

WOODHOUSE
COLLEGE

2021



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WELCOME

PROSPECTUS 2021



Based in North Finchley and drawing students from over 180 surrounding schools, Woodhouse College is one of the leading places to study A levels in London. Our consistently high performance in exam results backs this up. The government recognises us as one of a small number of colleges with both Beacon status and Ofsted Outstanding status. Our current A*-B pass rate makes us the top sixth form college in London and the third highest achieving nationally.

Our combination of expert teaching staff and an ambitious, supportive approach has proved very successful in achieving excellent academic results. We believe that sixth form college should be a stepping stone between school and university, a place where you can start to become an independent learner, and where you are supported to become the person you want to be.

We provide a happy, trusting and caring environment where you can challenge yourself and explore a whole range of opportunities. Woodhouse is as much about personal growth as it is about exam success.

Woodhouse College boasts some of the best facilities in the area and promotes an extensive recreational and academic enrichment programme. At our heart is an impressive pastoral care system, and our tutorial, guidance and support systems will help you steer a safe course through your A levels and beyond.

Our students are ambitious: they embrace the challenge to be the best they can be, both inside and outside the classroom.



OUR COLLEGE



ABOUT ME

I have been principal at Woodhouse College since January 2013. My vision for the college is of academic excellence in a caring community.

The secret of our success is our high expectations: staff expect much from students, and students likewise of themselves. This is not a place where you have to hide your ambitions, your hard work or your desire to do well. We stress to students that they are professional learners: that is their job, and we expect perfect attendance and punctuality, an excellent attitude and high standards of work.

But it is also a thriving and lively community, a place of endless opportunity unrivalled by any state sixth form, where students can grow personally and become the person they want to be. Through taking part in Duke of Edinburgh, Model UN, sports teams, volunteering, all the different trips and hundreds of other activities, students are challenging themselves in different ways, meeting new people, and developing different skills.

I still teach; I have one set (five hours a week) of A level maths. I love teaching and wouldn't want to stop. Next year I will be teaching a Year 12 set, so I could be teaching you.

I was a part-time Ofsted inspector for many years; I gave it up a few years ago because I felt it was taking me out of college too much. Perhaps as a result of my inspection experiences, I am very self-critical, always looking to change and improve things, and I think the same is true of our staff as a whole. If students and parents have concerns, we are always happy to hear them and discuss them as a means to improve what we do.

I am a Woodhouse parent, at least I was. My two daughters both came here, both went off to university (one maths and one music, since you ask). Perhaps as a result, I understand that students come here with worries and anxieties about making new friends and retaining old friendship groups. We try to help them settle in, for example through our induction week for Year 12 in September, when the new students have the place to themselves for a week.

OUR VALUES

We are a liberal college with liberal values. We believe in personal responsibility and courtesy and acceptance of others. We are proud that our students, who come from over 180 different schools across north London and are of many different races and religions, mix so well and form such a cohesive community.

We are proud to have an active LGBT student group, that so many students have Stonewall stickers on the back of their ID, and proud that we have a feminist group in the college too. And we do not accept language or behaviour that is homophobic, misogynistic, Islamophobic or antisemitic.

Most of all, we are proud that when our students leave, they leave with gushings of affection for each other and the college, and they stay in touch, coming back to see us and to mentor our students, join our alumni organisation and follow our social media. It really is true that 'once a Woodhouse student, always a Woodhouse student'.

“Our aim is for all our students to leave after two fantastic years as confident young people, able to stand on their own two feet, independent learners but also socially self-assured”

JOHN RUBINSTEIN
Principal, Woodhouse College

John graduated from Sheffield University with a first-class degree in pure mathematics. He has been teaching for 30 years. He first joined Woodhouse College as head of maths in 1994. After leaving Woodhouse, he returned as vice-principal in 2008 and was subsequently promoted to principal in 2013. He was also a part-time Ofsted inspector from 2001–2015.

OUR PRINCIPAL



A LEVEL RESULTS 2020

A LEVEL SUBJECT	ENTRY	A*	A*-A	A*-B	PASS
ART & DESIGN	46	24%	65%	98%	100%
BIOLOGY	202	11%	34%	67%	100%
BUSINESS	21	14%	52%	95%	100%
CHEMISTRY	227	8%	31%	67%	100%
CLASSICAL CIVILISATION	23	9%	52%	83%	100%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	27	11%	30%	63%	100%
DRAMA & THEATRE	30	20%	60%	90%	100%
ECONOMICS	134	16%	43%	74%	100%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	32	13%	47%	91%	100%
ENGLISH LITERATURE	146	16%	47%	85%	100%
EXTENDED PROJECT	49	37%	53%	73%	100%
FRENCH	41	15%	54%	80%	100%
FURTHER MATHEMATICS	41	41%	76%	90%	100%
GEOGRAPHY	48	17%	38%	77%	100%
GERMAN	14	21%	50%	86%	100%
HISTORY	133	12%	45%	79%	100%
LAW	19	21%	63%	95%	100%
MATHEMATICS	360	25%	49%	69%	98%
MUSIC	6	0%	33%	67%	100%
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	8	13%	25%	63%	100%
PHILOSOPHY	40	18%	45%	83%	100%
PHYSICS	115	15%	43%	72%	100%
POLITICS	84	26%	58%	82%	100%
PSYCHOLOGY	150	11%	42%	69%	100%
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	14	14%	50%	64%	100%
SOCIOLOGY	75	27%	63%	87%	100%
SPANISH	40	28%	78%	88%	100%
OVERALL		17%	46%	75%	99.9%

OUR RESULTS

WOODHOUSE COLLEGE									
Candidate Statement of Provisional Results - 2019									
Centre No.									
Candidate No.	Student ID	Full Name							
		ELLE-MAE							
Awarding Body	Series	Subject Code	Paper Title	Mark/UMS	Subject Grade	Paper Grade			
QA	SA19	7192	SOCIOLOGY ADV	213	A*				
EDXCEL	8C19	8C09	DRAMA AND THEATRE	263	A*				
EDXCEL	8C19	8C09 01	DEVISING	45					
EDXCEL	8C19	8C09 02	TEXT IN PERFORMANCE	95					
EDXCEL	8C19	8C09 03	THEATRE MAKERS IN PRAC.	206	A*				
QA	SA19	AS10U01	Business A level	87					
QA	SA19	AS10U01-1	Business Component 1 Opportunities	59					
QA	SA19	AS10U02-1	Business Component 2 Analysis/Strat	70					
QA	SA19	AS10U03-1	Business Component 3 Changing World						

WOODHOUSE COLLEGE									
Candidate Statement of Provisional Results - 2019									
Centre No.									
Candidate No.	Student ID	Full Name							
		SEDA							
Awarding Body	Series	Subject Code	Paper Title	Mark/UMS	Subject Grade	Paper Grade			
QA	SA19	7192	LAW ADV OPTION B	220	A*				
QA	SA19	7192	PSYCHOLOGY ADV	220	A*				
QA	SA19	7192	SOCIOLOGY ADV	206	A*				

Elle-Mae (A*A*A*) went to Durham to study Business Management
Seda (A*A*A*) went to Nottingham to study Psychology (2019 results)

OUR LEAVERS IN 2020

MOST POPULAR UNIVERSITIES	Nos
KING'S COLLEGE LONDON	48
QUEEN MARY, LONDON	48
NOTTINGHAM	40
UCL	31
CITY, LONDON	25
WARWICK	23
LEEDS	21
MANCHESTER	21
SUSSEX	20
EAST ANGLIA UEA	15

10 MOST POPULAR DEGREES
LAW
ECONOMICS
PSYCHOLOGY
PHYSICS
MEDICINE
PHARMACY
ENGLISH
HISTORY
MATHEMATICS
POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

60% WENT TO RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITIES

22 WENT TO OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE

30 WENT TO MEDICAL SCHOOLS



Pemi left Woodhouse in 2016 with A*A*A*. She graduated from Cambridge University in summer 2019 with a first-class honours degree in HSPS - Human Social and Political Sciences.

“Woodhouse was the first place I truly felt I could express myself both in student politics and in the classroom and I will forever be grateful to the college.”

PEMI
Cambridge University

SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY

Starting your A levels is an exciting time for you. We will help you settle quickly into college life and support you to become an independent learner who takes responsibility for your own learning. We have excellent systems in place to ensure you make as much academic progress as possible and achieve your potential.

Here are some of the teams we have in place to ensure you are supported all the way through your studies:

PERSONAL TUTORS

Your personal tutor will be your first point of contact. They will have a clear overview of your academic and personal development and will support you on your way to success.

SENIOR TUTORS

Your senior tutor liaises with your personal tutor, teachers and other members of the student services team to help you overcome any barriers to learning that may impact on your progress.

STUDENT PROGRESS MANAGERS

Progress Managers help students with organisation, study skills and motivation to help you achieve your goals

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

If you have a different or additional learning need, you can receive extra help including individual study support, dyslexia screening and assessment, assistive technology or access arrangements.

CAREERS SERVICE

Our careers adviser will provide you with 1–1 information, advice and guidance about applying to university or other destinations, as well as helping with work experience applications and gap year options.

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

We take attendance seriously and the attendance team must be notified of all absences.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

We strongly believe in promoting health and welfare at Woodhouse. We have a safeguarding team to support students which makes referrals to our confidential counselling service and external agencies.

HARMONY
St Helen's School

MAGGIE
the Woodhouse wellbeing dog

STUDENT PROGRESS



Woodhouse Plus is our extensive and diverse extracurricular programme, offering a wide range of additional courses you can take alongside your A levels. You can build your skills, build your career or build your qualifications.

W+ SKILLS

These courses are designed to develop skills you can use in a range of situations. Employers always seek people who can do things well, whether it is teamwork, solving problems, listening or organising. Courses currently on offer include:

Volunteering to help others and develop your own skills at the same time. It's a win-win.

Debating / mock trials Learn how to debate, build strong arguments and spot how people try to persuade you.

Part-time work Register your part-time work and use this time to develop your employability skills.

Musical theatre Contribute to a musical production and learn performance, management and team skills.

Community development in South Africa Raise funds and awareness about development issues in this international link with South Africa.

Creative courses Develop your writing, film-making or photography skills.

Sports leadership Develop your leadership skills by running activities and encouraging other students to be involved.

W+ CAREERS

This is for you if you already know the direction you want to head in after Woodhouse. It includes courses designed to make your career choice more accessible to you. You will learn about the area you are interested in, the range of possible careers and how to access top degree courses.

Medicine Academy Learn how to get onto medicine courses and become a doctor.

Art / Architecture Academy Develop the portfolio you need to access art or architecture courses for a creative career.

Journalism Academy Build your journalistic experience so that you can demonstrate you should be chosen for a related career or degree.

Chemistry Academy Learn how scientists think by devising and carrying out experiments.

Maths Academy Develop your maths or physics problem solving at the highest levels so you can compete with the best.

Oxbridge Academy Build your intellect and capacity to apply successfully for the most demanding university courses.

Law Academy Develop your understanding of legal career possibilities and equip yourself to apply for them as well as law degrees.

