

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 vour 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.



"Dormers Wells High School has 'an effective learning culture throughout the school'." [Ofsted 2015]

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









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 out Multiple Use Games Area.



Curriculum

Our curriculum at KS3 is well balanced and we offer a wide choice of subjects at KS4 and KS5, including languages and computer science. The curriculum is continuously under review.

Our specialist Maths and Computing, Applied Learning and Leading Edge status enriches our whole curriculum.

At the heart of all our work is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our young people. Students participate in a weekly assembly and a thought for the week, celebrating world

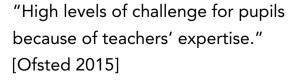
religions and exploring philosophical concepts. Citizenship, Personal, Social, Health Education (CPSHE) including Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) are, as with all subjects taught with sensitivity.

Each year 100 students are appointed as student leaders, generating ideas and contributing to the development of our school.

Fundraising, working within the local community and charitable activity enhance students sense and awareness of social responsibility.







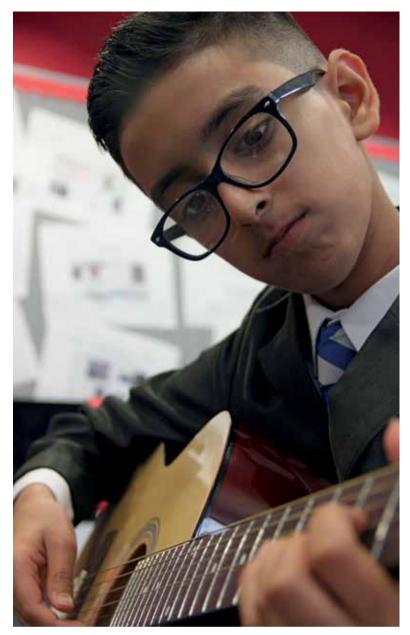














"Pupils are proud of their school."
[Ofsted 2015]





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 new school is fully accessible for people with disabilities, including two lifts to ensure easy access.

The specialist staff in our Hearing Impaired Provision are supported by excellent acoustics and sound systems to provide an environment where our hearing impaired students can thrive.

Our students have access to half term, Easter and

"Pupils are provided with opportunities to discuss issues such as bullying, radicalisation and child exploitation. Pupils know who to talk to should they be concerned about a friend or themselves. They are confident that any issues will be dealt with quickly by staff." [Ofsted 2015]

summer school workshops and activities. Our gifted and talented programme will focus on academic challenge in the classroom supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities, such as public speaking, master classes, debating and visits.

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 to 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.

The school was first awarded 'Investors in People' status in 1995 and at its most recent assessment was awarded the higher Bronze Investor in People status. This recognises continued progress in the training of our staff.



Wider opportunities

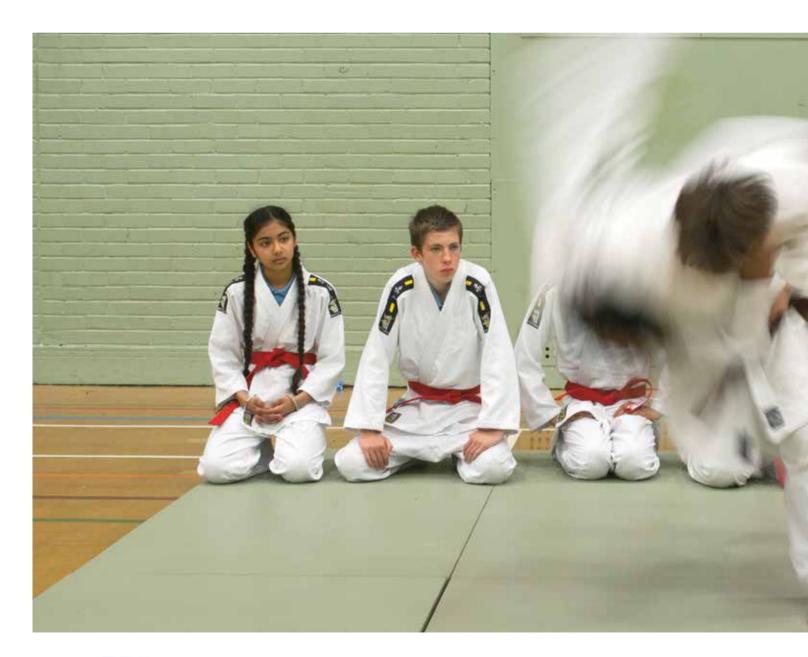
We recognise the importance of developing students' skills, confidence and self-esteem beyond the examined curriculum. Students also need opportunities to develop life skills. We offer an extensive programme of clubs and extra-curricular opportunities.

