

# WOODLANDS

ASPIRATION

RESILIENCE

OPPORTUNITY

EXCELLENCE

WOODLANDS  
SCHOOL

Reception &  
Main Entrance

EXCELLENCE  
STARTS  
HERE

WOODLANDS  
SCHOOL



# WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

[www.woodlandsschool.org](http://www.woodlandsschool.org)



# Welcome to Woodlands.....

Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity, Excellence, this is our ethos. These four pillars underpin all we do and drives us forward as one learning community. We have the privilege to be able to teach and learn, as an 11-16 Academy, in a £26 million building. Woodlands School is proud to serve the people of Basildon and we are constantly striving to be better. We are focused on ensuring academic excellence for all our youngsters, allowing them the opportunity to thrive at further and higher education. We encourage all of our young people to have the highest of aspirations. Our aim is to equip all with the tools they need to become resilient in an ever changing world. Not only will they be fit to cope with anything, but they will thrive in any situation. We offer all the widest opportunities to ensure excellence becomes a habit.

Our expectation is that all at Woodlands School work hard and are self-motivated. All are expected to lead their own learning, be polite, respectful and grateful for what Woodlands offers and what we are trying to do in preparing them for the brightest of futures.

Our boundaries are clear and they support all in ensuring they can maintain the highest standards. We will provide a wealth of opportunity to learn in and beyond the classroom, adding cultural capital and ensuring experiences develop the whole child.

Those who join us here at Woodlands School will be part of an exciting journey where we all work together as one to see what can be achieved.

**David Wright**  
*Head Teacher*



## Our Vision

At Woodlands School every pupil will have the **OPPORTUNITY** to achieve academic **EXCELLENCE**. Our school will ensure high **ASPIRATIONS** for all in a stimulating and safe environment.

We will foster a 'can do' and **RESILIENT** attitude to every challenge whilst developing an empathy and understanding for those we serve in our local community.

## Our Mission

Our mission at Woodlands School is for every pupil to have the foundations laid for a lifelong love of learning, through a fully inclusive and appropriately challenging curriculum, taught by outstanding and highly qualified teachers.

Pupils will have all barriers to learning removed, ensuring a safe and stimulating learning environment where all make outstanding progress, allowing them the **OPPORTUNITY** to be **EXCELLENT**.

We have made it our mission to work together with our local community to create **OPPORTUNITIES** and ensure **RESILIENT** young people, with **EXCELLENT** social skills and a strong moral purpose, become adults that can go on and make a real difference locally, nationally and globally.

Our Woodlands School staff are valued and supported through an outstanding professional development programme.

As a learning community we work with all stakeholders to have the highest **ASPIRATIONS**, be **RESILIENT** and seek all **OPPORTUNITIES** to be **EXCELLENT**.

# What we want for our pupils

## Be aspirational

- All pupils will be well-informed, fully prepared to take the next steps in their education or training. Pupils are encouraged to strive towards Russell Group universities, higher apprenticeships and high-level employment, both in and further afield.
- All pupils will gain the cultural capital to ensure they are rounded, well-informed individuals who have seized the same cultural opportunities as their peers from the wide range of educational backgrounds.
- All pupils, especially those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, will be equipped with the vital life skills required to flourish and excel in adult life.

## Be resilient

- All pupils will be emotionally and physically healthy, equipped to keep themselves safe in the modern, digital world.
- All pupils will possess the depth of character and resilience to cope with setbacks and rise to challenges, whatever life throws at them.

## Take opportunities

- All pupils will be highly literate and numerate, fully confident in applying these core skills to new contexts.
- All pupils will be excellent orators, equipped with the impressive communication skills so sought after by high-level employers.
- All pupils will take opportunities to fully immerse themselves in the wider life of the school, engaging in a range of enriching activities that both help foster positive relationships with peers and adults and take them out of their comfort zone.

## Be excellent

- All pupils will excel in a wide range of subjects, with a strong academic core that supports their academic, creative, technical or vocational ambitions.
- All pupils will become experts in their subjects and possess the metacognitive skills to continually improve their knowledge and skills.
- All pupils will read widely and appreciate the value of lifelong learning.

# Teaching and Learning

Learning is the core purpose and function of Woodlands School and effective teaching is central to ensuring that our young people are able to achieve their full potential. We believe that learning is a repetitive process and our Teaching and Learning vision therefore revolves around three core principles; access, engagement and achievement. Classroom leaders consistently provide accessible, objective-led lessons that engage and challenge young people in a variety of ways and which enable pupils of all abilities to make outstanding progress.