Career Ready (business) Follow a programme supported by employers which includes visits, mentoring, workshops and an internship.

History Academy Develop your skills as a critical historian by immersing yourself in some of the past's deepest questions.

W+ QUALIFICATIONS

These are additional courses that you can study alongside your A levels. Maybe you want to learn about something very individual so might consider the EPQ. Maybe you would like to take a high level online course, or challenge yourself by doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) Design and research a project on more or less anything that is interesting and that takes you into 'new territory'.

MOOC Take a Massive Open Online Course. There are thousands to choose from.

Duke of Edinburgh (Silver or Gold) Develop in a rounded way through volunteering, physical activity and the famous expedition.

A fourth A level If you are already taking four subjects, this counts for Woodhouse Plus and you would not be expected to do more... but you can.

AS level Dance Add a more physical dimension to your formal qualifications.

WOODHOUSE PLUS



W+ SKILLS

Students taking part in Woodhouse Plus in South Africa.
Blyde River Canyon, Mpumalanga, SA - Summer 2019

MEDICINE ACADEMY

INTERNAL PROGRAMMES

Discussion of medical ethics with case scenarios.

Studying the structure of the NHS, its history and limitations.

Discussion of topical and current issues related to the medicine and science field as well as book reviews.

Students are kept informed of opportunities for work experience and references are written to various institutions to support their applications.

Extensive support is given to the students with writing their personal statements.

Interview support.

Students get the opportunity to listen to external speakers both at Woodhouse and other institutions.

Workshops that enhance surgical/clinical skills are hosted at Woodhouse & other venues.

Preparation for medical schools' entrance exams: BMAT & UKCAT.

EXTERNAL PROGRAMMES

These schemes are very competitive but, despite this, our students have managed to secure places at the following:

University College London (UCL) target medicine programme, which also includes work experience.

King's College K+ mentoring programme. Queen Mary mentoring programme – SAMDA. E-mentoring at Imperial College.

Cambridge University master classes in medicine

King's College Med-View summer course for medicine and dentistry, which includes placements at hospitals and GP practices.

The Nuffield Foundation summer placements at the National Institute for Medical Research.

A variety of medicine and medicine-related taster courses and summer schools at various universities, notably Imperial College, St. George's and UCL.

The Woodhouse Medicine Academy is made up of students who demonstrate excellent potential to be successful in the medical schools application process. Academy meetings involve preparation, mentoring and support.

This total immersion in the culture of medicine is paying off and Woodhouse offers for medicine-related degrees are increasing year-on-year.

In 2020, 30 students in our Medicine Academy managed to secure multiple offers from various medical schools.

W+ CAREERS

There are plenty of activities for students to take part in, as well as volunteer to lead.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

'Healthy body, healthy mind' is a mantra we take to heart here, and ensure that our students do too. Our dedicated physical activities manager leads our Woodhouse Active programme, connecting students with a diverse range of sports and fitness activities such as badminton, martial arts, basketball, football, trampolining and fitness classes.

With a state-of-the-art floodlit 3G football pitch, our teams can be proud of their home turf. And our sprung-floored gymnasium with basketball court is fully equipped for badminton, trampolining, volleyball, parkour... you name it. Add to that our purpose-built dance studio and we've got fitness covered.

W+ SKILLS



OXBRIDGE



Our principal personally oversees a support system that includes two dedicated Oxbridge coordinators. We call it Oxbridge Academy.

Our programme starts a year before applications take place. We encourage students to start the process of engaging with their subject beyond the A level syllabus. This includes joining study groups to discuss texts and articles or solve problems that go beyond the demands of normal classwork. We organise and oversee trips, visiting speakers and summer schools as part of a comprehensive programme that mostly focuses

on specific subject areas. We also benefit from lots of ex-students currently at Oxford and Cambridge coming back to give talks and offer advice.

We bring in admissions tutors from Oxford and Cambridge and invite students and parents to come and find out more about the whole process and ask questions.

Many subjects have special entry examinations in early November of Year 13, so we offer specialist subject support for these. We also assist those students who have to take a thinking skills test. Additional

support is available for those taking the Cambridge maths STEP paper, which is taken after the A level exams.

The principal checks and gives feedback on all Oxbridge personal statements, as do our subject specialists.

We have close links with Oxford and Cambridge, and we use these to give support for students preparing for interview. Our links with two independent schools (Harrow and Highgate) are also very useful for interview practice. We also hold a special Oxbridge preparation school

in October half term, as well as a number of other workshops and mock interviews run by our teachers and a range of external experts.

Our track record from offer to exam success and then acceptance is very high, but obviously not all students get an offer. Our application-to-offer conversion rate compares well nationally and we strive each year to forge further Oxbridge links for our students.

In 2020, 28 of our students received an Oxbridge offer and 22 qualified and took up their place.

CAREER READY



Career Ready is a national charity linking employers with schools and colleges to open up the world of work to young people. Woodhouse College runs a very successful Career Ready business academy that is rated in the top ten in the UK.

We offer a structured programme of activities that sits alongside college studies. It is delivered by employer volunteers who provide masterclasses, mentoring, workplace visits and internships

to help our students compete with the best in the country.

Career Ready gives students the confidence, skills and networks to achieve their potential. Through volunteering for Career Ready employers get the chance to develop their own management skills and find the next generation of talented employees.

A Career Ready LAB (Local Advisory Board) is the essential link between the college and

local employers and consists of members of Woodhouse staff and business professionals.

Each student gets a mentor and we have secured many high calibre mentors from organisations such as YouGov, Accenture and HSBC, as well as from fields like advertising, finance, employment training and even motivational speakers.

Students take regular trips to businesses such as Pentland Brands and Barclays Bank for

coaching and office tours.

Visiting speakers cover all the key elements of the students' career development – the practical, the subject-based, the inspirational and the motivational – and college-based workshops reinforce these areas.

Students attend workshops on resilience, assertiveness, negotiation skills and even how to create a good LinkedIn profile.

W+ CAREERS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

SILVER & GOLD AWARD

We have been participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme for ten years and it has been a great success. Around 60 students take part every year and they really enjoy the challenge, especially the camping expeditions, where they hike 50k+ with full backpacks across the North

and South Downs for Silver, and in the Lake District for Gold.

The team spirit and camaraderie stay with students when they return and they develop strength of character and, often, enduring friendships.

W+ QUALS



It was once written that 'an ounce of experience is worth a pound of science'. Whilst we wouldn't wish to denigrate the hard work of our science students, we do still believe that trips often enhance and accelerate a student's understanding of the world. That is why we actively encourage staff to organise visits and overseas trips to as many far-flung destinations as possible.

Recent international activities have included our annual trips to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva for physics students, a combined geography and biology trip to Iceland, as well as a snowboarding trip to Italy. Classics students visited Rome, while our linguists went to France, Spain and Germany. 2019 also saw our very first trip to South Africa.



INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Students on our Spanish language
trip to Valencia 2019

WHY EPQ?

The level 3 extended project qualification – EPQ – helps students become ‘hands-on’ researchers and is excellent preparation for university. It is worth half an A level and the subject you choose is completely up to you. You might want to deepen your knowledge of an A level subject or choose something which sits outside of your academic subjects altogether. Some students research and write academic essays – a bit like mini-dissertations – while others complete product projects such as short novels, films, inventions or designs.

If you choose the EPQ, we will teach you how to plan, research and complete your project. You will develop your presentation and evaluation skills too.

Examples of product projects:

- To what extent did Fred Goodwin contribute to the collapse of RBS in 2008?
- How women betray and are betrayed by the patriarchy in Greek tragedy.
- Does rule by philosopher kings work?
- How is climate change affecting the frequency and distribution of malaria and other tropical diseases?
- To what extent does music therapy help the symptoms of dementia in the elderly?

Examples of artefacts

- Exploring aerodynamic effects - via the construction of a wind tunnel.
- An artistic celebration of the achievements in modern physics.
- Creating an effective acoustic levitator.
- Planning and writing a YA novella using a mixture of genres.

“My EPQ is a dissertation entitled ‘To what extent does generative grammar explain this juncture of human language.’

Doing the EPQ allows me to understand what independent research and dissertation writing is really like, as it’s fundamental to university study.

There’s help from my EPQ supervisors, who I can email anytime with questions. They read through my drafts and give me extremely helpful, detailed, specific and practical notes.

At Woodhouse there’s more of a sense that you are a young adult with responsibilities. You have the breathing space to structure and organise your own way of working.”

GREG
from Wren Academy

EXTENDED PROJECT



W+ QUALS

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

WHO CAN APPLY?

The college is for 16-18 year olds. Almost all of our students are 16 when they start the academic year, and they come to us straight from Year 11. We only offer full-time A level courses. We consider ourselves to be a sixth form college for north London and its environs, and we do not prioritise applicants who live in particular boroughs. However, we prefer to offer places to those who live within a reasonable travelling distance.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO APPLY?

We specify particular GCSE grades in specific subjects; at least a 5 in English Language and 5 in Mathematics, and an average score across the best 8 GCSE subjects (including English Language and Mathematics) as follows:

3 A levels: 6.0

4 A levels: 7.5

Note that these are the minimum average GCSE scores required.

HOW MANY SUBJECTS DO I PICK?

3 or 4 A levels. Around 90% of our students are likely to study 3 A levels. The other 10% will study 4 A level courses. In order to be allowed to do this

however, you have to achieve a higher threshold of grades than you do for the 3 A level programme.

HOW MANY PLACES ARE AVAILABLE?

We enrol over 700 students from schools in and around north London. We prioritise applicants from our partner schools, The Archer Academy, Friern Barnet School, but they still have to meet the same entry requirements as everyone else. We also prioritise looked-after children and care-leavers. We know that not all students offered a place will actually come: some fail to get the grades, others choose to stay at their own school sixth form or go elsewhere. So we offer more places than we actually have.

WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED FOR OFFERING PLACES?

The criteria include your academic potential, journey to college, school report, combination of subjects, as well as your contribution to your current school and participation in extra-curricular activity. Please be aware that in recent years the college has been heavily oversubscribed in some subjects and so, we cannot guarantee to offer a place to all applicants who meet our minimum criteria.

WHEN WILL I HEAR WHETHER I HAVE A CONDITIONAL PLACE OR NOT?

We aim to let everyone know the outcome of their application by early March.

CAN I CHANGE SUBJECTS AFTER I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

If you would like to change subjects, please email admissions@woodhouse.ac.uk informing us which subjects you wish to change as soon as possible.

CAN I CHANGE SUBJECTS AFTER I HAVE BEEN OFFERED A PLACE?

We will do our best to accommodate you but cannot guarantee this since other subjects may be full. We would also need to consider your (predicted) grade profile. Likewise, if you wish to change courses following the publication of GCSE results we will do what we can to facilitate your request.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT REACH THE OFFER CONDITIONS?

You may lose your place, but in some cases students who narrowly miss the offer grades

are accepted if we can fit them in. Sometimes we have to renegotiate the course. Note that all students are expected to have passed GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade 5 or above.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DECIDE NOT TO TAKE UP MY PLACE?

