 **Dormers Wells  
High School**  
Opening the door to success

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



# Welcome to Dormers Wells High School

We know that choosing a secondary school is an important decision for your family. Your choice of school will lay the foundations for a bright and successful future for your child. That's why we think Dormers Wells High School is the right choice and we present you with this opportunity to see what we have to offer at our popular, thriving school.

At Dormers Wells High School we promote high achievement in a learning community. We provide a stimulating and caring environment so that each child can grow in knowledge, skills, understanding and character and fulfil their potential.

## Purpose

We have a strong sense of purpose. We encourage our students to be enthusiastic about learning and positive about the future. We strive to ensure our students have high self-esteem and be confident and successful in what they do; to have understanding and respect for others; to have the ability and desire to further their own development and contribute to the society in which we live.

We believe in equality of opportunity and in celebrating success be it big or small.

## High Academic Standards

We are dedicated to ensuring that all our young people leave our school with the qualifications, skills and experience they need to be successful. All students are set challenging targets based upon previous attainment and teacher assessment that are constantly reviewed and communicated to parents and carers. These targets are used to monitor progress and to ensure students reach their full potential across the entire curriculum.

## Respect and good manners

These are fundamental to our community. We have high expectation about behaviour, respect, politeness and the consideration which should be shown to others. In this we are both supportive and firm.

## Our staff

We have a stable, incredibly enthusiastic, innovative and hardworking staff committed to continuing to further improve the school in order to deliver the best comprehensive education we possibly can.

Every student's success is best achieved through a close partnership between home and school. Staff, students and their families can access information on the curriculum, revision and home learning activities, remotely through our website and managed learning environment. This enables parents and carers to gain a more detailed picture of their child's progress and the work they are set.

We aim to broaden our online facilities, so that you can also access performance data and more key curriculum tasks online.





**Our parents and carers**

We encourage partnership between home and school to ensure that every student feels supported both academically and in their passage into adulthood. We value the contribution that parents and carers make to the life of the school and welcome opportunities to develop this further.

This prospectus will give you an insight into what you can expect, but we invite you to find out for yourselves by coming along to one of our open events. Visits can be arranged at any time; just telephone the school office and we will arrange a tour with some of the school ambassadors. Please attend

the open evenings but it is also important to see the school in action on a "normal" day.

We look forward to welcoming your family to our school.

**Róisín Walsh**  
Headteacher



**"Dormers Wells High School is a nurturing environment."**  
**"Leaders have high expectations for the outcomes of all pupils."**  
**[Ofsted 2021]**

# Character Values

Our vision is to empower students so that they are able to take control of their own future and have enhanced life chances as a result of learning with us. We are academically ambitious for our students: everyone matters.

In 2020 our staff and students worked together to identify the values that sum us up our character as a school. The executive student council made the final decision that these were the values we all strive to embody at Dormers Wells High School, in everything we do:



**Determination:**  
We never give up



**Wisdom:** We respond to problems in a calm and balanced way



**Honesty:** We are open and true to ourselves and others



**Service:** We contribute to our school and to the wider community

We want our students to become independent learners, who are critical in their thinking, informed in their choices and confident in their ability to succeed in the modern world. We want students who are respectful and tolerant, driven and confident, and who strive for the best. In addition to their academic lives we also want our students to benefit from extra-curricular experiences in the arts, sport and culture, which will help them become well rounded balanced adults.

## At DWHS we aim to:

- educate and develop students to the highest standards according to their ability, providing equal opportunity for all, and promoting the fulfilment of each student's potential in the academic, cultural and sporting fields;
- provide an orderly and caring learning environment which combines high expectations with the support necessary to challenge and fully develop students intellectually, morally and socially;
- engender a sense of community, loyalty and mutual respect within the School, and promote a partnership between students, staff and parents;
- encourage positive engagement with the wider community;
- foster initiative and independent judgement, and encourage students to take responsibility for their conduct, learning and future plans;
- promote the development of the self-discipline, confidence, leadership, knowledge and skills that are required to progress in modern society and the world of work, including entrepreneurial skills and those related to the use of new technologies;
- provide appropriate information to allow students to make informed decisions on personal, social and environmental issues;
- cultivate an attitude of service to others.

**"Pupils behave well in all areas of the school.**

**They are polite and courteous."  
[Ofsted 2021]**





PHOTO: © PETER DURANT

## Facilities

Our school provides an outstanding environment for exceptional teaching. Learning spaces are light, airy, spacious and flexible.

