



Prospectus 2023-24



# Woodlands

• Respect • Resilience • Responsibility

“All aspects of the school’s operation and development are underpinned by the strong overarching vision and culture led ably by a strong SLT” (Brian Lightman – School Improvement Partner)



*Many parents, staff and pupils commented on the rapid improvements made by leaders since the last inspection. Some described the school as having been “transformed” (Ofsted 2022)*



# Welcome to Woodlands



## Dear Parent/Carer

At Woodlands we aim to inspire our students through an enriching and personalised curriculum both inside the classroom and outside, developing resilience and creativity.

Every child is challenged at Woodlands to push themselves out of their comfort zone and be the best they can be.

As a smaller secondary school, every child really is an individual – their wellbeing, progress and personal development are extensively supported by a very comprehensive pastoral system. At Woodlands we make it our mission to ensure all students achieve their full potential both academically and socially. We want our students to be high achieving but also well rounded and happy individuals, that hold our core values of **“Respect, Resilience, Responsibility”**.

I am immensely proud to be the Head Teacher of Woodlands Community College. It really is a “community” college with all members of the community, staff, students and parents playing a crucial role in creating a supportive and enriching environment.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child into our community.



**Mr Henderson**  
Head Teacher

*“A calm and orderly atmosphere around the school and students engaged and attentive in lessons”*

*(Brian Lightman – School Improvement Partner)*



# Student Welfare

*“Pupils feel Safe & Secure”  
(Ofsted 2022)*

The care and wellbeing of your child is of the highest priority at Woodlands Community College. The school has the highest expectations of its students with regard to behaviour, attendance, academic progress and social and personal development; and the pastoral system is crucial in supporting this.

## The Pastoral System

Students will be placed in a tutor group with other students of the same age when they arrive at the school. Students meet with their tutor and tutor group at the start of each day. Their tutor will be an invaluable source of support and guidance throughout your child’s time at Woodlands.

Your child’s wellbeing, attendance and academic progress will also be tracked carefully by a Pastoral Leader. Pastoral Leaders ensure that your child is being challenged to achieve in every aspect of school life and will work with you and your child to remove any obstacles which may be holding your child back from maximum success.

The Pastoral Leader and tutor are supported on a daily basis by an Assistant Year Leader. These are non teaching staff and are therefore able to deal with issues as they arise during the school day.

Each student is also allocated to a House group. The Houses form an important part of our school community, encouraging healthy competition, team work and a sense of belonging and identity. At the end of each half term the whole school comes together for a House assembly in which the points awarded in the term decide the winning House.

## Attendance

Good attendance is crucial for student success and we expect all students to maintain exceptional attendance throughout the year. Unexplained absences will be followed up quickly to ensure that no students are missing learning time. Punctuality to school and to lessons is essential for students to make the progress of which they are capable. All students are expected to be in school ready for the day to start at 8:25.

## Transition Programme

We recognise that the move from primary to secondary school is a time of many questions for both parents and students. We are very proud of our extensive transition programme, including Open Mornings, Primary Visits and our very special Transition Week. This event is designed to give all new Year 7 students the chance to experience a week here at Woodlands in July; answering any questions, making new friends and getting to know their new school.

# Woodlands Curriculum



*“The pace of change seems to be accelerating” (Ofsted)*

## A curriculum which meets the needs of our learners.

We will provide opportunities for students of all abilities to be the best that they can be in all areas of school life; with a curriculum that is underpinned by a focus on the school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

We will provide our students with high quality learning experiences that will support them in raising their aspirations and develop the study skills that will enable them to have a wider range of future choices.

The school curriculum encompasses all learning opportunities within school life, including extra-curricular activities and development of the wider social skills that will prepare our students to take their place as active citizens in society.



## Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department forms the creative hub of the school. Every year students take part in showcasing their performing talents in shows such as BTEC showcase evenings, Woodlands Has Talent, school musical productions, and many other events. The school has a state of the art dance studio with its own changing facilities and lighting rig, a high performance drama studio fully equipped with lighting and sound equipment, a music studio set up to allow students to access a range of musical experiences and a fully equipped radio station which broadcasts student shows weekly.

We have a fully equipped theatre allowing us to put on productions and shows. We also offer a range of private or small group peripatetic music lessons in areas such as singing, guitar and keyboard for those students who wish to develop their musical training further.

### Key Stage 3:

The curriculum at KS3 provides a broad and balanced education in academic, practical and creative subjects.

### Year 7, 8 and 9 curriculum:

Art  
 Computing  
 Design Technology  
 Drama  
 English  
 Geography  
 History  
 Languages (Spanish or French)  
 Library Skills  
 Maths  
 Music  
 PE  
 PSHE  
 Religion, Philosophy & Ethics  
 Science

### Key Stage 4:

In Years 10 and 11 students continue with the core offer:

English Language  
 English Literature  
 Maths  
 PE  
 PSHE  
 Religion, Philosophy & Ethics  
 Science

**Students in Years 10 and 11 can then select from a wide range of other courses which include:**

Art  
 Business  
 Child Development  
 Construction  
 Dance  
 Drama  
 Engineering  
 Food and Nutrition  
 French  
 Geography  
 Hair & Beauty  
 History  
 ICT  
 Media Studies  
 Music  
 PE  
 Photography  
 Psychology  
 Religious Studies  
 Sociology  
 Spanish  
 Textiles  
 Travel and Tourism



### Literacy

At Woodlands Community College we believe that being able to read with confidence is very important in order to function well in daily life. For this reason all students in Key Stage 3 have a timetabled lesson in the library each fortnight. The library really is at the heart of our school community.



