



**St. Catherine's
British School**
Excellence and Happiness

Governors' Annual Report 2016-2017





Headmaster's Introduction



In the autumn of 1956, Sir Charles Peake, the British Ambassador to Greece and his wife, Lady Catherine Peake, decided to set up a school in the grounds of the British Embassy and in early 1957 the new school began taking in its first pupils. So the academic year 2016-2017 was the 60th birthday year for St. Catherine's British School and what a birthday year it has been as you will see over the coming pages.

A year in the life of a Headmaster at St. Catherine's always contains many special memories and of course this year, our Diamond Anniversary Year, was no different. The Senior COBIS Games team produced some sterling individual performances in Sheffield at the end of May which were only matched by their teamwork and collaboration over the three days of competition, culminating in winning the overall Bronze medal – a brilliant performance! ... The Junior COBIS Games team competing so successfully in Milton Keynes over Easter vacation – how can one forget Meghan Leiper running in the Girls' relay final having just dislocated her thumb! ... the talented flautists playing with the Carla Rees ensemble ... the fabulous pieces of creative writing in the Red Arrows competition as well as the enthusiasm of the winners as they met the RAF Red Arrows team at Tanagra ... the insightful and daunting questioning of Samuel Pepys by Year Two pupils - how come they knew so much about his personal life? ... the magical theatrical productions of *The Merchant of Venice* and *Blood Brothers* – oh such talent and dedication! Plus scoring excellent in all eight categories of the ISI report!

I would also like to thank publicly the governors for all the selfless support they give to me and the whole school community. Their knowledge, skills and commitment to the School are invaluable as we move forward in all areas of school improvement, not least with the new building.

Finally, as I close this introduction to our Diamond Anniversary edition, it seems fitting to refer to the wonderful rendition of "Everybody Wants to Be a Cat" sung by IB2 graduates at the anniversary celebration - of course they do!

Mr Stuart Smith
Headmaster

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Our Vision

St. Catherine's endeavours to foster a love of learning through a well taught, appropriately challenging, clearly defined, broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to fully develop pupils' intellectual, social, physical and creative potential, in anticipation that they will develop into sensitive, informed, decisive and capable global citizens of the future.

Character building and interpersonal skills are developed through a range of relevant educational experiences and extra-curricular activities. As a leading exponent of global citizenship, St. Catherine's pupils are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills, conflict resolution skills, negotiation strategies and an understanding of multicultural, multi-faith, and multi-racial concepts within the context of cultural pluralism. Pupils are expected to seek solutions to environmental and ecological problems and actively demonstrate responsibilities and sound practices for good global, European and national citizenship, as well as having clear expectations of the relevance and benefits of personal, social and health strategies.

“ There is an overarching sense of one community which is strengthened and complemented by the differing cultural backgrounds in the school. ”

ISI report 2016



Letter from the Chairman



Dear Friends of St Catherine's British School

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this first new-style Governors' Annual Report. The aim is to give everyone connected with the School an overview of St Catherine's and some of the achievements throughout the last year.

Once again 2016-2017 has proved a most memorable year for St Catherine's with two particular highlights that I would like to mention and which I hope that you will enjoy reading more about in the following pages.

Firstly, in November 2016, the School went through a rigorous inspection carried out by an experienced team from the UK-based Independent Schools Inspectorate. As Chairman of Governors I was delighted, and extremely proud, that we achieved the top grade of "Excellent" in all eight categories.

This was a wonderful start to the academic year which continued into 2017 as we celebrated 60 years since St Catherine's was established as the British Embassy School in their gardens in Kolonaki. Much has happened during those 60 years with the School becoming established as a top school with the British, Commonwealth, International and Greek communities. As we celebrated our Diamond Anniversary, we also made real progress towards realising our vision of developing a new school environment across the road. We certainly have a busy and exciting year ahead.

I would like to say on behalf of my fellow governors that we take our responsibilities extremely seriously. As well as Full Board meetings held once a term, all governors are members of one of two standing committees: Finance and Resources or Curriculum and Standards. Furthermore all governors are linked to a Key Stage and Curriculum area which ensures that collectively we have a thorough knowledge and understanding of our school – a fact that was duly recognised by the ISI inspection team. More details of these activities are outlined in this report.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Headmaster, his Executive Leadership Team and all the dedicated staff for their Herculean efforts throughout the whole School - they are our greatest asset and emblematic of our motto: "Excellence and Happiness".