The ICT infrastructure allows access to IT throughout the site and teaching rooms have soundfield systems to help students with a hearing impairment to participate in all aspects of school life. We have a well resourced library at the heart of the school.

The landscaped grounds include outside learning spaces such as an amphitheatre, science pond and allotment. Our dining hall meets a range of dietary and cultural requirements including vegetarian, halal and non halal menus.

We have the use of the adjoining leisure centre in the day, which in

addition to the main sports hall, includes a swimming pool, specialist dance studio and exercise suite. We have extensive playing fields which include two football pitches, and in summer a cricket pitch, crickets nets and athletics facilities to complement our Multiple Use Games Area.



# Curriculum

Our ethos “opening the door to success” and four core values embedded in our name DWHS (determination, wisdom, honesty, and service) together drive our intent and vision for curriculum provision and delivery.

We have a diverse curriculum which ensures that all our students receive a high-quality learning experience. In confirming our commitment to the broad and balanced principles of our curriculum we celebrate our expertise in mathematics and computing to drive excellence and innovation.

The school’s curriculum enables our students to become:

- confident, resilient individuals, who aspire to excellence and make outstanding progress leading to high quality qualifications.
- responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society including their local community and the wider international world in which they exist thereby embedding our core values of respect and co-operation.

Our curriculum at KS3 is well balanced and we offer a wide choice of subjects at KS4 and KS5. At the heart of all our work is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our young people.



**“Teachers are experts in their subjects. Leaders are ambitious for all pupils in the school.”**  
**[Ofsted 2021]**



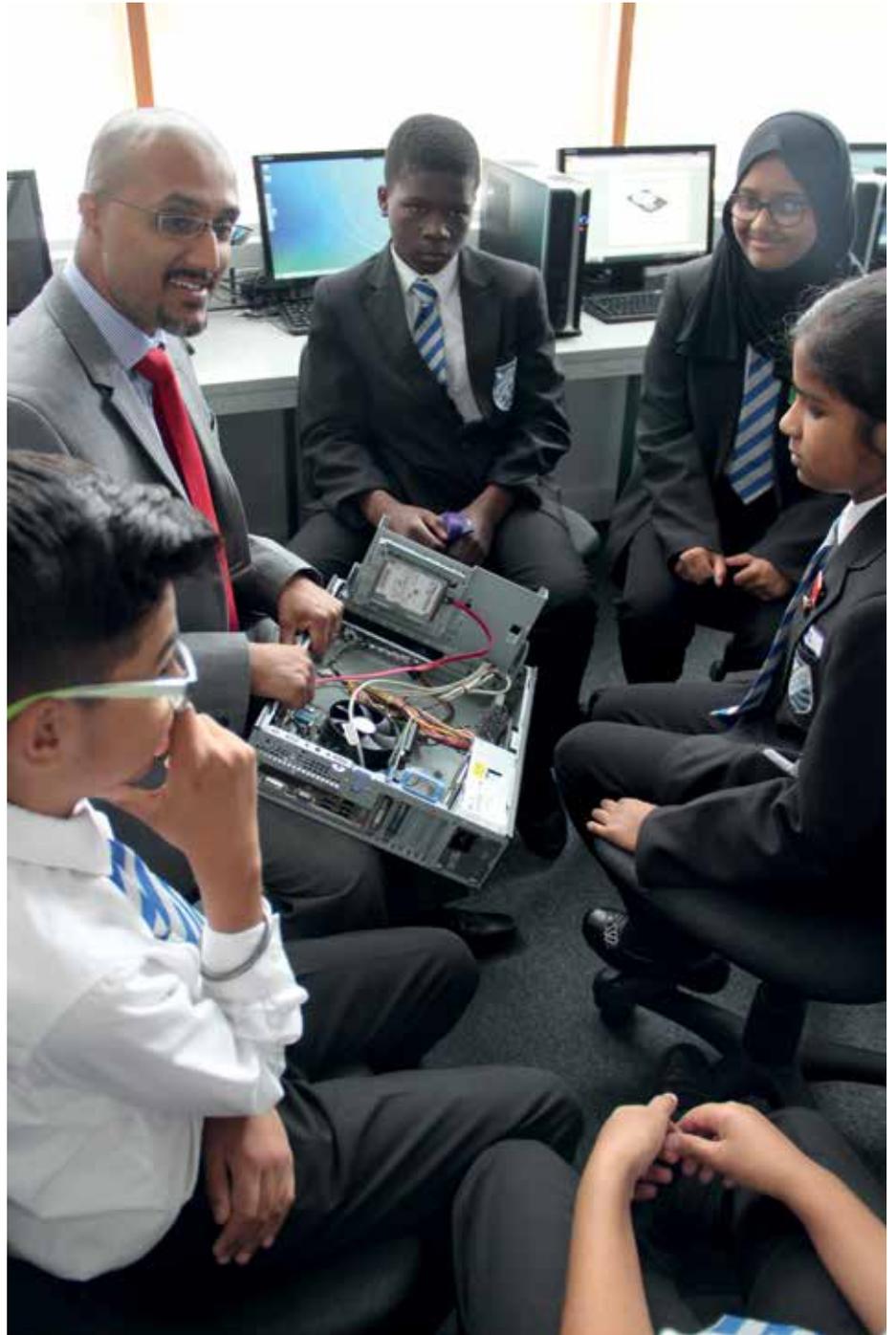
Students participate in a weekly assembly and a thought for the week, celebrating world religions and exploring philosophical concepts. Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health Education (CPSHE) including Sex and Relationship



