There is a wide range of school trips each year, from day trips into London, modern language trips to Europe, educational trips to Italy and the USA as well as bi-annual overseas 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 c.£3-£60. Residential trips in the UK 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. The cost of overseas educational trips varies according to destination, mode of travel and economic forces. Every effort is made to keep costs reasonable, and parents are advised of the approximate cost in advance to allow an informed decision to be made.

### **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 £42.00.

Please note that fees and charges listed are exclusive of any VAT that may become payable.