With all best wishes from the Board of Governors,

Mr Stavros Taki
Chairman
Board of Governors
St Catherine's British School



The Board of Governors

St Catherine's is led by an Executive Leadership Team consisting of the Headmaster, the Deputy Head/Head of Upper School, the Head of Lower School, the Business Director and the Development Director. It is overseen by the Board of Governors, which is responsible for upholding the aims and objectives of the School, setting the strategic direction and ensuring that the School has the required resources and financing to operate effectively. The Board of Governors also acts as advocates for and representatives of our mission, values, vision and needs.



Mr Stavros Taki / Chairman of Governing Body

Committees: Finance/Resources, Curriculum/Standards, Human Resources

Specialist Link: Key Stage 3 and Social Sciences



Mr Maurice Dheere

Vice Chairman

Committees: Finance/Resources, Human Resources

Specialist Link: Key Stage 3 and Social Sciences



Dr Kyriacos Sabatakakis

Honorary Treasurer

Committees: Finance/Resources (Chair), Human Resources

Specialist Link: IB and Mathematics



Mrs Eugenie Coumantaros

Committee: Curriculum/Standards

Specialist Link: Key Stage 2 and English



Mr George Paleokrassas

Committees: Health & Safety, Finance/Resources

Specialist Link: Key Stage 2 and Computing and ICT



Mrs Sarah Kinney Contomichalos

Committee: Curriculum/Standards (Chair)

Specialist Link: IB and Career and Guidance



Mr Roger Peel

Committee: Curriculum/Standards

Specialist Link: Upper School and PE and Sport



Mrs Domna Mirasyesi-Bernitsa

Committees: Curriculum/Standards, Designated Governor for Child Protection

Specialist Link: Nursery and Reception, and Languages (Stepped down October 2017)



Mr Richard Sutton

Committees: Finance/Resources, Curriculum Standards

Specialist Link: Key Stage 4 and Science



Mrs Loukia Nicola-Tsigos

Committees: Human Resources (Chair), Curriculum Standards

Specialist Link: Key Stage 1 and Expressive and Performing Arts



Dr Platon Tinios

Committee: Curriculum/Standards

Specialist Link: Key Stage 4 and Humanities including Theory of Knowledge



Mr Roger Outwin-Flinders

Committee: Curriculum/Standards

Specialist Link: Lower School and PE and Sport



Mrs Anna-Marie Typaldos-Loverdos Plati

Committees: Health & Safety (Chair), Curriculum Standards

Specialist Link: Key Stage 1 with Learning Support and PSHCE



Celebrating 60 years of St.Catherine's

In the autumn of 1956, Sir Charles Peake, the British Ambassador to Greece and his wife, Lady Catherine Peake, decided that they would like set up a school in the grounds of the British Embassy and in early 1957 the new school began taking its first pupils. For over 60 years we have been proud to be one of the best schools in Athens, if not Europe, and we look forward to continuing this for many years to come!



1957

School opens at number 2 Loukianou in the grounds of the Residence for the British Ambassador, Sir Charles Peake and his wife Lady Catherine Peake, after whom the school is named



1962

School moves to former Japanese Embassy in Psychico



1971

St Catherine's starts to construct current buildings in Lykovrissi and moves in during 1973



2000

Upper School opens with its first ever cohort of Year 9 and 10 students. The School unveils a new teaching block including the multipurpose - hall opened by Education Minister Petros Efthymiou





The School receives accreditation from the International Baccalaureate Organisation and starts teaching the IB Diploma in September



The School hosts two major COBIS (Council of British International Schools) events: an international teaching and learning conference and the COBIS Games, held in the Olympic Stadium



St Catherine's IB students graduate with the highest average Diploma score (37.5 points) seen to date in Greece. Two students become our first Oxbridge entrants

2002

2009

2015

2004

2010

2017



During the Athens Olympic Games the School acts as a hospitality centre for the GB team's families.