You would need to email admissions@woodhouse.ac.uk at any time during the admissions and registration process.

IF I GET A WAITING LIST PLACE WHAT ARE MY CHANCES?

This varies from year to year and often depends on which subjects have been requested. It is not possible to put any sort of figure on this. The more flexible you are about your subject choices, the more likely it is that we can fit you in. If you are keen to have a place, let us know after the GCSE results are published.

ARE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED IN DATE ORDER?

No, applications received before the deadline are all treated equally. However, we cannot process your application until we have received the report from your school.

APPLICATION FAQs

CAN I APPLY AFTER I RECEIVE MY GCSE RESULTS IN AUGUST?

Yes, by filling a 'New Application' form which can be downloaded from our website. You then need to scan and email the completed form and a copy of your statement of results to admissions@woodhouse.ac.uk. You must still have met our minimum entry criteria, and we would need to see a school reference or report. We consider students from our waiting list before new applications.

CAN I SEE MY SCHOOL REFERENCE?

No, we have asked for a confidential school report so we will not let you see this. Should you have any concerns about your reference, you would need to discuss this with your school.

IF I CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT A COURSE ONCE I HAVE STARTED CAN I CHANGE?

This may be possible but any changes must be requested quickly and will depend on space availability and your grade profile. Your personal tutors and other staff will support you in this.

DO WE OPERATE ANY QUOTAS WHEN SELECTING STUDENTS?

No, each applicant is judged on their merits and we operate no quotas of any sort.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A SUBJECT IS CANCELLED?

This happens very rarely. If we have to withdraw a subject we would do our utmost to provide you with a suitable alternative.

I CURRENTLY LIVE OVERSEAS, CAN I APPLY?

If you are returning to the UK by August 2021 and will be living with a parent who has the right to remain in the UK for the full duration of your course, then we can consider your application. If you are not studying GCSE/IGCSE, then you will need to get a 'statement of compatibility' from UK NARIC.

I WISH TO COME TO THE UK JUST TO STUDY, CAN I APPLY?

We do not hold Tier 4 sponsorship with the UK Border Agency and therefore are unable to consider students in this category.

ARE THERE ANY FEES?

The college is funded directly by the government and is free to UK/EU citizens. However, with the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, educational funding may cease for EU citizens. We do require a text book deposit of £50. This allows us to issue students with free textbooks and to lend out library books and laptops. The deposit is returnable at the end of the course, on condition that all outstanding text books are returned.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

November / December 2020
Thursday 5th November online applications open at 10:00am.
Apply via our website.

January 2021
Applications close at noon on Monday 11th January

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

July 2021
TBC. Introductory day for new students

August 2021
Thursday 26th August
Enrolment

September 2021
Friday 3rd September
Term commences

WHY ART AND DESIGN?

A level art and design provides a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their creative talents. One in every six jobs in the UK held by graduates is in the creative economy, showing the importance of art as a subject.

Art students at Woodhouse develop their creativity and produce a diverse range of creative work. Essential skills in drawing, painting, print, 3D, problem-solving, research, critical analysis, experimenting and presentation are all a part of the course. Many of these skills are transferable across other subjects and are highly valuable in all areas of education and work.

More than 50% of art students progress onto creative courses such as architecture, history of art, animation, and art and design foundation. This includes institutions such as UCL (the Bartlett School of Architecture), the Courtauld Institute of Art, Central Saint Martins and many others. Many art students also progress onto non-art-related degree courses.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Personal investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students produce a portfolio of work over a number of weeks including supporting work and final pieceThis will also include a written personal study of 1,000 to 3,000 words	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">marked out of 72marked out of 18	60%
Externally set assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students produce a portfolio of work over many weeks, then produce an unaided piece of work in a timed exam	Exam 15hrs	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE art or applied art. Portfolio required to judge suitability if art not taken or predicted below 6 at GCSE		

COURSE CONTENT

The course centres mostly on fine-art approaches and in year one you will explore techniques from a variety of stimuli while completing practical projects. This will include man-made and natural forms, the human figure, landscape, architecture and other starting points.

Your art skills and techniques will develop through taught workshops and research. You will learn to analyse the work of well-known artists and develop personal themes, producing final outcomes that show your skills and ideas. These can be in the form of sculptures, paintings, mixed-media work, textiles, ceramics and other forms.

In year two, students have the opportunity to develop their own project ideas using all the skills acquired in year one.

“The workload is definitely a big jump from GCSE but here, teachers let you express yourself, it’s more personal. I want to do architecture and things like sketching first-hand and thinking about the meaning and reasons of why you create something is going to help me.

Classes feel a lot more interactive. You’re around everyone’s work, discussing what’s good about it, supporting each other.

Woodhouse is known for getting really good grades, but the social aspect isn’t lost. You meet people from many different backgrounds and learn so much about other cultures, it’s really good.”

STAVRI
Oasis Academy Enfield

ART & DESIGN



WHY BIOLOGY?

You'll learn about the complexity and diversity of life in such detail that you'll become an expert in plant, bacterial and animal physiologies. Successful students will become problem-solvers, logical thinkers, and will be able to apply their advanced biological knowledge to unfamiliar contexts. Twelve compulsory experiments will produce practical scientists who can analyse data and evaluate methodologies expertly.

Many students go on to study biological, chemical, or environmental sciences. Others pursue courses in psychology, physiology, or sport sciences. Students with exceptional GCSE and A level grades go on to study the biological or natural sciences at Oxford or Cambridge, or vocational courses like medicine, veterinary sciences or dentistry. Visits, guest speakers, essay competitions, university summer schools and the Biology Olympiad are all available to our students.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molecules • Cells • Exchange • Diversity 	Exam 2hrs. 91 marks. Short and long questions with an extended response question of 15 marks	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Response • Genetics • Genetic control 	Exam 2hrs. 91 marks. Short and long questions with a comprehension question of 15 marks	35%
Examines all eight topics through questions and an essay	Exam 2hrs. 78 marks. Short and long questions with an essay of 25 marks	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grades 7+6 in GCSE science combined trilogy, or 7+6+6 in GCSE biology, chemistry and physics (separate sciences). Grade 6 in GCSE maths and Grade 6 in English language. Recommend study – another science and/or maths. BTEC Science is not a suitable entry qualification.		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll begin with an in-depth analysis of the chemistry of biological molecules, then cellular biology, along with the functions of up to ten intra-cellular structures.

From the microscopic to much larger systems, the transportation systems of plants, insects, fish and mammals are studied. Larger still, you'll learn how diversity emerges in whole populations due to mutation and natural selection.

The biochemistry of photosynthesis and respiration in ecosystems comes next, then homeostasis and the nervous systems of individual organisms.

Ending where you began – at the molecular level – genetics, inheritance and the control of gene expression complete the course and this prepares you for studying the biological sciences at university.

“It is very different to GCSE, there’s a lot more detail and that’s why I like it.

Teachers here are mostly specialists. Genetics is my point of interest in biology and my teacher has a Masters in genetics. He talks about it passionately and that really gets me involved in learning.

There’s a very welcoming atmosphere. I made lots of friends instantly and the community is fantastic.”

EMILE

Finchley Catholic High School

BIOLOGY



WHY BUSINESS?

This course introduces you to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. You'll develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment.

You'll have the opportunity to apply for a place on our Career Ready programme which includes talks by guru lecturers, visits, work experience and links with mentors in the world of work.

A degree in this subject is a traditional route to a range of careers in business management, international business and other business related courses at Russell Group universities. Many business students also take advantage of school leaver schemes and apprenticeships.

COURSE CONTENT

The focus of this course is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing learners to develop an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to a global perspective.

Through three main components – business opportunities and functions, business analysis and strategy, and business in a changing world – you'll gain an understanding of the important role played by small businesses in the economy and the opportunities that exist for entrepreneurs, as well as the importance of established business and not-for-profit organisations in providing goods and services.

“Everything you learn in business you can use in your life. It prepares you for the business world.

Moving from GCSE Business to A level felt comfortable because a lot of the topics are similar, but you expand on them and learn about them in more depth.

We’ve never felt out of place at Woodhouse. It feels like a big family and we all take care of each other here.”

EXAM BOARD – WJEC EDUQAS		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Business opportunities and functions	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Business analysis and strategy	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Business in a changing world	Exam 2hrs 15mins 80 marks	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE business if taken. Grade 6 in GCSE maths and 5 in English language.		

MARIA & SOPHIA
Friern Barnet School

BUSINESS



WHY CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry A level will inspire and nurture your passion for the subject and lay the groundwork for further study. It is important that you like and are confident in mathematics, as 20% of the course involves the application of maths. Students gain many transferable skills such as logical thinking, problem solving, team work, communication and independent study skills, and develop their ability to apply their scientific knowledge and these skills to unfamiliar contexts.

Many students go on to study medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, biomedical sciences, pharmacy and chemical engineering. Those with exceptional grades go on to study chemistry or natural sciences at Oxford or Cambridge or vocational courses like medicine, veterinary sciences or dentistry. The Chemistry in Action conference, Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, summer schools, the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, guest speakers, and an expedition to Iceland are all available to our students. We also run a spectroscopy workshop and take groups of students to UCL.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant physical chemistry topics• Inorganic chemistry• Relevant practical skills	Exam 2hrs. 105 marks. Short and long questions	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant physical chemistry topics• Organic chemistry• Relevant practical skills	Exam 2hrs. 105 marks. Short and long questions	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any content and any practical skills may be assessed	Exam 2hrs. 90 marks. (40 - practical techniques and data analysis, 20 - testing across the specification, 30 - multiple choice)	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grades 7+6 in GCSE science combined trilogy, or 7+6+6 in GCSE biology, chemistry and physics (separate sciences). Grade 6 in GCSE maths and 5 in English language. Recommend study – another science and/or maths. BTEC Science is not a suitable entry qualification.		

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into three disciplines:

Physical chemistry topics: atomic structure, amount of substance, bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibria, redox and electrode potentials.

Inorganic chemistry topics: groups 2 and 7, periodicity, transition metals and reactions of ions in aqueous solution.

Organic chemistry topics: functional group chemistry, mechanisms, isomerism, polymers, proteins and DNA, organic synthesis and analysis.

“It is harder than GCSE, there was a big jump. But the way the topics link and the way they are structured... you kind of build up to the harder stuff. We are looking at things with more understanding and developing what we’ve learned.”

Students here are way more academic and focused. It’s really interesting to make new friends and speak to people that have the same interests as you and actually care about what they are learning.”

CHEMISTRY



WHY CLASSICAL CIVILISATION?

Studying A level classical civilisation at Woodhouse will provide you with an opportunity to learn about ancient history and literature from both Greece and Rome, and their surrounding worlds. You will have the opportunity to study a wide range of topics, with an emphasis on responding critically to and engaging with a wealth of sources and ideas, developing analytical skills readily transferable to other subjects and further study of the classical world. During the course you'll benefit from study days, with the opportunity to attend lectures given by renowned classicists, as well as hear talks by former students and take trips to museums and galleries.

