



ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL

Tatler Schools Guide 2024

Entering the absolutely charming St Philip's is like walking into a home. Head Alexander Thomas (described by a number of pupils as both 'funny' and 'kind') is a brilliant leader of this prep, whose achievements belie its diminutive size. The school instils confidence in its pupils through providing platforms for performance among peers – all boys from Years 3 to 8 write and deliver match reports and book reviews to the whole community in assemblies – but they are also encouraged to embrace childhood. There are 30 acres of playing fields to them to enjoy at Barn Elms; and the annual Conker Cup competition is hotly contested by both boys and teachers. The school aims for its leavers to be recognised as kind and respectful young gentleman with a strong work ethic. It is certainly succeeding.

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'Vital' to the mission of this Catholic prep housed in a red-brick building just off Hereford Square is a ring-fenced fund offering up to 100 percent bursaries. Parents describe head Alex Thomas as 'inspiring' and 'extremely present'. An emphasis has been placed on giving boys a platform to perform in front of their peers, be it reciting poetry or playing music. These confidence-building initiatives propelled boys on to achieve great things. Last year, one lever was awarded a King's Scholarship to Eton, while another won a music scholarship to City of London. Outside the classroom there is a fierce annual conker competition, a budding history of art club and, remarkably, the First XI hockey team have only lost one match since 2017.