The School is honoured to welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair and HRH Princess Anne



Miss Christine Warren Tutte, a former long-serving Headmistress, returns to open a new building named in her honour

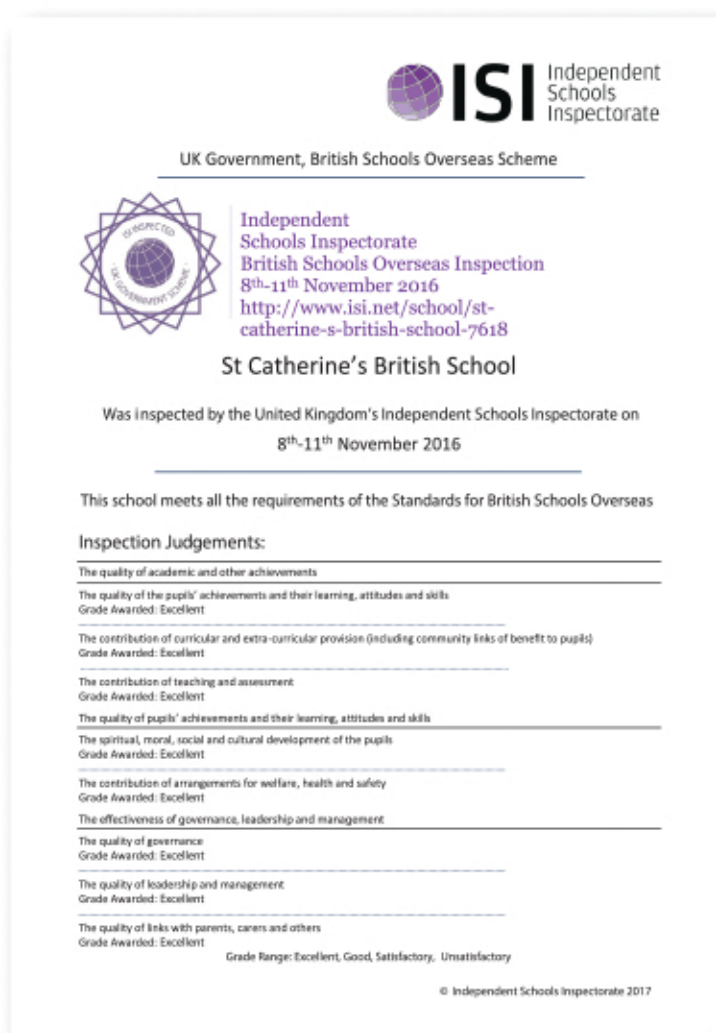


We celebrate 60 years of St. Catherine's with a fabulous party!



Excellent Inspection Results!

In November 2016 St Catherine's submitted itself to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), something we do every three years to maintain and verify our high standards. We confirmed our position as a top British School not only in Greece, but in Europe and across the globe, as we achieved the top classification of "Excellent" in all eight categories.



“The quality of the pupils' achievements and their learning, attitudes and skills throughout the school is excellent”