Lessons at Woodlands School do not just focus on the acquisition of knowledge, but teachers aim to encourage Mastery. Lessons challenge our young people to apply their knowledge in increasingly difficult ways, conceptualising at a higher level of thinking and re-considering their learning from alternative perspectives and in unique contexts.

We believe that every young person should be entitled to lessons delivered by outstanding classroom leaders who are constantly developing their teaching pedagogy. At Woodlands, the quality of Teaching and Learning is monitored through daily Learning Walks, which take place across the school, to ensure our young people are benefiting from first class instruction. Staff consequently receive regular feedback on their teaching practice and subsequently take advantage of a range of personalised CPD (Continuing Professional Development) opportunities to develop their pedagogical understanding. Practitioners at Woodlands School are keen to embrace educational research and work collaboratively to ensure their teaching practice is innovative and effective in guaranteeing the outstanding progress of our young people, whilst promoting the importance of 'lifelong learning'.



## Academic Focus

At Woodlands School, we strive for all of our young people to achieve academic excellence. Of course, excellent exam results forms a part of this, but also important is that we measure our curriculum by the calibre of the young people we turn out at the end of their time at Woodlands School: highly-informed, highly-skilled young people with a lifelong love of learning, who read widely and appreciate the value of education.

We offer a very wide range of subjects both at Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four, with a strong academic core, that supports all pupils' academic, creative, technical or vocational ambitions.

At Key Stage Three, we have developed a thoughtful curriculum which ensures pupils experience a seamless transition from Key Stage Two. Our teachers know the Key Stage Two National Curriculum in their subject, and have considered carefully what we teach, when we teach it and how we teach it to ensure our young people do not experience the, 'progress slump;' that can occur between primary and secondary school. We work collaboratively with primary colleagues to continue the great work they have begun. We have provided a truly broad curriculum, where all have the opportunity to study everything from Construction to Philosophy, Business to Music, Computer Science to Photography. Of course, the majority of our youngsters will study the English Baccalaureate - covering English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography. However, we recognise that sometimes they need extra support, and offer flexibility in our curriculum so that all can access more English and Maths lessons if they require them. As they move through Key Stage Four and begin to prepare for their final exams, in Years 10 and 11 we offer an extensive programme of support in all of their subjects. Morning Enhancement sessions, Period 6 revision and holiday revision programmes are all offered by the school to help any who require it. We intend to leave no one behind and are committed to offering them all the support we can to achieve excellent results, which paves the way for an excellent future. Likewise, we also provide extensive stretch and challenge to our High Prior Attaining pupils, providing them with opportunities beyond the curriculum, such as university visits, lectures from industry leaders and extra-curricular programmes, which will encourage our young people to apply for Russell Group universities, high-profile apprenticeships and the very best of employment opportunities.

We prepare all for post-16 education fully, and provide everyone with a consultation with a careers expert, who provides informed guidance on all the academic options available to all at the end of Year 11. This includes supporting with applications to local colleges, Sixth Forms (including local selective and grammar schools), as well as internships and other vocational training routes.



Beyond examination results our curriculum offers many meaningful academic experiences. Our pioneering AROE (Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity and Excellence) curriculum is designed to equip our youngsters with the skills necessary for success in the adult world, providing real-world education in managing budgets, preparing for interviews and living independently, as well as much-needed personal development, to ensure they grow up to be emotionally and physically healthy adults, equipped to keep themselves safe in the modern digital world.

Throughout our curriculum, we intend for our young people to become experts in their subject, with the metacognitive and reflective skills to truly understand how to develop their learning further. Crucial to this is our dedication to cross-curricular opportunities, which challenge our young people to consider how different subjects relate to one another. Literacy and numeracy are strongly promoted throughout the entire curriculum, as we intend for all to leave Woodlands School highly literate and numerate.

Furthermore, we recognise the huge importance of developing oracy in our youngsters: the ability to communicate well is a hugely sought-after skill by employers, and we know that for our young people to be a success, they need to feel confident talking in front of other people, in any situation.

Our teachers never stop reviewing the curriculum - we are always reflecting, adapting and looking for ways to continually improve. A strong academic focus within our school means that the curriculum is always fresh and always responding to the needs and aspirations of all. It is how we prepare our young people for excellence.