In recent years, many Woodhouse students have gone on to study classical civilisation or a closely related degree course at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. A good degree in this subject will open doors and allow you to pursue a career in a variety of fields such as law, the media, the civil service and business.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
The World of the hero A compulsory component comprising an in-depth study of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homer's Iliad or Odyssey• Virgil's Aeneid	Exam 100 marks 2hrs 20mins	40%
Culture and the arts Possible topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imperial image and invention of the barbarian	Exam 75 marks 1hr 45mins	30%
Beliefs and ideas Possible topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greek religion, politics of the Roman Republic, and love and relationships	Exam 75 marks 1hr 45mins	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English language and 5 in maths.		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study both Greece and Rome and their surrounding worlds through topics such as heroism, epic literature, the invention of the barbarian, politics and religion, and love and beliefs. You will study material from both Greece and Rome drawn from diverse time periods ranging from Archaic Greece to Imperial Rome. This material will encompass aspects of literature, visual/material culture and classical thought in their respective social, historical and cultural contexts. You will analyse a range of evidence, and use this to form substantiated judgments and responses.

“I’ve always enjoyed mythology and going to museums. I thought taking a brand new subject would be daunting, but I’ve completely loved it.

People think that classics belongs to a dead civilisation, but what I find interesting is putting modern perspectives and interpretations on to the ancient texts to see how they influence our world now.

I was nervous about coming here as I didn’t know anyone – it was a big shock and very different to school. But I have made my best friends and now have great balance in my life.

It feels like a very professional environment and everyone is here to learn. It’s very inspiring and motivating.”

HANNAH
Jewish Community Secondary School

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION



WHY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The only constant in computer science is change – new devices and apps appear daily. Computer programs control the internet of things – your washing machine, your heating and electricity, your location on Google, your car... A good programmer will never be out of a job! We'll challenge you to think computationally and to approach problems methodically. You'll program and design systems using an algorithmic approach, and develop an understanding of the powers and limitations of humans and machines by learning their principles of operation.

Students progress to Russell Group universities or take up apprenticeships with leading companies to become programmers, computer engineers, big data analysts, computer game designers or specialists in the telecommunications industry.

You'll use gadgets such as Arduino, Raspberry Pi and Lego Mindstorm, and attend coding workshops and university taster days. Students are encouraged to run hackathons, lead masterclasses and set up study groups to share their expertise and knowledge.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of programmingFundamentals of data structuresFundamentals of algorithmsTheory of computation	On-screen exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of data representation, computer systems organisation and architectureConsequences of uses of computingFundamentals of communication, networking and databases, and functional programmingBig data	Written exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Solve or investigate a practical problem	Coursework	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE computer science (if taken) or any science subject. Grade 7 in GCSE maths and 5 in English Language.		

COURSE CONTENT

You will gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of how computers work, including microprocessors, memory, storage, operating systems and network architectures. You'll build your programming skills through problem-solving scenarios. You'll gain an understanding of machine code, functional, procedural, object-oriented, declarative and low-level programming. You will also be able to normalise numbers, perform binary arithmetic operations and conversions between different number systems, and develop an understanding of the principles of operation of hardware.

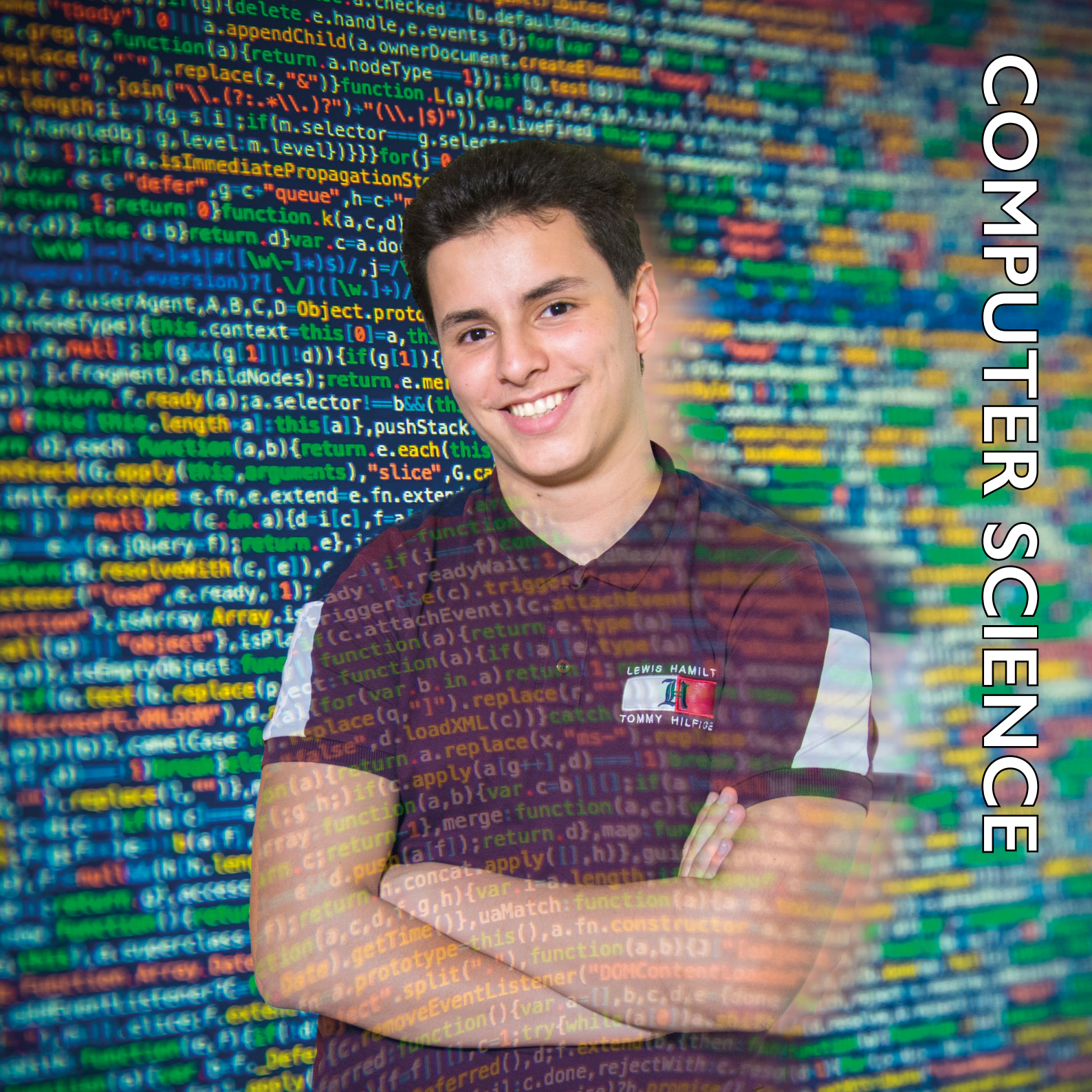
“I’m interested in how computers work exactly, down to their base components. I want to know how source code is made and what mathematical techniques and tricks programmers use.

A level is more focused on programming and you build on the theory you’ve learned previously. Currently, I’m learning Python in class and, outside class, Haskell - to see how functional programming works.

I enjoy the independence at Woodhouse, the time to work things out on your own. But there’s also a lot of guidance whenever you need it.”

ABDULLAH
Woodside High School

COMPUTER SCIENCE



WHY DRAMA & THEATRE?

This course will provide you with an opportunity to analyse, direct and perform a wide range of plays. The emphasis is on learning from practical work. You will have the opportunity to gain confidence through performing devised and scripted plays. You will learn how to work as a team and communicate effectively, gaining confidence that will help you in all aspects of your life. You will also be able to analyse plays from a performer's, designer's and director's perspective and gain an understanding of the playwright's intentions. Many students go on to study drama at Russell Group universities or train to be actors at prestigious drama schools.

We offer a wide range of theatre trips which will include experimental and more traditional productions and tours of theatres. You will also take part in workshops run by visiting practitioners like Frantic Assembly and Splendid Productions. Our drama hall is equipped with a full lighting rig and sound system, a conventional proscenium arch stage and moveable seating to create more intimate acting spaces. Productions are well attended and successful. Our teachers are very experienced and have worked professionally in theatre and television.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Devising <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An original piece of theatre• Writing a portfolio of coursework	Internally assessed Performance and coursework	40%
Text in performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group performance of a play• A monologue or duologue	Externally assessed Performance	20%
Theatre makers in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A live theatre review• Interpretation of the staging of <i>Machinal</i> by Sophie Treadwell• Creating a concept for a production of <i>Woyzeck</i> by Georg Büchner	Externally assessed Written exam	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE drama (if taken), English literature and English language, & 5 in maths. Recent performance experience needed if no GCSE drama		

COURSE CONTENT

You will have the opportunity to study five texts from a diverse range of plays, both classic and contemporary and work with at least two different theatre practitioners.

You will devise your own original piece of theatre as well as being directed in a production and you will explore how to develop your own concept as a director. The emphasis will be on creating a brave ensemble of actors and directors who are not afraid to take risks and develop a wide range of skills.

“People take drama a lot more seriously at A level, everyone here is passionate about it. They are studying because they want to and are really invested. It’s so much more fulfilling.”

The confidence that drama gives you helps you in every-day life, it’s important and powerful.”

SARAH
Hornsey School for Girls

“Drama is applicable to every single career because when you go in to interviews, seminars or meetings, no matter how business like or academic you are, you have to be able to perform and speak in front of people.

I enjoy Woodhouse - it’s taught me to be autonomous with my studies.”

KEVIN
Woodside High School

DRAMA & THEATRE



WHY ECONOMICS?

Studying A level economics will allow you to understand how scarce resources are allocated and the choices that consumers and firms make within a market.

You'll discover how markets work and the positive and negative outcomes produced by the workings of such a market (microeconomics). You'll be exposed to strategies the government uses to deal with issues such as unemployment, inflation, debt and international trade (macroeconomics), and learn to interrogate these strategies and understand the impact they have on the consumer and the firm.

You will have the opportunity to apply for a place on our Career Ready programme which will include talks by guru lecturers, visits, work experience and links with mentors in the world of work. A degree in this subject is a traditional route to a range of careers in finance, banking and insurance. Many of our students go on to study economics or related degree courses at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Microeconomics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short answer and calculation questions• Data Response• Essay	Exam 2hrs	30%
Macroeconomics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short answer and calculation questions• Data Response• Essay	Exam 2hrs	30%
Synoptic Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A: Data Response and Essay• Section B: Data Response and Essay	Exam 2hrs	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE economics (if taken), maths and English language.		

COURSE CONTENT

The course encompasses three main components: microeconomics, macroeconomics and globalisation/trade and development. You will develop an understanding of economic concepts and theories, problems and economic institutions that affect everyday life. You will learn about the roles of the key players in any economy – the firm, the consumer and the government. You will develop a critical approach to economic models as well as the strategies used to solve some of the current economic problems in the UK. All students will develop analytical skills in selecting, interpreting and using data from a range of sources.

