



## CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK



[www.woldinghamschool.co.uk](http://www.woldinghamschool.co.uk)



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Woldingham - a happy and successful Catholic boarding and day school for girls aged 11 to 18. Building on a pioneering heritage that stretches back 175 years, we are driving an exciting future underpinned by fresh ideas, an innovative spirit and state-of-the-art facilities – all alive with the creative energy of over 500 young minds. We develop confident and compassionate young women who are curious, ambitious and ready to take on the challenges of today's world.

As a school, our focus is on nurturing girls who understand about courage, confidence and integrity. We provide a first class, holistic education for girls, where academic success is achieved by a broad cohort and balanced by a rich co-curricular programme. Pupils here are happy, lively and engaged; they leave us empowered and inspired to make a positive impact in the world.

Everyone who works here, regardless of their role, plays their part in helping us to make our school the dynamic place that it is. In return, we ensure that our colleagues have the support they need to grow, thrive and succeed. Our commitment to professional development is an important part of that, but it is also something that is ingrained in our culture and ethos. We all work together, sharing ideas, responsibilities and ambitions for our school, our pupils and ourselves.

Thank you for your interest in joining the team here at Woldingham. We hope you find this pack useful, but for any further questions please contact the HR Department on 01883 654 014 or [hr@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:hr@woldinghamschool.co.uk)

**Mrs Alex Hutchinson MA (Oxon)**  
*Headmistress*

# SCHOOL HISTORY

Woldingham School was founded in 1842 by the Society of the Sacred Heart, with a legacy of Sacred Heart principles and values. These focus on respect for intellectual values, a sense of community, social awareness, the importance of personal growth and the development of faith. In the early 1980s, the Society decided to commit the school to lay management and its name was changed from the Convent of the Sacred Heart to Woldingham School. Today we welcome staff and girls from all faiths, and indeed none at all; our focus on the Sacred Heart goals remains integral to our ethos.

# LOOKING AHEAD

Woldingham School has four strategic principles that shape our decision making and direction.

**AWARENESS**  
of trends and challenges

**DYNAMISM**  
of decisions, people and curriculum

**RESILIENCE**  
of people and operations

**SUSTAINABILITY**  
of reputation, organisation and infrastructure

# LOCATION

The school is set in a beautiful 700 acre estate within the picturesque Surrey Hills. We enjoy excellent transport links: Woldingham rail station is within the grounds, providing a direct 25 minute journey to Clapham and a 35 minute journey to London Victoria. Junction 6 of the M25 is just a ten minute drive away.

## ABOUT US



# FACILITIES

Woldingham students benefit from an exceptional range of facilities for learning and for leisure. Our classrooms, laboratories, and art studios boast state-of-the-art learning technologies, while our 600 seat auditorium and professional studio theatre provide industry-standard performance spaces. When it comes to sports, there is everything here for all levels of ability – from a large hall, squash courts, fitness, dance and gymnastics studios to an indoor tennis dome, swimming pool and extensive outdoor courts and all-weather pitches.

# CURRICULUM

Our broad and balanced curriculum gives each girl the opportunity to develop her areas of personal interest and strength. All students study English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, three Sciences, Religious Studies and at least one foreign language up to GCSE/IGCSE level. Our Sixth Form students have the choice of following three or four A Levels across a range of 27 different subjects. They also have the opportunity to pursue an additional curriculum, which may include an Extended Project Qualification, a sports leadership award, an entrepreneurship programme or an online university course. Throughout their time at Woldingham, girls can supplement their curriculum learning with many academic enrichment opportunities – ranging from societies for debating, dissection and philosophy through to extra qualifications in areas such as Mathematics and Greek.



# EXAM RESULTS & RANKINGS

2018 once again saw our girls achieve excellent results, with 67% of GCSE grades at A\* or A. At A Level, 61% of grades were A\* or A, with 85% of girls achieving A\*-B grades. Value-added metrics are excellent with pupils typically achieving a grade higher at GCSE than their assessed potential. Pupils progress mainly to Russell Group universities, including Oxbridge, and an increasing number to prestigious North American institutions. In 2018, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) placed Woldingham in its top band 'excellent' in all areas.

## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Life at Woldingham extends well beyond the classroom and we firmly believe in the importance of a well-rounded education, where co-curricular commitments enrich everyone's experiences. Our co-curricular programme runs at lunchtimes, after school and at weekends, giving every girl the opportunity to pursue her own interests – whether that is competing in a sport at national level or simply tackling something new for the fun of it. From music and drama to archery, football, creative writing, mindfulness and more, there is something for everyone.

## PASTORAL CARE

Woldingham is a home from home – one in which we nurture respect for self, respect for each other and respect for the environment we live in. We are a community which promotes team spirit and builds friendships that last a lifetime. The school celebrates an equal mix of day pupils and boarders which helps to broaden perspectives and opportunity. Within each year group, girls are assigned to one of the four Houses, so they also have the opportunity to compete, celebrate and come together with members of their House throughout the school. Woldingham's THRIVE programme promotes lifelong learning, resilience and well-being.



## WORKING WITH US



## OUR STAFF

Our people are Woldingham's greatest asset: the 200 teaching and support staff each play their part in ensuring that our girls enjoy fulfilling and happy lives – both inside and outside the classroom.

