

Woodhouse College: A Brief Context

Woodhouse is a mixed sixth form college of about 1400 students. All our students are 16-18, full-time, and taking A level courses. The College has around 70 teachers and 40 members of support staff.

The College has Ofsted Outstanding status and is a member of the Maple Group, a partnership of the 'leading sixth form colleges' in England.

As a sixth-form college, our ethos is similar to that of a sixth form in a school. We provide strong pastoral support and monitoring but also encourage independence in learning and study habits. Our teachers are all expert in their subjects and well qualified. Many of our teachers have previously taught in schools.

Our exam results are consistently above the average for sixth form colleges. Last summer (2018), our A*/B grades at A level were about 70% - the highest college in London. Whilst this is a source of some pride, we are aware that there is always work to be done to improve further. Progression to higher education is very high at about 90-95%. This year, around 60% went to Russell Group universities, with record numbers to Oxbridge and medical schools.

We are keen to educate the whole person and not simply focus on results. So, for example, we have a wide-ranging enrichment programme that takes place on a Wednesday afternoon when there are no lessons. The College has a very active student union and student-led societies, and students have opportunities to participate in mentoring and buddying programmes as well as additional courses such as Duke of Edinburgh. Many students participate in volunteering programmes, model UN, and a host of other activities. A glance at our news pages on the website will show you what a vibrant and lively community we have.

Our students are lovely. They come from over 180 different schools across north London, some from the leafy suburbs and others from the 'mean streets' of the inner city. But they are all high-achievers, having done well at GCSE, and all ambitious to do similarly well at A level. Almost all intend to go on to university, and they see the College as a bridge to their aspirations. The College is massively oversubscribed by a factor of about 7 to 1, and our students feel proud to have got a place. They identify strongly with the College, supporting our social media in large numbers, and swelling the ranks of our alumni association when they leave.

The College is set on an attractive 8.5 acre campus with both historic and modern buildings. The learning environment and facilities are very good. The front building (the 'mansion house') was built in the mid to late 18th century and was officially opened as Woodhouse Secondary School in 1925. An ambitious building programme to improve facilities has taken place in the last twenty years. We now have four freestanding buildings: the old mansion house and north wing (the original building of the old school); the Millennium building, which includes our fantastic library; The Hockman building, on the ground floor of which are the sports hall and dance studios; the most recent addition, the Phillips Building, which houses maths and computing. We have a new 3G football pitch, which is open at weekends and evenings for community use.