“I’m interested in game theory and behavioural economics – the parts of economics that focus on decision-making.

I’ve been part of the Career Ready scheme here, and in the summer did an internship for four weeks at Citibank in Canary Wharf. I saw how economics works in the real world and it was a good experience.

Our teachers are very understanding because they know A levels are hard and that you have to juggle things like UCAS statements. But if it does get stressful they are always there to help.”

DEROME
Haverstock School

ECONOMICS



WHY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Studying English language will open up new perspectives on the world around you as you increase your awareness of all aspects of interaction and expression. You'll develop your knowledge of the technical aspects of language and enhance your analytical skills through exploring the relationship between texts of all types and their contexts.

Many students go on to study an English-related subject at university, such as linguistics, English language, speech and language therapy, creative writing and journalism. Others successfully apply for subjects such as law and psychology.

You'll attend journalism and creative writing workshops with professional writers, and visit museums and exhibitions, including the British Library and Keats House. We also participate in the UK Linguistics Olympiad, competing against students across the country using language skills to solve problems.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Exploring language <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language under the microscope• Writing about a topical issue• Comparing and contrasting texts	Exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Dimensions of linguistic variation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child language acquisition• Language in the media• Language change	Exam 2hrs 30mins	40%
Independent language research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language investigation• Academic poster (1,000 words)	Coursework 2,500 words 1,000 words	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in both GCSE English language and English literature, and 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll be introduced to topical debates within linguistic study, raising questions such as whether grammar rules really matter and whether technology is having a negative impact on language use. Sociolinguistic topics regarding how language shapes social identity are covered, including the relationship between gender, language and power. We also explore the origins of the English language and draw on psycholinguistic studies to help us understand how children acquire language. There is an original writing component where you develop your own skills at shaping language for a variety of genres and audiences. For coursework you'll investigate an area of language change of your own choosing with support from your teachers.

“I really enjoy leaning how languages are constructed and how social factors influence them. You understand your own background more through English language.

Classes are a lot more creative and interactive, and we debate too. The teacher’s focus is more concentrated and they can really help you tackle what you find difficult.

I’ve made friends of real value here. Friends who study together, learn together and grow together.”

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



WHY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

You will develop an appreciation of how writers shape meaning across a range of texts such as poetry, drama (including Shakespeare), novels and short stories. You will be able to assess how texts are influenced over time by historical, literary and cultural factors.

Our students have gone on to study English literature or an English-related degree course at a range of well-respected universities. Many will combine their study of literature with another subject and some will choose to go on to study other subjects at university that require similar skills, such as history, philosophy or law. Students studying literature at Woodhouse are likely to achieve final grades well above the national average.

You'll take trips to the Globe and West End productions, attend lecture days with university professors, and experience cinema screenings of drama productions. We'll also provide students with creative opportunities for collaborative work using video and drama, and poetry and design competitions.

EXAM BOARD – OCR		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Drama and poetry pre-1900 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Shakespeare's The TempestThe Merchant's Tale by ChaucerThe Duchess of Malfi	Exam 2hrs 30mins 60 marks 3 questions Closed text	40%
Comparative study <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dracula or Frankenstein and The Bloody Chamber	Exam 2hrs 30mins 60 marks 1 of 3 questions Closed text	40%
Literature post-1900 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Close reading or re-create: Jerusalem play by Jez ButterworthComparative essay on poetry and modern novel (teacher choice)	Coursework 40 Marks 15 marks for play 25 marks for comparative essay	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in both GCSE English literature and English language, and 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

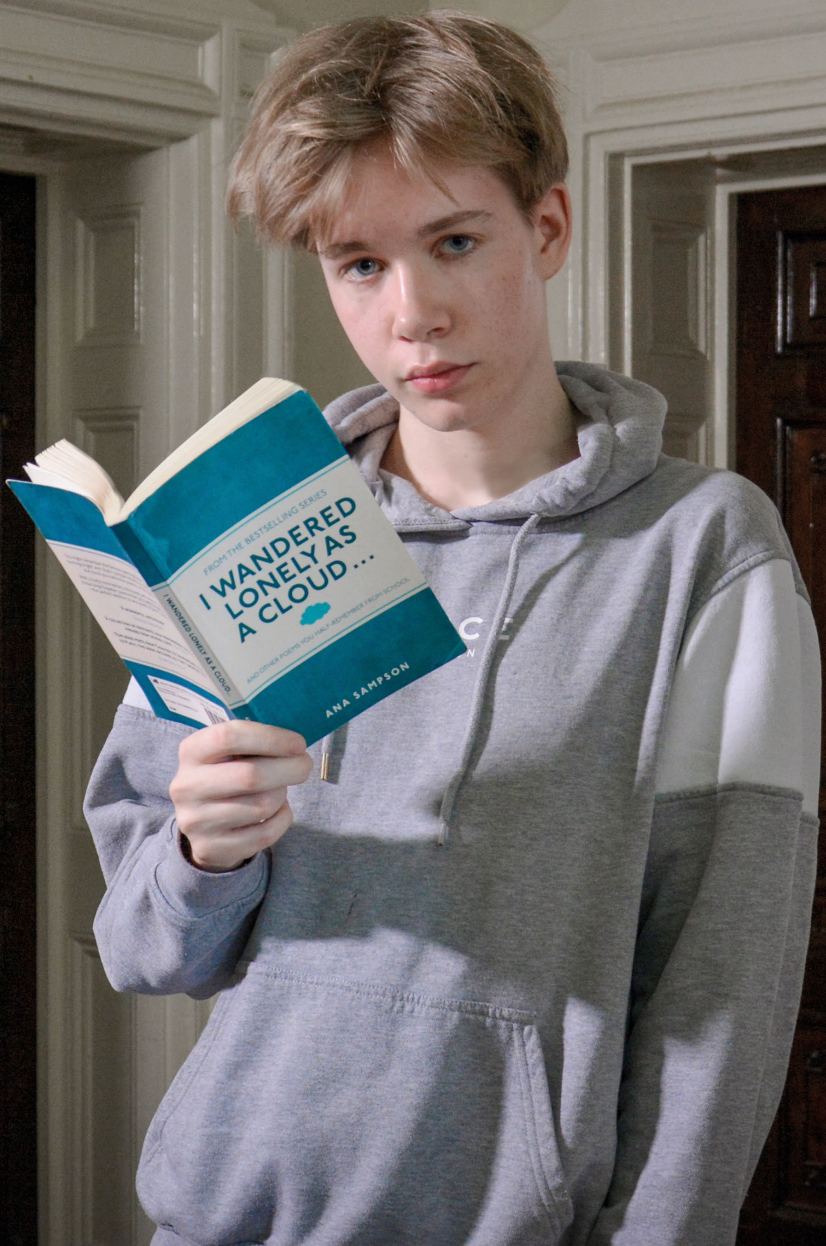
You will study texts from medieval Chaucer through to Shakespeare and revenge drama, as well as more contemporary poetry and prose. You will explore a range of styles from Gothic fiction to 17th century Jacobean drama. Your examined units will focus on Shakespeare and drama pre-1900 and comparing a classic Gothic novel with Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber. Class discussions explore a range of adult themes such as forbidden desire, adultery, revenge, gender and power. In addition, you will complete two coursework assignments, one on a modern play and the other comparing 20th century poetry with a modern novel.

“The difference with A level is that there’s a new degree of freedom allowed in your study, you are expected to be reading critical essays and novels that go beyond the syllabus

There’s a lot more emphasis on discussion and learning from your peers which I really enjoy. Hearing everyone’s ideas heavily enriches the experience.

One of the greatest things about the college is the atmosphere and the way that people are. You cannot help but feel welcomed”

ENGLISH LITERATURE



WHY FRENCH?

Studying French will enable you to communicate with French speakers around the world, boost your academic skills, increase your options for undergraduate studies, and enrich your appreciation of influential cultural contributions of the French-speaking world. You'll develop transferable skills and enhance your language learning strategies.

Many of our students have chosen to study French or a wide range of subjects combined with French at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, or indeed abroad. Students go on to have successful careers in fields such as banking, accountancy, law and teaching.

The department is equipped with a modern language laboratory; we also have a native language assistant who conducts speaking practice. Students will have many opportunities to engage with the language, including a study trip to Montpellier, work experience through Halsbury Travel, and theatre and cinema trips in London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and reading tasks• 2 translations, one into English, and one into French	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23mins Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French and English language, and 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

In year one, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, 'cyber-society', and the place of voluntary work, together with highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, including francophone music and cinema. In year two, topics include life for the marginalised, positive features of a diverse society, and the treatment of criminals, as well as aspects of political life in the French-speaking world. You'll discuss issues such as the political commitment of teenagers, the purpose of strikes and demonstrations, and the politics of immigration. You'll also study in depth a literary text and a film. Finally, you'll have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“I really like that in class we just speak French all of the time, it really helps your confidence. We often have debates about French topics and there’s a lot of talking and listening activities.

Our lessons are very engaging and quite thorough when we are doing grammar. It’s a different workload to GCSE but it’s definitely manageable. The teachers are really lovely and they ease you in gently.”

NICOLE
Friern Barnet School

FRENCH



WHY FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

This is a challenging qualification which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond standard A level mathematics. It identifies you as having excellent mathematical, problem solving and analytical skills.

You will develop the ability to work in a team, communicate effectively and show initiative. If you are planning to take a degree such as engineering, sciences, computing, finance/economics or especially maths itself, you will benefit enormously from taking this course, as it introduces new topics such as matrices and complex numbers that are vital in many STEM degrees. Indeed, some prestigious university courses require further maths.

We provide opportunities to hear from engaging speakers with mathematical backgrounds, both on site and at external lectures, in addition to trips to mathematical shows and events. We have an experienced team of enthusiastic teachers, who provide excellent support and inspiration to students.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Paper 1: Core Pure Mathematics 1	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 2: Core Pure Mathematics 2	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 3: Option 1 (Further Pure Mathematics 1, Further Statistics 1, Further Mechanics 1 or Decision Mathematics 1)	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Paper 4: Option 2 (topics as above)	Exam 1hr 30mins. 75 marks	25%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 8 in GCSE mathematics and 5 in English language. NB. Further maths can only be taken as part of a 4 A level programme in conjunction with A level mathematics. NB. August enrolment: Students who achieve grade 9 in GCSE mathematics will be permitted to study further mathematics as part of a three A level programme which includes A level mathematics		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll develop and extend your understanding, apply skills learnt in a range of situations, and encounter new concepts, including topics such as matrices, complex numbers, differential equations and hyperbolic functions. In addition to the pure mathematics half of the course, there are options involving more mechanics (where you will study areas including circular motion, variable forces, energy and kinematics) or more statistics (where you will meet and interact with more advanced probability scenarios, statistical distributions and hypothesis testing), or decision mathematics (algorithms, linear programming and graph theory) or further pure mathematics.

“Even though there are complex concepts, it’s the simplicity of maths that I find attractive. It’s logical and objective, there are no grey areas. When everything else around you is all over the place, maths is almost... comforting.