Education (SRE) are, as with all subjects, taught with sensitivity.

Our ambitious curriculum enables students to achieving outstanding outcomes. Our Progress 8 score for 2022 was 0.89.

Further to this 83% of students achieved passes in both English and maths, with 63% achieving strong passes in both. All of these figures are significantly above the national averages.



# Supporting our students

Dormers Wells High School is an inclusive school and our commitment to the individual needs of all students is at the core of our work.

There is personalised curriculum support for students with special needs and for those learning English as an additional language. The school is fully accessible for people with disabilities, including two lifts to ensure easy access. The Hearing

Impaired Provision is supported by excellent acoustics and sound systems to provide an environment where our hearing impaired students can thrive.

Our high achieving students are stretched by a programme that

focuses on academic challenge in the classroom. This is supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities, such as public speaking, master classes, debating, mentoring, and visits to universities and workplaces.



**“Leaders have designed the curriculum to be relevant to pupils... teachers want pupils to ‘see themselves’ in the curriculum. As a result, pupils value their learning.”**

**[Ofsted 2021]**

# Staff training

Our staff are our prime asset and we are fortunate to have a very highly qualified and stable staff who are keen to develop their teaching and subject knowledge to meet the needs of our students.

We are committed to lifelong learning and professional development is a priority.

Many of our teaching staff are engaged in masters degree study. A number of our middle and senior leaders are following National College of School Leadership programmes.

**“Staff in all areas of the school feel valued by leaders as well as by pupils and parents.”**

**[Ofsted 2021]**



# Enrichment

School trips and educational visits are a powerful, positive teaching tool that enhance the social, personal and emotional development of all students and teachers.

At Dormers Wells High School, we believe learning opportunities outside the classroom enhance learning inside the classroom. We therefore offer a diverse range of enrichment activities and school trips to each year group which include:

- Residential visits
- Mathematics activities including the Year 8 Mathematics Weekend
- Educational and cultural visits organised by curriculum areas and pastoral teams
- Arts and media days
- Humanities project events
- Sporting competitions, fixtures and clubs
- Curriculum area field trips (e.g. Swanage Residential field trip in Year 10)
- Language overseas trips to France and Spain
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Business Enterprise activities
- University visits
- Dormers Wells Careers fair
- Performing Arts productions and visits
- Science week
- Guest speakers
- House competitions
- International Evening
- Jack Petchey competitions
- Computing and ICT workshops

## The Arts

We offer a wide range of opportunities for students to develop their skills and knowledge of drama outside of the classroom.

Throughout the year there are several opportunities for students to become involved in performances such as the Whole School Production in the Summer Term and a smaller scale workshop performance early in the Spring Term. The most recent school production was 'Annie'.

In recent years we have collaborated with various West End theatres to enhance our students understanding and appreciation of live theatre.

Our students also had the opportunity to participate in a dance project with the English National Ballet and this involved in-school dance workshops, a student showcase performance and a theatre trip to Sadler's Wells.



**"The enrichment week at the end of the summer term provides a variety of opportunities outside of the taught curriculum."**

**[Ofsted 2021]**



## Music in Secondary Schools Trust programme

Dormers Wells High School is proud to be one of only twenty-five schools nationally that is part of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) programme. This means that all students receive a free classical musical instrument from the school, and will learn how to play this instrument from Year 7. The programme enables students to engage with music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development. Research has shown the positive impact that learning an instrument can have on raising academic outcomes. Throughout all topics, an emphasis on perseverance, resilience and self-evaluation will help students to develop as successful learners. In addition to Music lessons, students



have the opportunity to further develop their musical talent through extra-curricular peripatetic lessons. There are also opportunities for students to audition for our school orchestra, perform at celebration

assemblies, awards evening and open evenings amongst others.