We want to be sure that every one of our colleagues enjoys an equally fulfilling future. As part of the Woldingham family, your work will be recognised and valued at every level. Above all, life at Woldingham is about working together and enjoying being part of a close-knit and supportive team.

Staff development is a high priority: we provide a varied training programme and Personal Professional Development planning for all colleagues. You can also look forward to an exceptional range of benefits that include: free lunch and complimentary refreshments, pension scheme, employee assistance programme, on-site car parking, childcare vouchers, discounted school fees, fitness studio, swimming pool and fitness classes.

## STAFF TESTIMONIALS

I really enjoy coming to work; I love my subject and enjoy the challenge of inspiring the girls to find science thrilling. Whilst having a keen focus on academic rigour, the school manages to retain a relaxed atmosphere which is one of the things that struck me when I came to interview. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful site; some mornings as I arrive I watch deer in fields that line the front drive. This is always a great start to the day. The staff community is very friendly and exceedingly supportive, both within departments and more widely.

**Sian Baldwin**  
Head of Science

Working at Woldingham School is rewarding, interesting and fun. As a receptionist each day is different and varied but the atmosphere is always happy and buzzy.

**Sarah Mills**  
Receptionist

I joined Woldingham School in 2016 having worked in international schools for many years. Woldingham is an excellent place to work as a teacher, whatever stage you are at in your career. The caring and inclusive approach to the girls is tangible and is evident as soon as you arrive.

**William Bohanna**  
Head of Business and Economics

Woldingham provided a fantastic environment for me to complete my NQT training. The programme put in place was supportive and well organised, enabling me to further develop and refine my teaching practice. Across the year, opportunities to expand and tailor my subject knowledge, explore different pedagogical techniques and familiarise myself with the multi-faceted nature of a career in teaching were provided. Inspiration and guidance took many forms, ranging from formal training courses, discussion groups and observations to informal chats over tea and biscuits in the staff room. Support came from a wide-range of colleagues including the Senior Teacher for Staff Development, my department and an informal mentor to help guide me through the quirks that come with any new school! Since then, Woldingham has provided an excellent career development path, with opportunities to take on roles in Middle Management. It is a great place to start any new teaching career.

**Ashley Whitworth**  
Teacher of History and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

# STAFF BENEFITS



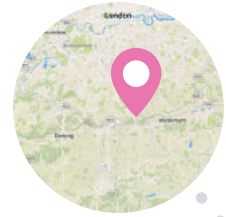
## CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Our professional development programme ensures everyone has opportunities for career progression and continued development.



## FINANCIAL

We offer competitive salaries and a pension scheme.



## ON-SITE TRAIN STATION

We are only 25 minutes by train from South West London... we even have our own on-site train station!



## NQT SUPPORT

We invest time and support to our NQTs through mentoring programmes and also offer Schools Direct training opportunities.



## DISCOUNTED PACKAGES

We can offer you a discounted mobile phone package.



We offer free on-site parking to all staff in our extensive grounds.



## COMMUNITY

We are a social community and provide regular opportunities for all staff to get together.



## FITNESS CLASSES

We are positive about the health and well-being of our staff, so we offer fitness classes, massage and reflexology sessions.



## FREE SPORTS FACILITIES

All staff have free access to our on-site gym, tennis courts, squash courts and swimming pool.

## DISCOUNT ON SCHOOL FEES



We offer discounts on school fees for Woldingham staff.



## FREE LUNCH

We provide all staff with free lunches and complimentary refreshments throughout the working day.

## GETTING HERE

Woldingham School is set in an impressive 700 acre estate within the Surrey Hills, inside the M25 and with a train station in its grounds providing direct trains to London every 30 minutes. Gatwick and Heathrow Airports are 20 and 45 minutes away respectively and junction 6 of the M25 is only ten minutes' drive from the school.

## BY ROAD

(N.B. If using SatNav please use the postcode CR3 7LR – please do not use Google Maps).

### From M25

Junction 6 of the M25 motorway is approximately 4 miles from the school; at this point join the A22 northbound (signposted to 'Caterham' then 'Croydon' and 'London').

At Wapses Lodge roundabout (first roundabout on A22 off junction 6) take the Woldingham exit. After passing the stables on the left, please slow down and look out for buildings and a viaduct on the right (approximately 0.5 miles after Wapses Lodge roundabout).

At the school sign, take the road on the right leading under the viaduct arch. The school drive is 2 miles long.

### From London

Take the A23 southbound. When you reach the large junction at Purley, turn left onto the A22 signposted to East Grinstead. Follow it through Whyteleafe. You will reach Wapses Lodge roundabout. Continue as directions above.

## BY TRAIN

Woldingham station is on the Oxted/East Grinstead/Uckfield line, 35 minutes from London (Victoria and London Bridge); it may be necessary to change at East Croydon from London Bridge. Woldingham station is in the school grounds, about 1.5 miles from the school. We are happy to collect visitors from the station and we would ask that you request this service in advance of your visit. You should make your way to the private car park via the small exit on platform 1 where you will be collected. Alternatively, the local taxi service, Catax, can be contacted on 01883 345151.

## CONTACT US

Find out more at [www.woldinghamschool.co.uk](http://www.woldinghamschool.co.uk) or from the HR Department on 01883 654 014 or [hr@woldinghamschool.co.uk](mailto:hr@woldinghamschool.co.uk).

## OUR LOCATION

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