I’m planning to go into engineering and I think further maths will make my first year at university easier, having already familiarised myself with some of the concepts.

It’s really easy to make friends here. I did maths academy for Woodhouse Plus and if you join any clubs and societies you’ll always find people like you.”

FURTHER MATHEMATICS



WHY GEOGRAPHY?

With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. You'll develop skills in written and oral communication, research, critical thinking, evaluating resources and statistical analysis.

Many students go on to study geography at Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. A degree in geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally onto a diverse range of careers from disaster management and meteorology to environmental consultancy and town planning.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Dynamic landscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tectonic processes & hazards• Coastal landscapes & change Physical systems and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water cycle & water insecurity• Carbon cycle & energy insecurity	Exam 2hrs 15mins 105 marks 3 sections Questions range from 4 to 20 marks	30%
Dynamic places <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalisation• Diverse places Human systems and geopolitics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superpowers• Health, human rights, intervention	Exam 2hrs 15mins 105 marks 3 sections Questions range from 4 to 20 marks	30%
Synoptic investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given an unseen resource booklet containing information about a geographical issue (e.g. resource exploitation in the Congo basin), students draw on synoptic knowledge and understanding	Exam 2hrs 15mins 70 marks Questions range from 4 to 24 marks	20%
Independent investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on two days of fieldwork on either coasts or diverse places	Coursework 3,000–4,000 words 70 marks	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE geography (if taken) and English language, and 5 in maths. If not taken at GCSE, then grade 6 in any GCSE science required		

COURSE CONTENT

You will have the opportunity to study physical geography through topics such as tectonic process and hazards; coastal landscapes and change; the water cycle and water insecurity; and the carbon cycle and energy insecurity. You will also study human geography through topics such as globalisation; dynamic places; superpower geographies; and health, human rights and intervention. You will investigate case studies from a range of locations and at varying scales including population change in London; coastal process along the Dorset coast; water conflict along the river Nile; oil in the Niger delta; and the health and life expectancy of the aboriginal peoples in Australia.

You will undertake two days of coastal fieldwork and an additional two days of urban fieldwork. There is also the possibility of an optional international field trip. Past destinations have included China, Morocco, Thailand and Iceland.

“A level is a smooth continuation of your GCSE knowledge, but in a way that’s just so much more interesting. We are integrating the theories into everyday life and in the context of the whole globe. On one side we have historical politics and human geography, and on the other, very scientific geography – which ties in so well with my other subjects.

It’s much more independent and self motivated here and I prefer that because it allows me to do stuff at my pace. It’s also really welcoming and friendly, everyone will speak to you. I’m still making new friends in year 13.”

ALICE
The Compton School

GEOGRAPHY



WHY GERMAN?

‘Deutschland – Land der Dichter und Denker.’ Studying German will enable you to appreciate German culture as part of the world heritage. With a good knowledge of German you could also access courses at Germany’s excellent universities, and work for a globally recognised German company like Siemens, Volkswagen or Adidas. Finally, you will develop transferable skills and enhance your language learning strategies.

Some of our students have chosen to study German or a wide range of subjects with German at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, or indeed abroad. Students go on to have successful careers in fields such as banking, accountancy, law, and teaching.

The department is equipped with a modern language laboratory; we also have a native language assistant who conducts speaking practice. Students will have many opportunities to engage with the language, including a study trip to Berlin and theatre and cinema trips in London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening and reading tasks• 2 translations, one into English, and one into German	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23 mins Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE German and English language, and 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

In year one, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, and the digital world, together with highlights of artistic culture in the German-speaking world, including festivals, art, and cultural life in Berlin. In the second year, topics include multiculturalism, and aspects of political life, including Germany and the EU, politics and youth, and German reunification. You will also study in depth a literary text and a film. Finally, you will have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“I think it’s very important to widen your view of different cultures and German is such an important language to learn, especially living in Europe.

A level is more flexible, you can learn in so many different ways. Here it’s about immersion – absorbing the culture, listening to the music and going on the Berlin trip. In class we read German news reports, so if you are into politics or even football you can read about it in the German newspapers.

I want to study corporate law and a language like German will be a bonus in terms of employment.”

GERMAN



WHY HISTORY?

Studying history at Woodhouse will provide you with access to a fascinating and dynamic subject that deals with hard facts but varied and ever-changing perspectives. You'll develop skills in written and oral communication, research, critical thinking, and evaluating both primary and secondary sources. You'll work collaboratively with your peers inside and outside the classroom but also become an independent learner, equipped to cope with the rigorous demands of university study.

Many students go on to study history or a closely related degree course at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. A good degree in history will allow you to pursue a high-powered career in various fields, such as the law, the media, the civil service and business. We provide many opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers, and various study trips are organised, including one to Berlin.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Britain 1603–1702 Three questions. One compulsory with secondary sources linked to historical interpretations, and two from three essays	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 80	40%
The Cold War 1945–91 Three questions. One compulsory question linked to primary sources or sources contemporary to the period, and two from three essays	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 80	40%
Historical investigation Independently researched essay on an aspect of Russian history covering the years 1855–1953	Coursework 3,500-word essay marked out of 40	20%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE history and English language, and 5 in maths. Grade 6 in a GCSE essay writing subject if history not taken (e.g. English literature, geography)		

COURSE CONTENT

Britain in the 17th century was transformed by intense political and religious conflict that led to civil war, the execution of King Charles I, the abolition of the monarchy and the imposition of a military dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell.

The years after World War Two were defined by the Cold War, a prolonged ideological and diplomatic struggle between the USA and USSR which, in an age of nuclear weapons, at times threatened humanity's very existence.

Before 1917, Russian emperors (or tsars) claimed to possess God-given authority. World War One created the revolutionary conditions that, in 1917, resulted in the overthrow of tsarism and the establishment of the world's first Communist dictatorship under Lenin and his successor Stalin.

“History is full of questions that have so many different answers. It’s about interpretation. Our teachers encourage us to discuss our arguments and try and make sense of events, to see them as part of a bigger picture.

A level is definitely more essay based but for me that’s why it’s more enjoyable. You can have your own opinion about what happened.

There’s a lot more independence at Woodhouse but you also have more freedom to control your time. Your activities and social life are not just regulated to breaks and lunch.”

LUKE
Hendon School

HISTORY



WHY LAW?

This course provides a proper insight into the realities of both a law degree and a career in the profession. A level law is not only for budding solicitors and barristers, it's also popular with those seeking to enter the business or financial worlds and is highly regarded by universities.

Law is an empowering subject. Everyone should know how the legal system of their country works. Hopefully, you will never be charged with murder, but in your lifetime you may buy a property, make a Will, enter into a contract and sue or be sued! All of these things cease to be intimidating once you have studied law. You will learn to express yourself clearly both in writing and orally, and become capable of researching at a high level and arguing a case from all sides.

You'll visit a magistrates' court, Crown Court, High Court and the Supreme Court to see law in action. You will have the opportunity to hear outside speakers such as senior Crown prosecutors, and take part in a mock trial.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
English legal system & criminal law • Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
English legal system & tort • Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
Human rights • Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 100	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English language and one other GCSE essay writing subject such as English literature, history or geography. Grade 5 in maths.		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll gain an understanding of both civil and criminal law and how they impact on our everyday lives. You'll study the roles of magistrates, judges and juries in our society and learn how law is actually made by judges and by parliament. Law covers criminal offences such as ABH and GBH, murder and manslaughter, as well as self defence. In civil law you'll be taught how to sue someone, learn about the Hillsborough tragedy, and what to do if your neighbour plays loud music all night. You'll discuss the philosophy behind the law and question whether law can always, or ever, deliver justice. You will also learn about the Human Rights Act.

“It’s nice to have the opportunity to experience something completely different at A level. Studying law, I’ve picked up a new skill set.

It’s really focused on problem solving, which is useful for any of your subjects because you have to follow a logical method to answer any question. I like the fact that every new topic comes with a real-life case study, which makes it both interesting and easy to remember.

The good thing with law is that it is so versatile, you can apply it to anything you want to do.

I much prefer Woodhouse to school, you’ve got a lot more free will and that hierarchy gap is closed.”

SOPHIE
Mount Grace School

LAW



WHY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics at Woodhouse provides an understanding of the subject and processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study.

You will develop skills in the use of mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and learn to communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly.

Many Woodhouse students go on to study mathematics or a closely related degree course at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

The department provides many opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers both on and off the college premises, and often invites back recent college leavers to describe the demands and requirements of higher-level study.

COURSE CONTENT

Content is in three areas: Pure mathematics, mechanics and statistics.

We encourage students to use appropriate technology to deepen their mathematical understanding and extend the range of problems they can solve.

You'll use pre-release data in statistics to enable you to develop an understanding of working with real data to solve real problems.

We often include mathematical comprehension in our assessments to prepare students to use mathematics in a variety of contexts in higher education and future employment.

“I’m interested in Science and maths is a tool for science. A level is definitely harder and I like that it’s challenging. It’s different here, lessons can be more interactive and I think it’s more fun learning at Woodhouse.

My journey to college is long, an hour and a quarter each way, and expensive. But I’m prepared to invest the time and money because it’s worth it for the grades. Woodhouse pushes you, it doesn’t limit your potential.”

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Pure mathematics 1	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Pure mathematics 2	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Mechanics and statistics	Exam 2hrs 100 marks	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE maths and 5 in English language		

MATHEMATICS



WHY MUSIC?

Studying at the Barnet Education Arts Trust A level Music Centre (BEAT) A Level Music based at Woodhouse will give you the opportunity to explore a fascinating practical, creative and academic subject. You will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural and aesthetic awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group.

Many Woodhouse students have gone on to study music or a closely related degree course at Conservatoires, Oxbridge, Russell Group and other universities. A good degree in music will give you the necessary grounding to thrive in a highly competitive profession with many different career paths. The three-way transferable skills (practical, creative, academic) also make this a desirable subject for those who intend to study other subjects at university. There are many opportunities to perform in concerts, both on and off campus, learn how to use modern notation software, and to take part in extra-mural music activities including choir and a range of ensembles run by BEAT.

EXAM BOARD – EDUQAS		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Performing	Externally assessed (visiting examiner)	
• Option A: Performance 10-12mins	Marked out of 108	35%
• Option B: Performance 6-8mins	Marked out of 72	25%
Composing	Externally assessed	
• Option A: 2 compositions with a total duration of 4-6mins	Marked out of 72	25%
• Option B: 3 compositions with a total duration of 8-10mins	Marked out of 108	35%
Appraising	Written exam 2hrs 15mins Marked out of 100	40%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Music if taken and Grade 5 on an instrument or singing and Grade 5 music theory. Grade 5 GCSE maths and English language. Applicants without GCSE music need to attend an audition/interview.		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll learn to perform music at Grade 7 level with control and continuity, using appropriate tempi, and show critical understanding of the music chosen. You'll study the processes involved in creating music, and develop the technical and expressive skills needed by a composer. You'll be encouraged to explore a range of compositional starting points and investigate a variety of techniques for developing and manipulating ideas. You will then turn these ideas into completed pieces of music. You will engage critically with music, develop an understanding of its place in different cultures and contexts, and learn how to analyse and evaluate music in aural and written form.