ISI Report 2016

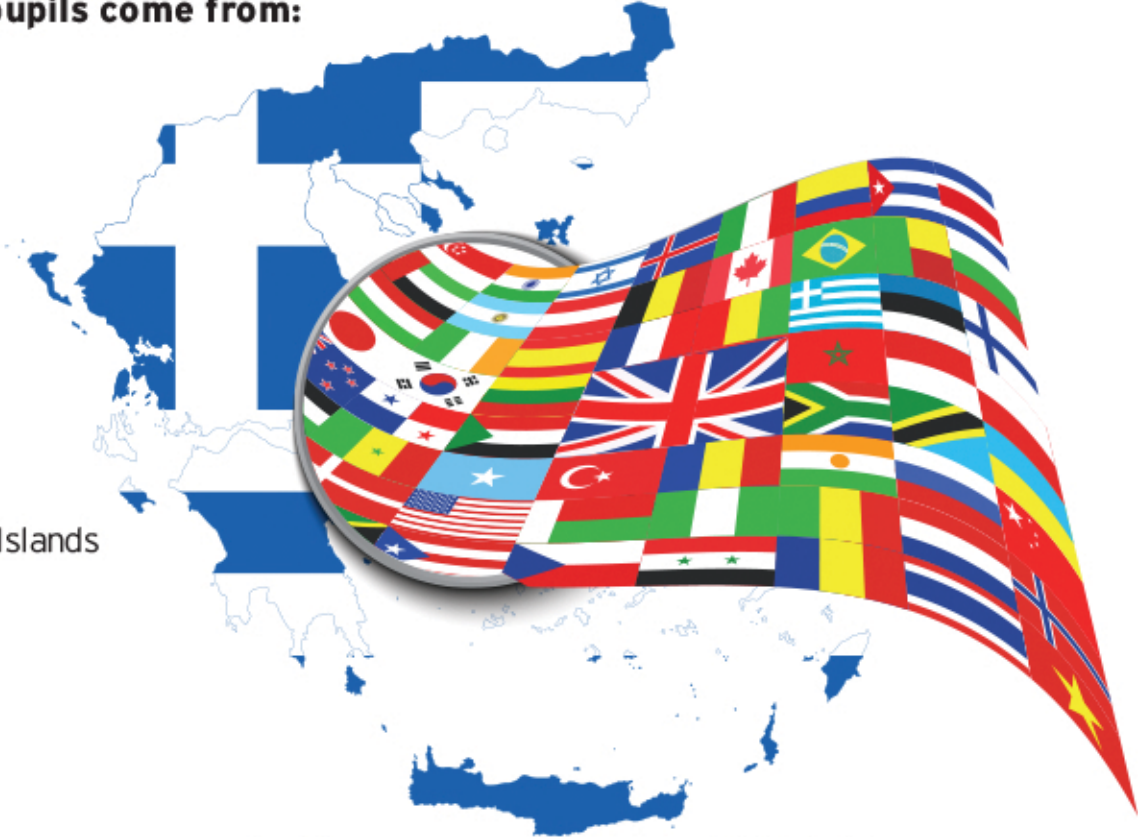


A British International School in Athens

St Catherine's is proud to welcome pupils from both the local and expatriate communities and is the first choice for most families who want their children to gain a British education within an international context.

Where our pupils come from:

Country



Albania		
Argentina		
Australia		
Austria		
Belgium		
Brazil		
British Virgin Islands		
Cambodia		
Canada		
China		
Cyprus		
Denmark		
Egypt		
France		
Germany		
Greece		
India		
Indonesia		
Israel		
Italy		
Japan		
Jordan		
Latvia		
Lebanon		
New Zealand		
Netherlands		
Peru		
Poland		
Romania		
Russia		
Singapore		
Slovakia		
South Africa		
Spain		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
Turkey		
Ukraine		
United Kingdom		
United States of America		
US Virgin Islands		
Venezuela		



Academic Achievements

IB Diploma Results 2017	St Catherine's May 2017	St Catherine's Cumulative 2004-16	IBO World 2016
Overall Diploma Average	35.7	35.3	30.0
Overall Diploma Pass %	98%	98%	80%
Number of Diploma Candidates	64	562	74,581
% Candidates 40 and above points	22%	24%	9%
% Candidates 29 and below points	16%	15%	32%

(I)GCSE Results 2017

56% of subject grades passed with A* or A grades
(St Catherine's British School 2016, 53%
England and Wales 2016, 22%)

92% of subject grades passed with A* - C grades
(St Catherine's British School 2016, 90%
England and Wales 2016, 69%)

	Number of candidates	%A*	%A*/A	% A*-B	%A*-C
2015	69	28%	55%	77%	92%
2016	61	33%	52%	72%	90%
2017	86	31%	56%	79%	92%





Class of 2017 - the next step...

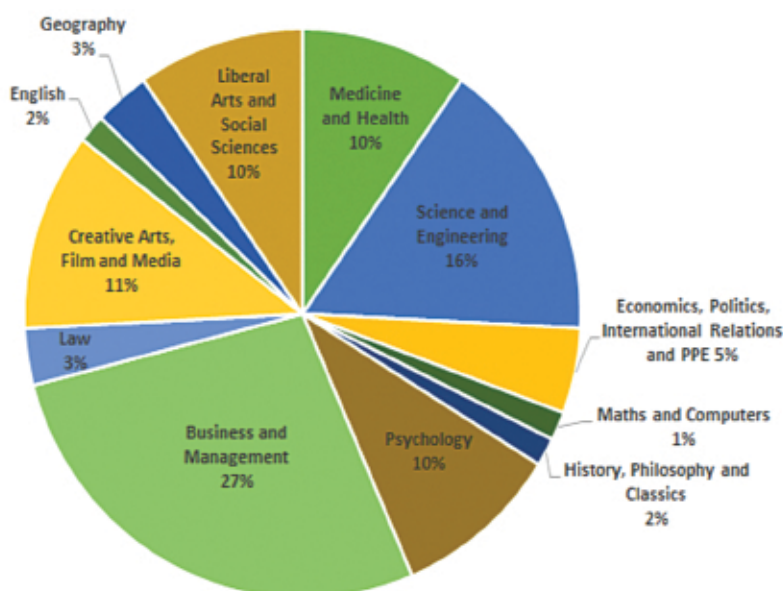
In 2017, 82% of our students secured places at their first choice of university and we currently have alumni studying in 16 countries throughout the world.