Clubs and activities include amongst others: athletics, badminton, chess, computing, cricket, film, football, handwriting, foreign language conversation, maths, science.

The Arts

Instrumental music tuition is thriving, with peripatetic teachers giving tuition in brass, cello, dhol drum, drum kit, bass guitar, guitar, singing and violin. There are regular concerts.

Whole school drama productions in recent years include, amongst others, 'Journey to the West' and 'Cinderella'. These are complemented by the annual international evening and art, media, graphics and technology exhibition. There are also regular trips to see professional theatre performances.





Field Trips

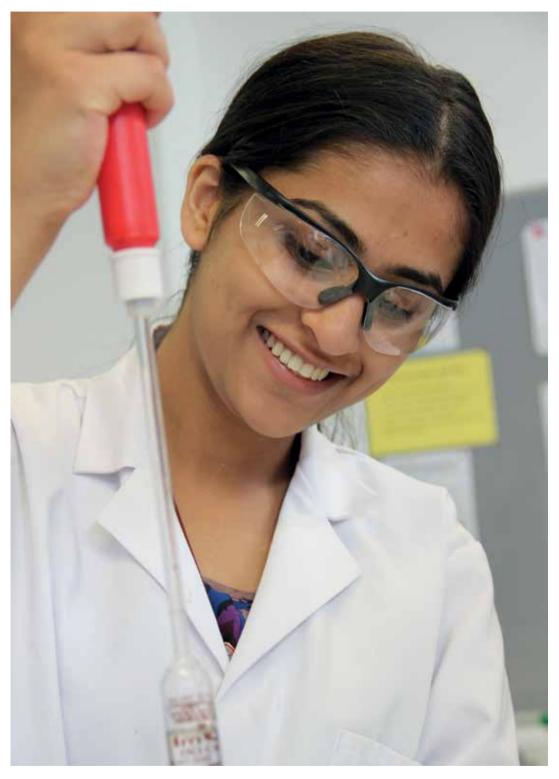
There are a number of day and residential trips including a Year 7 residential, a Year 8 maths weekend, a Year 10 geography field trip to Swanage, A' Level biology and geography field trips, and residential trips to Paris and Barcelona and to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva.

One highlight in the annual calendar is the Year 9 residential to the New Forest. With a tradition spanning over 25 years this includes camping, a night walk, and activities such as cycling, kayaking and team challenges.





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 our Triple A programme for students applying for competitive universities including, Oxford and Cambridge. Students are also successful in gaining bursaries.

Our sixth form students are fully involved in the life of the school as student leaders, mentors, sports coaches 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.

[&]quot;The inclusive Sixth Form offers a range of A Level and vocational courses. All students go on to their chosen universities."

[Ofsted 2015]

Pastoral care

Form Tutors and Year Leaders work in partnership with parents and carers to help our students be happy and successful learners.

Student progress is monitored closely and tracked continuously. Regular progress checks and two formal points of contract through academic review day and a parents consultation evening enable on going communication between schools and parents and carers.

Additional independent guidance with regard to careers and support form Learning Mentors and other professionals is also available.

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 (home work) is very important. The amount to home learning increases steadily from Year 7 to Year 13 and students are expected to develop organisational skills and independence. Independent learning is enhanced by our new Managed Learning Environment (MLE) known as Frog.

Rewards

Rewards are widely encouraged through a merit system, reward trips, end of term assemblies, prize giving and celebration evenings. Conversely inappropriate behaviour is sanctioned.

Attendance

Our attendance is high, well above the national and Ealing 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.





"Boys make better progress across a range of subjects than boys nationally." [Ofsted 2015]



Governance

TThe Governing Body led by its Chair of Governors, Mrs Tan Afsal, 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 Headteacher and her team have 'a clear vision for the school, with very high expectations of staff and pupils conduct and behaviour.'

There is a 'culture of very high aspirations for all members of the school community, underpinned by effective systems and structures.'"

[Ofsted 2015]









Dormers Wells Lane | Southall | Middlesex | UB1 3HZ

Tel: 020 8566 6446 Fax: 020 8813 2411 Email: info@dwhs.co.uk

http://www.dwhs.co.uk