“Studying A levels seemed like a lot of work at first, but the more you get yourself organised and the work becomes structured, the more enjoyable it is.

In class we go into more depth about the actual pieces, to understand the culture of the music and how music can influence someone else. And there’s plenty of opportunities to play music too.

What made the college a home for me is definitely the environment. Being with people your own age – you start to become more independent, more of an adult. Woodhouse makes sure you learn how to look after yourself.”

BRANDON LEON
Ashmole Academy

MUSIC



WHY MUSIC TECHNOLOGY?

Studying music technology at the Barnet A Level Music Centre (BEAT) at Woodhouse will provide you with a gateway into the fascinating and evolving world of music technology. You will learn about recording, technology-based composition, listening, analysing and producing. You will be encouraged to engage with a wide range of music technology techniques and develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of the use of music technology in the creation and production of music.

In recent years, many Woodhouse students have gone on to study music technology, sound production, sound engineering and other courses requiring a similar skill set at university level.

The department is proud of its state-of-the-art recording studio and Mac-based teaching space with relevant software including Logic Pro.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Recording • One recording chosen from a list of 10 songs. Total time 3–3½mins	Coursework Externally assessed Marked out of 60	20%
Technology-based composition • One composition to a brief. Total time 3mins	Coursework Externally assessed Marked out of 60	20%
Listening and analysing	Exam 1hr 30mins Marked out of 75	25%
Producing and analysing	Written/practical exam 2hrs 15mins Marked out of 105	35%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE music or grade 2 theory & keyboard skills (ability to play basic melodies & chords) or KS4 equivalent (BTEC, NVQ etc.) Grade 5 in GCSE Maths and English language, and grade 4 in a science. Applicants without above will need to attend an audition		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll explore techniques for capturing, editing and manipulating sound to help you understand the impact of music technology on creative processes in the studio. You will then produce a completed mix. You'll develop ideas and turn them into completed technology-based compositions, develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements and musical language, and apply them.

You'll identify, analyse and evaluate creative music production techniques, as applied to the unfamiliar commercial recordings supplied in the exam. As well as identifying effects and their associated parameter settings, you will explain the principles behind the choice of the effects heard on each recording, and their sonic character, in a series of written responses.

“I’m inspired by the big film composers like Hans Zimmer and James Newton Howard and really intrigued by the technological process involved in creating soundtracks.

The tech classes here are amazing because they are literally a guide to what you would do in a recording studio if you ever wanted to to get into producing. It is technical... there’s more learning software than composing music.

Woodhouse is less constricting than school and I find the relationship between the teachers and students is simultaneously professional and nice. The vibe is just much better here.”

SAUL
East Barnet School

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY



WHY PHILOSOPHY?

This subject poses some of the most challenging questions that have ever been asked, underlying many of the most important questions confronting us today. It will give you the opportunity to think deeply about the nature of God, the mind, knowledge and ethics whilst allowing you to develop important transferable skills which will help you become an independent learner and thinker.

On a more practical level, studying philosophy is an excellent route into both higher education and work. Many of our students go on to study philosophy and related subjects, such as PPE, at Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, and graduates regularly feature in the top undergraduate employment rates coming above other humanities subjects because of their ability to problem solve, think logically and laterally, and to formulate and express opinions. Philosophy graduates are found working for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, particularly the law, financial institutions and the creative industries.

You'll listen to external speakers both in college and outside at different study days, and attend lectures, exhibitions and other events in and around London.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Epistemology and moral philosophy • 5 questions, all compulsory	Exam 3hrs Marked out of 100	50%
The metaphysics of the mind and the metaphysics of God • 5 questions, all compulsory	Exam 3hrs Marked out of 100	50%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English literature and English language, and 5 in maths. NB. Cannot be taken in combination with religious studies		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study four foundational philosophical topics: ethics, epistemology, the metaphysics of the mind, and the metaphysics of God.

Students will consider the big questions, such as: ‘What is knowledge?’ and ‘What do good, bad, right and wrong really mean?’. You will also explore further questions including: ‘Is the concept of God incoherent?’ and ‘What is mind?’.

“I did religious studies at GCSE and a lot of the ethical questions interested me, which is why I chose to study philosophy.

The technicality of the subject has surprised me and you have to be very precise and logical. It’s structured a lot like maths, the way you lay out an equation is similar to how you lay out an argument in philosophy.

I like that you can manage your work and shape it more to your own timetable here, but you have to make sure you’re on top of everything.”

HUGH
St Albans School

PHILOSOPHY



WHY PHYSICS?

Physics at A level is a subject for the curious, for those who ask the deepest questions about the universe but who also want to know about the workings of the physical world in everyday life. You'll develop the ability to plan, implement, analyse and evaluate practical exercises. You'll learn strategies for successful problem solving, and gain an understanding of the use of IT for analysis of results using Excel, data gathering and research. You'll also become skilled at communicating difficult concepts clearly.

The course is essential for students who wish to go on to study engineering as well as physics and prepares you for a wide range of other related degrees such as architecture, natural sciences, maths and medicine. Our students often gain entry to Russell Group universities including Oxbridge and Imperial.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
First year content and periodic motion	Exam 2hrs. 60 marks. Short and long answer questions, and 25 multiple choice questions	34%
Thermal physics, fields and nuclear physics. A knowledge of first year work and periodic motion is also assumed	Exam 2hrs. 60 marks. Short and long answer questions, and 25 multiple choice questions	34%
Practical skills and data analysis An optional topic from: astrophysics, electronics, medical physics, engineering physics and turning points in physics	Exam 2hrs 45 marks. Short and long answer questions; 35 marks. Short and long answer questions	32%
Additional course entry requirements: Grades 7+6 in GCSE science combined trilogy or grade 7 physics + grade 6 biology + grade 6 chemistry. Grade 7 in GCSE maths and 5 in English language. NB. BTEC science is not a suitable entry qualification for this course		

COURSE CONTENT

The course covers a complete A level grounding in the fundamentals of the subject. In the first year, you'll cover familiar areas in more depth: mechanics, materials, electricity and waves, and exciting new topics: particles, quantum phenomena and material science.

In year two, you'll be introduced to topics including fields and nuclear physics, and choose from options such as astrophysics, electronics, medical physics, and engineering physics. The practical skills relating to how science works are integrated throughout the two years.

Recent trips include visits to the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva and Astrium, an aerospace manufacturer. We often offer a number of enrichment activities such as research projects with universities and physics-related clubs. We also enter students for the British Physics Olympiad.

"I want to do engineering at university and I love mechanics, it's just so interesting, you see it everywhere.

The teachers here really know what they are talking about. They teach the stuff you have to know and then give you extra information that's really useful. They are very interested in their subject.

The college is so on top of everything, especially UCAS, I sent off mine the first week of term! Everyone works hard because that's what Woodhouse is about, but there's also a lot of socialising."

REBECCA

Highgate Wood Secondary School

PHYSICS



WHY POLITICS?

Just 62 people own half of the world’s wealth and 71% of the world’s population lives on less than \$10 a day. Although the Conservatives lost seats in the 2017 election and formed a minority government, they received their highest share of the total vote since 1983. Watch the news and the world seems to be endlessly war-torn, but the facts show it is more peaceful now than at any time since 1945. It is sometimes hard to make sense of what we see around us.

The study of politics is about making sense of and analysing Britain and the world. You’ll learn to form political judgments and establish a broad set of analytical skills that universities and employers value highly. Many of our former students pursue an active role in British and international politics, going on to study the subject at university and working in journalism, law, think-tanks, universities, charities, international institutions and national government. Our politics department hosts a Model United Nations Conference at the college, inviting over 200 sixth formers to a weekend of stimulating debate. We also invite speakers from parliament on a regular basis.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
UK politics and political ideas	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
UK government	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
Global politics	Exam 2hrs	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English language and geography or history. (or English literature if not taken). Grade 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

You’ll study British government and politics, including the workings of parliament, the role of the prime minister, political parties and their policies, and how patterns of participation have changed in recent years. You’ll also study the key political ideologies of conservatism, liberalism and socialism.

You’ll also focus on themes of global politics, such as the rise of China, the ‘decline’ of America and the challenges of globalisation, terrorism, population migration and climate change; we also study how the world is ordered, the rise of multipolarity, poverty and debt, and the role of international organisations and non-state actors.

“In a way, my interest for politics came from my disinterest in politics. I realised I didn’t understand much about it and thought - I need to figure out what’s going on.

It’s an exhilarating subject, there are so many different types of politics that you can learn about. There’s a lot of debate and that’s how you can develop your answers, by getting a feel for different opinions.

You discover a confidence in your values because the great thing about politics is that when you learn about it, you learn a lot about yourself and what you stand for.”

MUMINOOR
Haverstock School

POLITICS



WHY PSYCHOLOGY?

Studying psychology at Woodhouse will provide you with an understanding of human behaviour and mental processes, and allow you to better understand why we think, act and feel the way we do. You'll learn to think critically and evaluate the various explanations of human behaviour that psychologists have developed. You'll learn how to handle data and use statistical analysis to draw conclusions about behaviour, while the ability to think logically will develop through activities which involve planning experiments and other forms of research.

Psychologists often go on to work in research or take the applied route as clinical psychologists, sports psychologists, therapists or forensic psychologists. Others are well-equipped for roles in human resource management, advertising, marketing or even working for the government. Our department provides opportunities to listen to distinguished speakers, and various study trips are organised throughout the year.

COURSE CONTENT

In your first year you will study social psychology where you will learn about the explanations of behaviours such as obedience, conformity, defiance of authority and how psychology can be used to bring about social change.

You will study disorders such as OCD, depression and phobias, and how psychologists treat these disorders. You will also learn about how children form attachments with their care-givers and how the quality of these attachments can influence cognitive, emotional and social development.

In year two, topics covered include gender development, forensic psychology and schizophrenia.

“At GCSE many questions went unanswered but now I understand a lot more, although it’s definitely more complex at A level. There are so many different studies and research methods you have to look at.

Classes are a lot more discussion based. We still do exam questions, but we discuss them in class first and try to come up with our own evaluation of things, and for me that sparks more interest.

I definitely feel supported here. I like all of my teachers and feel really comfortable going to them and asking for help if I don’t understand anything.”

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Introductory topics in psychology • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Psychology in context • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Issues and options in psychology • Multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 96	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE maths, English language and any GCSE science subject		

SAMA
The Archer Academy

PSYCHOLOGY



WHY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious studies at Woodhouse will provide you with an introduction to one of the most fascinating and relevant areas of study today. It's an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth. Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt.

Religious studies is seen by the Russell Group as a 'suitable preparation for university generally' and Oxbridge include it in their top level list of suitable arts A levels. Theology graduates are found working for almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, as the subject provides an excellent foundation for a range of careers.

There will be opportunities to listen to external speakers, and students are encouraged to take the initiative and attend lectures, exhibitions and other events in and around London.