2017 Graduate Destinations

Aberdeen University
American College of Greece, Deree (Greece)
Athenaeum Conservatory (Greece)
Bocconi University (Italy)
Boston University (USA)
Cambridge University
City University, London
Concordia University (Canada)
Durham University
Erasmus University, Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
Exeter University
George Washington University (USA)
Imperial College London
Keele University
King's College, University of London
Lancaster University
Liverpool University
Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester University
Northeastern University (USA)
Oxford University
Plymouth University
Queen Mary, University of London
Royal Holloway, University of London
St Mary's University, Twickenham
St. Andrews University
Stanford University (USA)
Surrey University
University College London
University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
University of Bath
University of California, Davis (USA)
University of Edinburgh
University of Southampton Solent
University of the Arts, London
Whitireia - Te Auaha (New Zealand)
York University

2017 Graduate Course Categories





Extra-Curricular

At St Catherine's we recognise the critical importance of a broad and balanced life. We encourage students to participate in a wide range of activities outside the classroom that both complement academic study and provide a wealth of additional skills, experience and enjoyment.

The academic year of 2016/17 has seen a vast range of activity throughout the School. Amongst many things, the Lower School has enjoyed Greek dancing, discovering more on French culture and our very own inhouse animal club. Every year St Catherine's participates in the COBIS International Games. This year we took our Lower School team to Milton Keynes, with a great result of fourth overall, and our Upper School team to Sheffield, who brought home the Bronze medal. Once again this year our Upper School students proved their leading debating skills representing the School and Greece on both the national and international stage. Many students also completed the difficult but exciting challenges of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award gaining 46 Bronze, 23 Silver, and 16 Gold medals, an amazing result!

St Catherine's students continued to show their creativity and wonderful performance abilities through musical concerts, talent shows and theatre performances which included incredible productions of Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* and Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*.





Student Responsibilities

Throughout their time at St Catherine's, students have the opportunity to experience roles of responsibility.

In the Lower School roles include:

Head Girl and Boy, and Deputy Head Girl and Boy. Responsibilities include giving speeches in assemblies and showing students and parents around the School.

The Eco-Council from Key Stages 1 and 2 focus on how they can make the School and their local environment more eco-friendly. In 2016/17 highlights of the Eco-Council included opening the School Eco-Garden, planting an olive tree as a symbol of peace and goodwill and staging a fashion show in School out of recyclable materials.

The School Council has representatives in Key Stage 1 and 2. Throughout 2016/17 they organised deeds of kindness and raised money to help those in need in Greece, which included collecting clothes and shoes for those in refugee camps and in need in the local community and collecting food for animal shelters.

In the Upper School the Key Stage 3 Council helps with social events, charities and the important transition from Lower to Upper School.

We also have the Senate, which has a dual role of raising student concerns with the Senior Leaders and fundraising for a series of good causes. It is made up of students from Years 10 -13. This year it focussed on working with the Senior Leaders to create more communal spaces for older students and raising and instigating a successful shoe-box campaign through which 150 packages filled with toys, candy and essential supplies were given to refugee children in a camp in Malakassa.



Learning through Giving

At St Catherine's we believe in the importance of philanthropy and helping others through the act of giving and supporting those in need. Throughout their years at St Catherine's, students have the opportunity to become involved in raising money for good causes, donating gifts and learning more about different charitable needs.

