



**SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS**

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

QUOTE

“I want to congratulate Northwood School for achieving great results for the students in your school. I want other schools to learn from your good practice”

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

It is my pleasure to extend to you a very warm welcome to the Northwood School brochure, which I hope you find interesting and informative.

Northwood is a friendly, happy, welcoming school where young people are enabled to make excellent academic progress and develop the knowledge, skills, qualities and values required to lead successful and fulfilling adult lives.

Our relentless focus on ensuring the highest academic standards has consistently placed us at the top of the School Performance Tables, and our examination outcomes place us well above the national averages for student attainment and progress. In addition to providing the highest quality teaching for successful learning in lessons, we are passionate about providing excellent enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom, so that all of our students have a rewarding and enjoyable time with us as they develop their interests and talents.

We also pride ourselves on our outstanding pastoral care, providing a very positive environment in which students thrive. If your child comes to Northwood School, they will be joining a strong and caring community with an emphasis on high achievement coupled with personalised support and encouragement at all times.

Northwood School makes a significant difference to the lives of young people and I very much look forward to welcoming you at some point in the future; in the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading our brochure.



Mark Anderson
Headteacher



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to be a happy, successful school where every individual is enabled to fulfil their potential.

We will promote the highest academic standards, a love of learning, excellent enrichment opportunities, good citizenship and the consideration of others. Students will leave us as well-qualified, emotionally intelligent, broad-minded, capable young adults ready to take their place in society and to lead fulfilling lives.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At the heart of what enables us to achieve high academic standards is the quality of our teaching.

As a well-qualified, passionate and enthusiastic teaching staff, we take great pride in our reputation as high quality practitioners. We have high expectations of our students and plan lessons carefully to ensure that each child, whatever their ability is appropriately challenged or where necessary given support. Clear learning objectives are established for each lesson and student progress towards these is monitored. Homework is set regularly and marked using formative assessment techniques. This enables students to be clear about the next steps in their learning.

Over time, the progress of each student in relation to his or her target bands/grades is tracked.

Our high ambitions for our students are reflected in the fact that challenging but achievable targets are set. These targets are designed to ensure that each student makes significant progress during their time at Northwood. Where a student is not making expected progress, additional support is put in place to enable them to get back on track.

We structure the development of our students' effectiveness as learners around our '**RECIPE**' for successful learning: **resilience** when completing tasks; full **engagement** with what's being undertaken; **cooperation** with others; **independence** in getting things done; **pride** in the quality of what's produced, and **enthusiasm** to gain new knowledge, understanding and skills. In this way, our students are aware of the ingredients that go into making them successful during their time at school.

QUOTE

"I am delighted with my daughter's progress at Northwood. She has made fantastic progress both socially and academically thanks to the dedication and skills of the staff"

Parent

CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

QUOTE

“The hard work and care of the pastoral team has made a huge difference to me and my children. They are committed and willing to go the extra mile. I have found them incredibly supportive and am hugely grateful”

Parent

We value our reputation as an exceptionally caring school where each child is looked after as an individual.

We operate highly effective transition arrangements to ensure a smooth and successful move to secondary education, in terms of both academic progress and pastoral care.

Students, placed into form groups, register each morning with their respective form tutors. Their form tutor takes responsibility for overseeing each student's personal development and well-being; they also act as a first point of contact for parents and typically remain with the same form group each year.

A strong relationship with parents is vitally important to us and we have a variety of ways of ensuring all feel involved and are kept fully informed. Ofsted rated the quality of our partnerships with parents as 'outstanding'. Attainment reports are issued several times a year enabling students (and their parents) to be clear about current progress. Students attend one-to-one meetings to discuss



their report, with their form tutors in Years 7 and 8 then with members of the Leadership Group in later years. As students build towards their Key Stage 4 and 5 examinations they are supported by mentors, either from within the school staff or from our employer partners.

A comprehensive 'next steps' programme is implemented at key times during a student's school journey: in Year 8 in relation to Key Stage 4 option choices, in Year 11 in relation to post-16 education and

training opportunities, and throughout Years 12 and 13.

Student relationships are excellent at Northwood, both within and across year groups. Students are supportive of each other and there is a real sense of community. A number of our students are trained peer supporters who actively look out for the welfare of others. We maintain our positive ethos with robust anti-bullying practices that ensure our students feel safe and secure and are fully confident in both seeking assistance and knowing that any concerns will get dealt with.

BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

Our Behaviour for Learning Policy is underpinned by a very clear principle: that we provide, in every classroom throughout every day, the optimum learning environment where every student is focused on what Northwood School is all about - outstanding learning.

We adopt a traditional stance on discipline and are intolerant of any form of disruptive behaviour in class. Students are very clear about expectations and consequences, and teachers are consistent in their approach. Underpinning this is the fact that teachers are highly effective at establishing positive relationships in their classrooms, which students value and respond well to. 'Firm, friendly, fair' is our mantra - and it works!

We also have high expectations with regards to how our students present

themselves and insist on full compliance with our uniform regulations. Students are encouraged to participate in the wider life of the school and to get actively involved in the running of various activities. This contributes to a very healthy ethos around school, high levels of enjoyment and excellent student maturity.

We operate a merit system, primarily focused on recognising good effort and attitude, which is popular with students. Individuals' successes in a whole variety of areas are celebrated in regular 'celebration' assemblies, where certificates, medals and prizes are awarded.

QUOTES

"Good behaviour is the norm"

"Students develop skills as mature, independent learners and benefit from good relationships with one another and staff"

Ofsted

THE CURRICULUM

QUOTE

“The curriculum is well adapted to meet students’ needs and interests, promoting strong engagement and enjoyment”

Ofsted

KEY STAGE 3

Our Key Stage 3 Curriculum - Years 7 and 8 - provides a broad and balanced foundation for students to ensure that they are well-prepared for a successful Key Stage 4 in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Particular emphasis is given to the development of strong literacy skills at Key Stage 3. Our English Department is outstanding and highly effective at enabling students to make good progress with their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, which are absolutely essential to engaging with the Key Stage 4 curriculum in all subject areas.

Students’ reading and writing levels are assessed regularly throughout Key Stage 3 and intensive additional support is provided to accelerate progress where necessary.

A programme of personal, social, health and citizenship education is undertaken by all year groups on a weekly basis.

KEY STAGE 4

The majority of Northwood students undertake the “English Baccalaureate” which comprises GCSEs in English,



Mathematics, Science, the Humanities and a Modern Foreign Language. For the small number of students for whom the English Baccalaureate is not suitable, additional Maths and English lessons are provided as well as vocational learning opportunities.

A wide range of optional subjects including practical skills courses as well as academic courses are offered. Students choose from this range following a comprehensive guidance process mid-way through Year 8.

Careers education and guidance and work-related learning take greater prominence at Key Stage 4. We buy in independent advice for the students

to ensure that they are fully informed about opportunities beyond Year 11, and implement a programme to develop our students’ employability skills, guided by our employer partners.

KEY STAGE 5

Our Sixth Form focuses on academic excellence and preparing students for university education and degree level apprenticeships. Our highly-skilled teachers deliver a wide range of A-level and BTEC courses to suit all interests and students are supported through skilled pastoral care.

We have strong links with local universities, particularly Brunel, and students receive comprehensive guidance on the UCAS process. In addition, we run a preparation pathway for our potential Oxbridge students.

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We provide our students with a range of outstanding opportunities beyond the classroom to not only make their time at school more enjoyable, but also develop their personal interests and talents.

For a physical challenge, there are opportunities to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme or the World Challenge expedition; for those with an interest in drama the Shakespeare Schools Festival offers students the chance to perform on a professional stage; and for keen sportsmen and women we are blessed by having staff who have played sport at a national level.

There are a number of school trips, each of which has a different aim. Some of these are related to subjects or examination courses; others are of a social nature. Many of these are day

trips but some are residential visits which add another dimension to learning by their contribution to personal and social development. We run very successful trips overseas including an annual ski trip.

We believe that with the range of clubs (both sporting and non supporting), cultural visits and school trips on offer we have something for everyone.

QUOTES

“ The school provides a wide range of additional opportunities, both sporting and others, at lunchtime and after school ”

“ Students' contribution to the school and wider community is outstanding ”

Ofsted

HOW TO FIND US



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www.northwoodschool.org.uk

We are delighted to offer tours of the school for prospective parents.
Please telephone the school on 01923 836363 to arrange a mutually convenient time.