## Thinking School

Intent on ensuring our young people become experts in the range of academic and creative subjects they follow, at Woodlands we strive to equip all with the necessary metacognitive abilities to allow their continual development of knowledge and skills. Educational research suggests that effective long-term memory is the single most important factor in allowing all to master their learning and our 'thinking school' approach adopts strategies to promote this.

At the core of our programme is a broad but carefully sequenced curriculum which is interleaved allowing our young people the opportunity to encounter new learning whilst regularly revisiting and thus consolidating prior understanding. This approach is not only a key feature of our lessons, all of which begin with a memory recall activity, but is complimented by our whole school homework programme. All are expected to complete one online quiz per subject per week as a minimum for their home learning using our bespoke RAW (Retrieval at Woodlands) Knowledge programme. Designed by Woodlands Staff in collaboration with Tassomai Learning, RAW Knowledge has several features to encourage the transfer of content to long-term memory. Not only does it quiz our youngsters on all content within each Key Stage, but for every individual it identifies the topics requiring most attention and as a result creates personalised and differentiated quizzes.

This regular low stakes quizzing, coupled with our interleaved curriculum, provides deliberate and distributed thinking practice. This equips our young people with the necessary metacognitive skills to become independent learners, encouraging the self-evaluation and self-regulation necessary not only for success at Woodlands, but also in the wider world!



## Cultural Capital

At Woodlands School, our youngsters learning extends far beyond the mainstream curriculum. We know that, in the modern world, examination success is not enough. All need to be equipped with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours (Cultural Capital) to be successful in later life; an education that broadens horizons and opens eyes to new ways of thinking and provides them with exciting experiences beyond the parameters of everyday teenage life. We are committed to developing not just the intellectual side of our young people, but their spiritual, social, moral and cultural sides too. Our Woodlands youngsters should all go on to be impressive young adults who make positive contributions in our society.

For this reason, we provide a wide range of exciting enrichment opportunities and experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom. We have over 60 Extra-Curricular clubs that pupils can get involved in across all of the faculties, nearly 50 trips and visits planned, and 25 Pupil Leadership Roles for over 200 pupils - Woodlands School has something extra-curricular to galvanise and inspire all. It is our expectation that all will engage in some form of enrichment opportunity, which furnishes their Cultural Capital and, to some extent, challenges them and takes them out of their comfort zone.

Alongside this, our Elite Player Development and Artistic Performance Team programmes have a proven track-record of harnessing and developing the incredible talent of our youngsters in sport, music, drama and dance. We provide high quality and intensive training sessions in all of these areas, alongside academic mentoring, to ensure that our school competes at county and national level in a range of sports. In performing arts we host an impressive array of performances all year round.

We expect all of our young people to aspire to be the best in their fields, whatever career path they choose. Basildon is only a short train ride away from London, and we want all to recognise that that world is not beyond their reach. We regularly provide trips into London to explore different industries and soak up the wealth of art and culture available on our doorstep, and we encourage all to participate in trips to Russell Group universities, where they can be inspired to look toward their future academic journey. We have an extensive team of staff dedicated to the promotion of our youngsters' aspirations, including an Assistant Headteacher responsible for Cultural Capital. We take the business of our young peoples' aspirations seriously, and have an extensive programme of enrichment that attests to this.

At Woodlands we encourage the growth of Cultural Capital in all aspects of school life through celebrating their progress and achievement in all subjects, recognition for participation in enrichment opportunities, and positive behaviours (attendance, punctuality, conduct, and uniform). All pupils, irrespective of their starting points, can grow their Cultural Capital and have successful futures, at Woodlands always strive to ensure each and every pupil realises and reaches their potential.

Whether it be careers talks from some of the best people in their field, cultural trips to the West End, aspirational trips to some of the UK's top universities or even indeed the relentless stretching and challenging of our pupils in everyday lessons, Woodlands is a school that delivers cultural capital and aspiration in droves.



# Elite Player Development

The Elite Player development (EPD) programme is specifically designed to nurture aspiring elite athletes to fulfil their potential and follow the school philosophy of aspirations, resilience, opportunities and excellence.

There are 5 sports that the programme covers; Football, Athletics, Basketball, Boys' Rugby and Girls' Netball. This is a fantastic opportunity for any elite sports player to develop in their chosen sport as they are given time to attend high quality and intensive training sessions led by coaches that are specialists in their field.