In 2016/17 the students of St Catherine's raised over €10,000 and donated food, clothes, games and toiletries. Organisations that benefitted included local and international charities such as: Attika Zoo, the British Heart Foundation, the Municipality of Lykovrissi, Diotima for Malakasa Refugees, Doctors Without Borders, ELIZA - Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Make a Wish Foundation, Nine Lives, Serres Horse Riding School, the UN Refugee Agency and WaterAid. Parents and staff are also encouraged to become involved in philanthropy to lead by example.



PTSA and “St Cats ACTS”

The School's PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) hosts a full and varied programme of highly popular events each year, helping to bring the School community together. They also work closely with IB students who play an important role in the main PTSA events offering their volunteer services through CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). The 2016/17 year was busy as always, starting with a welcome for new parents at the Acropolis Museum. Autumn saw our biggest event of the year, Halloween, in full swing, with preparation workshops and IB students working diligently alongside parents to create the incredible event "Once Upon a Time...", replete with pumpkin carvings, Haunted House and a splendid fireworks display for Guy Fawkes Night. Christmas was celebrated in style at St Catherine's with a Christmas Fair, where festive games, traditional food and a raffle with incredible prizes were enjoyed. Parents and staff enjoyed a dinner and entertainment at the 'Quiz Night' in early spring and the year ended with a summer 'Family Games Day'.

In addition to this the PTSA are involved in our annual student Careers Fair and in hosting work experience opportunities. They also encourage educational development programmes for parents and other schools, as well as for our own staff and students, featuring leading national and international educationalists/speakers on diverse subjects such as internet safety, life skills, local charities and technology.

'St Cats ACTS' (Active Community Team Support) encourages students and parents to be involved in citizenship initiatives and worthy causes. In 2016/17 it hosted 'Cook for Good' supporting those in need in the local community of Lykovrissi; joined the 'Athens Race for the Cure' for Breast Cancer awareness; and took part in the 'Colourful Dreams' run in support of the SOS Children's Village in Vari.

The work of the PTSA proves to be a great success and enjoyed by our whole school community.





Staff News

The staff of St Catherine's is the driving force in maintaining a caring academic environment and a sense of community that makes St Catherine's unique.

We are proud of our highly qualified academic staff, continually investing in professional development through courses and workshops, enhancing our services to students and always taking into consideration students with individual educational needs.

As with any school we have a vibrant staff community with new people starting, some moving on and many enjoying long careers with St Catherine's.

This year we would like to give a very special mention to three members of staff who have been at St Catherine's for over 25 years:

Mrs Julie Grantham (29 years), Mrs Angela Gargan (27 years) and Mrs Vangie Burbidge (27 years).

Plus, five staff members who have been with us over 20 years:

Mrs Yvonne Mengos (24 years), Mrs Gerrie Giakoumi-Westerink (23 years), Mr James Soumilas (23 years), Mrs Fionnuala Cleary (22 years) and Mrs Marietta Kandilaki (22 years).

We also had six members of staff celebrating 15 years, two celebrating 10 years and 13 celebrating five years at St Catherine's.

Thank you so much to all of our staff for all that you've done and continue to do for St Catherine's!

We bid a fond farewell to Miss Hannah Daykin, Mr Danny Grannon, Mrs Rebecca Ruffels, Ms Elizabeth Theotocatos and Miss Elena Liakata and wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

We are delighted to welcome new staff into the St Catherine's family in 2016/17:

Whole School	Miss Ashley Eaton (PE Teacher) Miss Caitlin Kennedy (PE Teacher)
Lower School	Miss Zoe Darby (Reception) Miss Lily Delalis (Learning Support) Mr Vincenzo Gioia (Music) Miss Athina Tzouveleki (Learning Support)
Upper School	Mr George Brokenshire (Biology Teacher) Mrs Mary Doukas (Library Support) Mrs Kathy Gardner (English Teacher) Mrs Eva Gonzalez (Spanish Teacher) Mrs Angelik Grigoratos (Learning Support) Miss Maria Kaiktzoglou (Learning Support) Mrs Alice Marlow (Biology Teacher) Mrs Irene Miniatis (Learning Support) Mr Matt Sharratt (History Teacher) Mrs Susanne Sideras (Lab Technician) Mrs Francesca Stafford (Librarian) Mr Nikos Tasopoulos (Biology Teacher) Mrs Sophia Tzellos (English Teacher) Mr Konstandinos Vorlow (Business Teacher)
Administration	Mrs Anna Biri (PA to the Headmaster) Mr George Damianakis (Financial Analyst)