To find out more about the MiSST Andrew Lloyd Webber programme, please visit <https://www.misst.org.uk/>

## House System

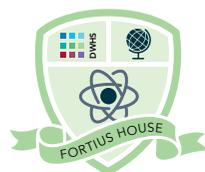
All students and staff at Dormers Wells High School are allocated to one of six Houses.

The House System promotes the qualities we want our students to aspire towards and achieve. It challenges them to get involved

with a number of school events and competitions building resilience, integrity and confidence. Membership to a House fosters a sense of belonging and identity.

The House System also promotes cohesion across different Year

groups with older students leading, supporting and inspiring younger ones. Inspiration from the Global Institute for Student Aspiration (GISA) was sought which identifies eight conditions which affect aspiration:



## CROSS CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

All students take part in a Cross-curricular Enrichment Programme every summer term where they can sign up to a 'package' of events and opportunities or trips for that week. It is an exciting week in school that provides students with new opportunities and enriches students' cultural capital.

# Sixth form

We have a thriving sixth form offering a wide range of courses which reflects our inclusive ethos. We strive for our students to achieve excellence at all levels of study. The vast majority of our level three sixth form students progress to the university of their choice.



First class guidance is offered to students at KS4 to assist them in making the right academic decision. A higher than average proportion of students progress into our sixth form. Once in the sixth form the support and guidance continues to be strong with preparation for application to university being an ongoing priority. This is facilitated by personal tutoring and through a range of specific programmes to support student applications to top universities including, Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard. Students are also successful in gaining bursaries.

Our sixth form students are fully involved in the life of the school as student leaders, mentors, academic tutors and reading buddies. They are outstanding role models for other students in the school and are actively involved in many community projects.

In addition to the wide ranging curriculum there are extensive extracurricular activities and trips including overseas educational visits.

**"Students in the sixth form are role models for younger pupils."**

**[Ofsted 2021]**

# Pastoral care

Form Tutors and Year Leaders work in partnership with parents and carers to help our students be happy and successful learners with enhanced opportunities in later life as a result of learning with us.

Student progress is monitored closely and tracked continuously. Regular progress checks, parents' evenings and student focus events allow for an effective dialogue between the school and parents and carers.

Additional guidance for students is provided through our inclusion team which includes an experienced group of learning mentors, counsellor, cognitive behaviour therapist and other professional agency support.

Our detailed pastoral curriculum gives all students a consistent and fulfilling start to the day, including a weekly assembly, a structured literacy programme, lessons on character values, careers and options guidance and revision support.

For students joining our school there is a detailed induction programme to help make the transition a positive and happy experience. For Year 6 students at the end of

the summer term our staff will visit them in their primary schools. Year 6 will be invited in to our school for a day in the summer term and parents and carers are invited to a personal meeting with senior staff.

## Home learning

The school believes home learning (homework) is very important. The amount of home learning increases steadily from Year 7 to Year 13 and students are supported to develop organisational skills and independence. Independent learning is supported through our Managed Learning Environment (MLE): DWHS Learning Resources. Here, parents and students can access centralised curriculum resources, and supplementary resources can be accessed through Teams. A range of other websites (for example GCSEPod and Educake) are used to support learning, and can be used by students to further their independent practice and revision.

## Rewards

Rewards play an integral part of school life at Dormers Wells High School. We look for every opportunity to celebrate our students' successes and we acknowledge this through our house system, rewards trips, celebration assemblies and awards evenings

## Attendance

Our attendance is high, well above the national average. There are systems in place to monitor attendance and punctuality and parents are kept informed. Excellent attendance and punctuality are recognised through our rewards system.

## Behaviour for learning

We have high expectations of behaviour for learning in lessons, around the school and outside of school. Our behaviour policy is continually reviewed and staff follow procedures consistently so that students feel safe and classroom conditions are optimal for learning.