The expectation is that athletes will attend two compulsory training sessions before school with each session having a different focus on an aspect of their sport. The training aims to develop a players game awareness, fundamental core skills, position specific skills as well as improving the player's overall fitness. Sessions throughout the year will improve an athlete's speed, agility, power and strength with the training taking place in outstanding facilities. Our youngsters will also be mentored academically by the lead coach to ensure they are achieving their potential academically.

All will be encouraged to attend County and National competitions or trials to ensure they excel in their chosen sport and will be given the opportunity to achieve a range of coaching and officiating qualifications. In turn, all are expected to help with primary school events and lower school fixtures.



# Artistic Performance Team

The Artistic Performance Team is comprised of three separate disciplines: Dance, Drama and Music.

The motto of the programme is to Inspire To Aspire to a career within the creative arts industry.

The Artistic Performance Team will develop their creative intelligence, giving all a well-rounded set of skills that will serve them well for higher education and to excel in the creative arts industry.

In Drama, our youngsters will be experimenting with a range of acting skills and techniques and will develop a wide set of different theatre styles. All will work alongside teachers and other professionals to become confident performers and competent theatre practitioners. Their skills will be refined throughout the course and will be given specialised training on

an individual bases, i.e. those excelling in scriptwriting, comedy or light, sound and costume design. This will all be based on emerging strengths. All will be involved in all aspects of the school shows and will use their discipline, talent and focus to inspire the rest of the cast who will join them for rehearsals.

The main aim in dance is to take established performers and develop their skills and knowledge further not only as dancers but as choreographers. The programme will expose them to as many dance experiences as possible including trips to see professional dance works, working with visiting professionals and giving them as many opportunities as possible to perform to an audience.

All involved within music will have a clear programme of tutor sessions, lunchtime workshops as well as peripatetic tuition. During these sessions our youngsters will work on their ensemble skills, solo performances, composition, creating music videos, live concerts and rehearsals as well as many other opportunities.





## Ensuring all fulfil their potential

Our dedicated staff provide an enriching and engaging curriculum which inspires our young people, providing the opportunity for all to make excellent progress. Our well established relationships with feeder primary schools allows for smooth transition to Woodlands School. From day one staff are prepared to meet individual needs because we know each and every young person joining us in Year 7 even before they get here. As our youngsters progress through their learning journey with us, they benefit hugely from our extensive programme of personalised learning for all who need extra support or indeed extra challenge.

Beyond the classroom, our multi-faceted pastoral team support all to engage fully with all aspects of school life. Our first priority is that our youngsters are happy and healthy, within our inclusive community, and have the necessary resilience to thrive in a high challenge learning environment. Our individual approach leaves nobody behind, supporting all in overcoming barriers, whilst providing our young people with the opportunity to realise their aspirations.

We are proud that when our youngsters finish their time with us at Woodlands we have set them up for the next stage of their education, but most important of all we have instilled within them the values and personal qualities to go on and make a positive impact on the world.



## Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice provides an invaluable platform for our young people to play an integral part in shaping the ethos of Woodlands. It is essential to encourage all to be involved in their school community and see the decisions they make as being impactful to the greater majority.

The best way to achieve an aspirational and progressive school outlook is to involve those who benefit most from the changes made. In joining Pupil Voice, all are given the opportunity to discuss important issues being raised and are encouraged to share their opinions with peers and staff members. Pupil Voice consists of representatives from each tutor group in Years 7-10.

The Junior Leadership team is appointed through a rigorous process. It comprises of two members of each year group as well as the Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies. Their main responsibility is to work alongside senior staff on the key areas of the school's development plan, and to represent all youngsters at Woodlands School.

We at Woodlands School value the thoughts and opinions of all our youngsters and we are constantly striving to improve their experience with us through clear communication and discussion.

The opportunity of leadership allows all to develop an aspirational attitude and improves academic success, opening doors in the future.



# Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity, Excellence

We thank you for showing an interest in our school and will warmly welcome you when you decide to visit. Being educated at Woodlands School provides unique opportunities to grow as a young person into someone who will make a positive contribution to society.

Our ethos of Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity and Excellence runs through all we do and is complimented by instilling a 'can do' attitude in all so that anything can be achieved. Being able to find solutions through creative thinking and embracing mistakes and what we can learn from them is a given. There is an extensive range of extra-curricular activities to cater for all interests, an opportunity to go beyond your usual comfort zone.

We provide all that is needed to be excellent. All you need to do is embrace our ethos, listen, try your best and never give up.




# WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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