Mrs Julie Grantham Mrs Vangie Burbidge
Mrs Angela Gargan



School Improvements

As a constantly evolving and busy school we are always conscious of the need to improve and review our facilities, and in 2016/17 we invested €328,000 in these developments. Key areas of spending within the School focused on new computers, smartboards, tablets for Early Years teaching and musical keyboards. We also made a large investment creating a 'Snug' play area for Lower School children, refurbished the sports pitches so our students can continue to experience sport at a top level and added a seating area for parents to enjoy watching in more comfort. These are small examples of the improvements that were made and the School pledges to continue to review facilities on our current site alongside preparations for our new building.





A Brand New Learning Environment for our Global Community

As St Catherine's enters its 61st year we are becoming closer to achieving our vision of creating a new modern learning environment just across the road from the existing school. As St Catherine's has grown since the introduction of an Upper School at the beginning of the millennium, we have had to manage the impact on our existing space on a year-by-year basis. It is now imperative that we move forward to provide our students with the space to thrive and excel and to reflect our status as the leading school in Greece.

The first phase of achieving this is the conversion of the Macsolar factory. The regeneration of a now derelict building provides the perfect opportunity to stay within the heart of our local community whilst also upholding our sustainable values. This first phase will not only accommodate the Upper School but provide key whole school facilities for all of our students, and what exciting facilities they are! They will include:

- A state-of-the-art 400 seat Theatre
- A 222m² Library with IB study room
- Nine Science Laboratories
- A Music Suite complete with practice rooms and a recording booth
- Outstanding Art Studios
- Sporting facilities and outdoor seating on a converted roof area
- Brand new classrooms for each curriculum area
- A spacious canteen over two floors
- Beautiful communal areas including a stunning atrium

All this will ensure that we can provide the very best learning environment for our students so that they can be inspired to become the future leaders of our global community.

The second phase will see us convert the adjacent former Wella building into a new Lower School together with a large whole school Sports Hall. We will share more details of subsequent phases as the project progresses.





Entrance Foyer

How you can help

Over the coming months we will be reaching out to the St Catherine's community to support this exciting chapter in our history. We are asking current and former students and parents, as well as friends of St Catherine's to become involved as we raise additional funds for this project. We already have a robust business plan founded on a strong financial base and are supported by two major banks in order to deliver the core of this project. However, we are aiming to raise an additional €5million to ensure that we can make our new school a world-class learning environment.

Opportunities to support the new building will include:

- Supporting a key area in our brand new building such as the theatre, library, science labs, music suite, sports facilities - what is close to your heart?
- Take a Seat - sponsor a seat in our brand new theatre.
- Make Your Mark - see your name inscribed on our supporters' wall for future generations.
- Host a fundraising event such as a supporters' dinner

This is your chance to play a substantial part in the future of St Catherine's British School.

If you would like to find out more please contact Georgina Ralston, Development Director, in the Development Office on 210 2829750 or georgina.ralston@stcatherines.gr.





St Catherine's Alumni Association - the journey continues...

St. Catherine's Alumni Association (SCAA) was founded by graduates in 2014 to ensure our global community could stay connected. Volunteer members are elected to serve on the Alumni Association Board and work closely with the School's Development Office.

In 2016/17 SCAA hosted reunions in both Athens and London; celebrated in style among staff and parents at the St. Catherine's 60th Anniversary Celebration; invited alumni to be the key speakers and mentors at the 2017 Careers Day; and linked numerous current IB students with work experience and CAS opportunities in professional settings.

The SCAA is one of the founding members of the Athens Private School Sports League (APS), alongside schools such as Moraitis, Athens College and CGS, aimed at bringing together students and alumni from schools around Athens through sports tournaments and cultural events. The end of the first APS League Basketball tournament saw SCAA win a trophy for the most points scored by a single player!

2017/18 will see the launch of St Cats CONNECT, a structured e-mentoring programme connecting Years 11, 12 and 13 with alumni through a bespoke networking platform. Going forward, SCAA is not only aimed at being a support hub for students and alumni, but also to represent actively the St. Catherine's way of thinking and acting around the world, long after graduation.





**ST. CATHERINE'S
BRITISH SCHOOL**

www.stcatherines.gr

Charity no: 313909