**"Pupils are happy and feel safe."**

**[Ofsted 2021]**

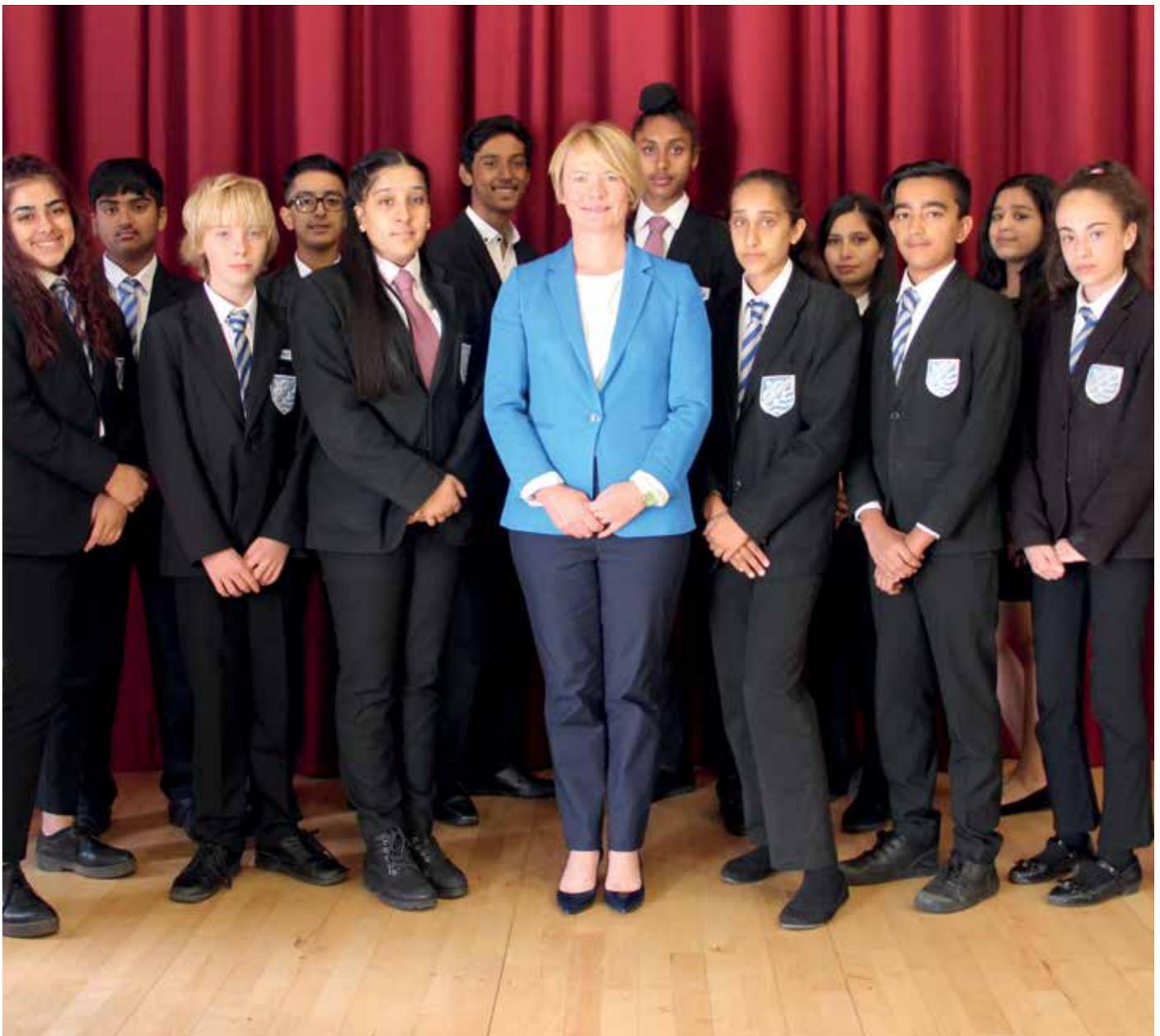
# Governance

The Governing Body led by its Chair of Governors, Ms Tan Afzal, is actively supporting the school in its constant improvement agenda.

The Governors are responsible for the overall direction of the school and work closely with us. The full Governing Body meets termly and undertake extensive additional work through committees and school visits.

**“The school’s governors and trustees maintain strong communication with the school. They challenge leaders to review and develop their ways of working.”**

**[Ofsted 2021]**







**Dormers Wells High School** | Dormers Wells Lane | Southall | Middlesex | UB1 3HZ

Tel: 020 8566 6446 | Fax: 020 8813 2411 | Email: [info@dwhs.co.uk](mailto:info@dwhs.co.uk)

<https://www.dwhs.co.uk>