EXAM BOARD – EDEXCEL		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Philosophy of religion • Two structured questions: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Religion and ethics • Two extended responses: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Christianity • Two extended responses: a two-part essay question on an extract of text and an extended essay	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE religious studies and English language, and 5 in maths. Grade 6 in a essay writing subject if RS not taken (e.g. English literature, geography or history) NB. Cannot be taken in combination with philosophy		

COURSE CONTENT

You'll study three out of four components and focus on philosophy of religion, religion and ethics and Christianity. You'll engage with philosophical issues and questions such as the nature and influence of religious experience, the problems of evil and suffering, philosophical and ethical language, and the application of ethical theories through the works of scholars.

In the Christianity option, you'll examine the development of Christian beliefs, values and teachings, and the nature of sources of wisdom and authority for those beliefs. You'll look at the practices that shape and express the Christian identity, as well as the social and historical developments in the religion over time.

“There’s a lot more discussion than I expected from an essay based course, but you have to have those discussions first to develop your ideas. Before, if I thought something was wrong I’d jump on it, but now I really think about why that might be and RS has helped my debating skills.

I think ethics is something everyone should have to study, because it teaches you what makes you a good human and gives you an idea of how to think about things that you can apply to your own life.

I like the freedom of Woodhouse, it motivates me. I know that when you have to take that independent step for yourself it shows how much you really want to do something.”

MATTHEW

St Thomas More Catholic School

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



WHY SOCIOLOGY?

A level sociology gives you the opportunity to question everything about society, to view it from a completely different perspective and develop your academic understanding of key issues relating to class, gender, ethnicity, inequality and power.

You'll develop skills such as essay writing, analysis, evaluation, critical thinking, teamwork and independent research. These skills are good preparation for university courses and complement many other humanities and social science subjects, particularly history, geography, English, philosophy, politics and psychology. Students progress to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities. They read for social science/humanities degrees including economics, law, psychology, politics, sociology and international relations. A sociology degree can be used for careers in the civil service, advertising, journalism, business, working for non-government organisations and think-tanks, law and policing.

Trips include the Sociology in Action conference, and previous excursions include visiting the BBC, the Museum of Childhood and taking part in youth conferences.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Education with theory and methods Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Topics in sociology • Families and households • The media Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Crime and deviance with theory and methods Two essays and four short answer questions	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	33.3%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE sociology and English language. and grade 5 in maths. Grade 6 in a GCSE essay writing subject if sociology not taken (e.g. English literature, geography or history)		

COURSE CONTENT

You will study a wide range of topics to develop your understanding of different areas of society, such as families, education, crime and social inequality.

You will study why people commit crime, gender differences in crime, how childhood has changed over time, equality in families and how the education system has changed. You will also learn how to carry out research and the theories that sociologists use to understand society.

“I wanted to study a subject that I hadn’t taken before but that would give me room to debate and gather my own personal opinions. In classes there’s a lot of discussion and group activities and I like the fact that everyone has different ideas and views.

In sociology we study society with a microscope, it’s a social science and has scientific approaches, especially when you look at research methods, observations and experiments. At the same time we are looking at the social environmental factors that play into the way that people think and act.

At Woodhouse you’re encouraged to be an adult and be your own person, it’s pushed me in ways that a school just couldn’t. Here, people are more free to say what they want and express themselves.”

XENIA
Bishop Douglass School Finchley

SOCIOLOGY



Sociological ideas
influence social policy

Helps you to see the
causes of and solutions
to society's problems

You get to read
extended text

What no
much
changed
ilities have
the same

Because you'll love it!

You get to question
who has power in
society and how they
benefit from it

It's genuine
interest


to integrate
information from a
variety of sources and
perspectives in writing
and speaking

You get to see
even the most
individual of actions
as suicide are actually
influenced by social
factors

You learn how to
criticise ideas

Tony Giddens

"Sociology helps us look
beyond the immediate
contexts of our lives and so
helps us understand the
causes of our own actions
better."




Hook



Karl Marx

"Hitherto philosophers
have interpreted the world
in various ways. The point
is to change it."



...tendencies
...of their
...forces as
...forces,
...another sort,
...affect the
...from without."

"A given so-
cietal
moment
homogen-
ous, con-
trary, con-
tradict-

WHY SPANISH?

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world, meaning a good command of the basics will be helpful for more than just your holidays in the sun. Speaking another language makes you more marketable.

You'll develop skills and knowledge highly valued by employers, such as a deep understanding of other cultures, attention to detail and problem-solving skills. We will give you the tools to master the grammar and vocabulary needed to express yourself in a sophisticated way orally and in writing, as well as to understand complex text and the spoken language.

You'll have many opportunities to engage with the language, including an exchange trip to Valencia as well as theatre and cinema trips to London.

A level Spanish will make you stand out from the crowd and is considered a facilitating subject by Russell Group and other prestigious universities.

EXAM BOARD – AQA		
PAPER/COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHT
Listening, reading and writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Listening and reading tasks, as well as two translations, one into English, and one into Spanish	Exam 2hrs 30mins Marked out of 100	50%
Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Two essays, one on the set literary text, and one on the set film	Exam 2hrs Marked out of 80	20%
Speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none">A discussion based on a stimulus card, and a presentation and discussion of the individual research project	Oral exam 21–23 minutes Marked out of 60	30%
Additional course entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish and English language, and 5 in maths		

COURSE CONTENT

In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, including the changing nature of the family, 'cyber-society' and gender equality, together with highlights of Spanish-speaking artistic culture, including Hispanic music and cinema.

Second year topics include life for the marginalised, positive features of a diverse society, and measures against racism, as well as aspects of political life in the Hispanic-speaking world. You'll discuss issues such as the political commitment of teenagers, the purpose of strikes and demonstrations, and the politics of immigration. You'll also study in depth a literary text and a film.

Finally, you'll have the opportunity to undertake an individual research project and explore a key question of personal interest.

“Nelson Mandela said ‘If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart’ – and I think that is so true. I’m learning Spanish because I think it’s important to learn about and understand other cultures.

We learn in a different way to GCSE. We speak Spanish with our teachers all of the time and our lessons are more interesting because we discuss real-life topics like immigration and cyberbullying.

We are quite independent here but we get help and everybody is very supportive. It’s just essential in building those skills that are crucial for later life.”

IOANNA
The Archer Academy

SPANISH



THE WOODHOUSE EXPERIENCE

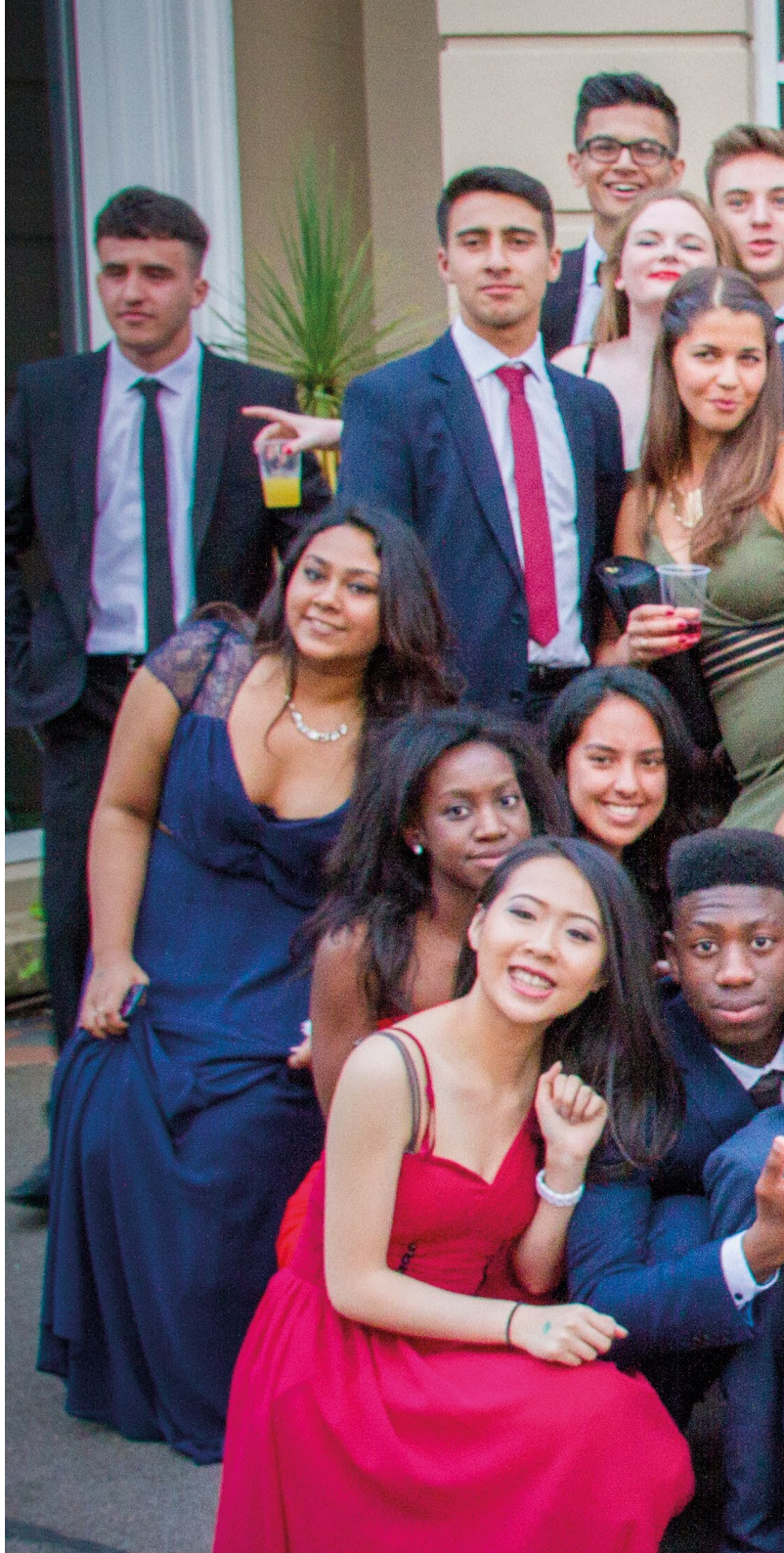
Work-life balance is just as important as academic achievement at Woodhouse and we try to make sure that all of our students have plenty of opportunities for fun social activities between busy periods of study.

Many of our societies organise themed events such as Halloween movie nights and activities for Valentine's Day. Our talent show committee selects acts for an annual show, which is always exciting and entertaining. And we regularly have costume days such as 'wear your national colours', 'suit up' or fancy dress.

Our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter feeds have many followers and paint an enlightening picture of the student experience at Woodhouse.

The prom is a fitting celebratory end to the two-year Woodhouse journey and takes place at the end of June after all the exams are over. Our student prom committee meets regularly in the second year to organise DJs, caterers, event decorators, fireworks and ticket sales. This ultimate highlight of our social calendar is an incredibly popular and memorable occasion.

All information correct at time of going to press.
Please check our website for the very latest information on applications and course requirements.








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