# Genius is one percent inspiration and...

At Woodlands, we have three core values – Respect, Responsibility and Resilience (the 3Rs). These are an integral part of our school life, and students are taught to develop the attributes and skills to demonstrate the 3Rs successfully. The school values are also at the heart of our consequence and reward systems.

Each lesson, your child is challenged to meet the school values expectations through their behaviour for learning. At the end of the lesson, students may be awarded a 3R point for demonstrating one of the school values particularly well. They are recorded electronically, and we encourage all parents to use Class Charts to keep a track of their child's performance on a daily basis.

The 3R points are used by the pastoral team to track attitudes to learning – enabling early intervention if required. Most importantly, they are used to celebrate and reward students who are demonstrating our school values through phone calls home, certificates, assemblies and special events. All students have the opportunity to achieve School Values Stars, which are a recognition of consistent positive performance throughout the year.



*“Pupils....understand the importance of working hard and doing their best”  
(Ofsted)*







*“Teachers care deeply about improving the life chances of the pupils in the school”  
(Ofsted)*

...ninety-nine percent  
perspiration

# Beyond the Classroom

Learning does not stop at the classroom door. Woodlands is proud of its extensive range of extra-curricular activities that take place at lunchtimes and after school to develop students' skills, encourage them to try new things and to provide an essential balance to support student well-being. With four key themes – Get Active, Be Creative, Explore More and Take Action – the Woodlands Extra programme certainly has something for everyone!

Here is just a taster of the activities on offer:

**Get Active:** Woodlands has a wide range of sporting clubs, including: Football, Rounders, Benchball, Dance and Basketball

**Be Creative:** Art Club, Choir, Drama Club, Cooking Club, Orchestra

**Explore More:** Film Club, Book Club, History Club, Debating Club

**Take Action:** Geo-activism, DofE, Prefect leadership training



## PSHE Tutor Programme

At Woodlands the personal, social and health education of all pupils is an integral part of the curriculum. All students receive a discreet lesson in PSHE and the curriculum covers a whole range of topics from financial decisions to diversity and relationships.

The tutor time programme (period R) also plays a key role in supporting the delivery of this curriculum through a planned assembly programme, voting voice discussion topics, cultural capital quizzes and an act of reflection all of which are linked to one of the school values 'respect, responsibility and resilience'.



## Student Voice

Student voice plays an integral part in the school's decision making and this is primarily done through the work of the school council. Every tutor group is represented on the school council by a student councillor and deputy councillor and they work alongside a dedicated team of prefects to ensure the students' voices are heard. The school council meets formally once every half term to plan and review the half term's work. In addition the full school council also hold a Head Teacher's question time once a half term where they can make suggestions or ask questions directly to the Head Teacher from themselves and on behalf of their peers.

All students in the school take part in voting voice topics every fortnight during tutor time where they discuss current or important topics such as climate change and mental health. This gives all students the opportunity to voice their opinions and have a chance to have their say in a democratic vote.

Alongside the Prefect team and school council we also have a dedicated team of trained Anti Bullying Ambassadors across all year groups of the school who work to support their peers and campaign to make the school a better place for all. As part of their role they do duties on the younger year groups playgrounds and also run a safe space room for anyone experiencing any issues they may want support with.

The school also has an LGBTQ+ support group which is led by a member of staff and a student ambassador.





## Careers Education

At Woodlands we are committed to ensuring that all students have access to high quality careers education, in order to support them in making informed decisions about their post-16 education pathways. We link with a range of providers to give students experiences of different work sectors both in and outside the classroom. We also work closely with a network of local universities to promote students' aspirations to attend higher education.

## Trips and Visits

The school is keen for students to gain a wide range of experiences through trips and visits linked to curriculum areas, or personal development opportunities. These include residential trips abroad and in the UK and taking part in outdoor activities on the Isle of Wight.

Day trips for students have also recently included theatre trips, geography fieldwork experiences, visits to museums and galleries and a range of real-world science experiences.



## Sports

The Woodlands PE department is a busy and exciting place to be with extra-curricular clubs taking place during lunchtimes and after school. There is the chance to take part in the extensive range of competitive fixtures, or simply enjoy playing your favourite sports in our brilliant facilities. Whole school activities such as our annual Sports Day encourage all students to take part and look after their physical and emotional well-being, whilst developing skills for life.





# Saints

## FOUNDATION

INSPIRES • SUPPORTS • DELIVERS

Registered Charity No. 1090916

Woodlands is proud to work closely with the Saints Foundation. We have our own Saints Community Champions based within the school offering an extensive range of extra curricular sports.





## Woodlands Community College

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Woodlands-Community-College



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