



**High Wood
School**

**Primary &
Secondary
Prospectus**

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I am delighted to welcome you to High Wood School.

We are proud to be a fully inclusive, all-through school, welcoming young people from early years to sixth form. This continuity allows us to offer a uniquely cohesive and nurturing educational experience where students grow together, academically, socially, and personally, through every stage of their journey. We have the highest aspirations and expectations of every young person and see it as our mission to develop resilient, resourceful and successful young people who achieve excellent outcomes.



Our ambitious curriculum is enhanced by a range of enrichment and extra-curricular experiences which take our students beyond the classroom, broadening their horizons. We ensure each young person leaves us with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to move successfully through the primary and secondary phases of the school into our sixth form and beyond to university, apprenticeships, training or employment.

Supporting each young person's journey is a team of well-qualified, dedicated staff who believe in championing each child and guiding them towards success. We work closely in partnership with parents and carers to ensure students are happy and thrive at the school.

We are proud of our students and developing character, leadership attributes and community-mindedness is a central part of our mission. Our young people are wonderful ambassadors locally, nationally and internationally.

I hope this prospectus will inspire you and your child to join our wonderful community.

Catherine Davis BA (Hons)
Executive Headteacher

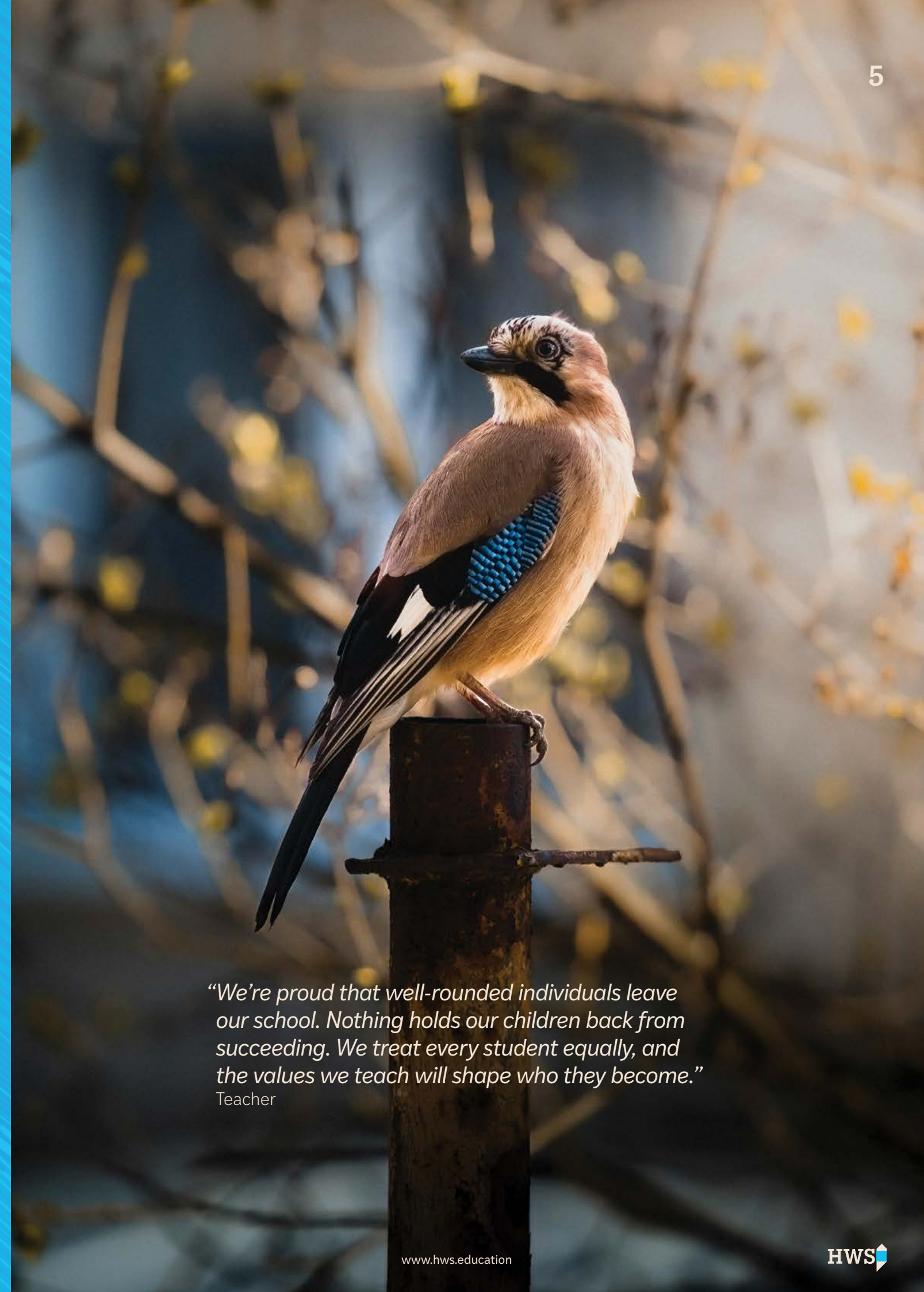
Mission Statement

Our mission is to be the first choice for local families, providing a nurturing, inclusive and inspiring environment for every stage of learning, from curious early learners to ambitious young adults, empowering all students to excel and shape a better future.

We believe it is our responsibility to cultivate in our young people the values that matter today and tomorrow.

OUR LEARNERS

- Have **Ambition** for themselves and strive for excellence in all they do.
- Are **Kind** to one another, show empathy and understand the value of altruism.
- Have **Respect** for all members of the school, the wider community and for the environment.
- Show **Resilience**, tackling challenges with determination whilst seeing setbacks as opportunities.
- Are **Open-minded** and consider different points of view with empathy and understanding.
- Are **Independent** and know how to organise themselves and manage their learning effectively.

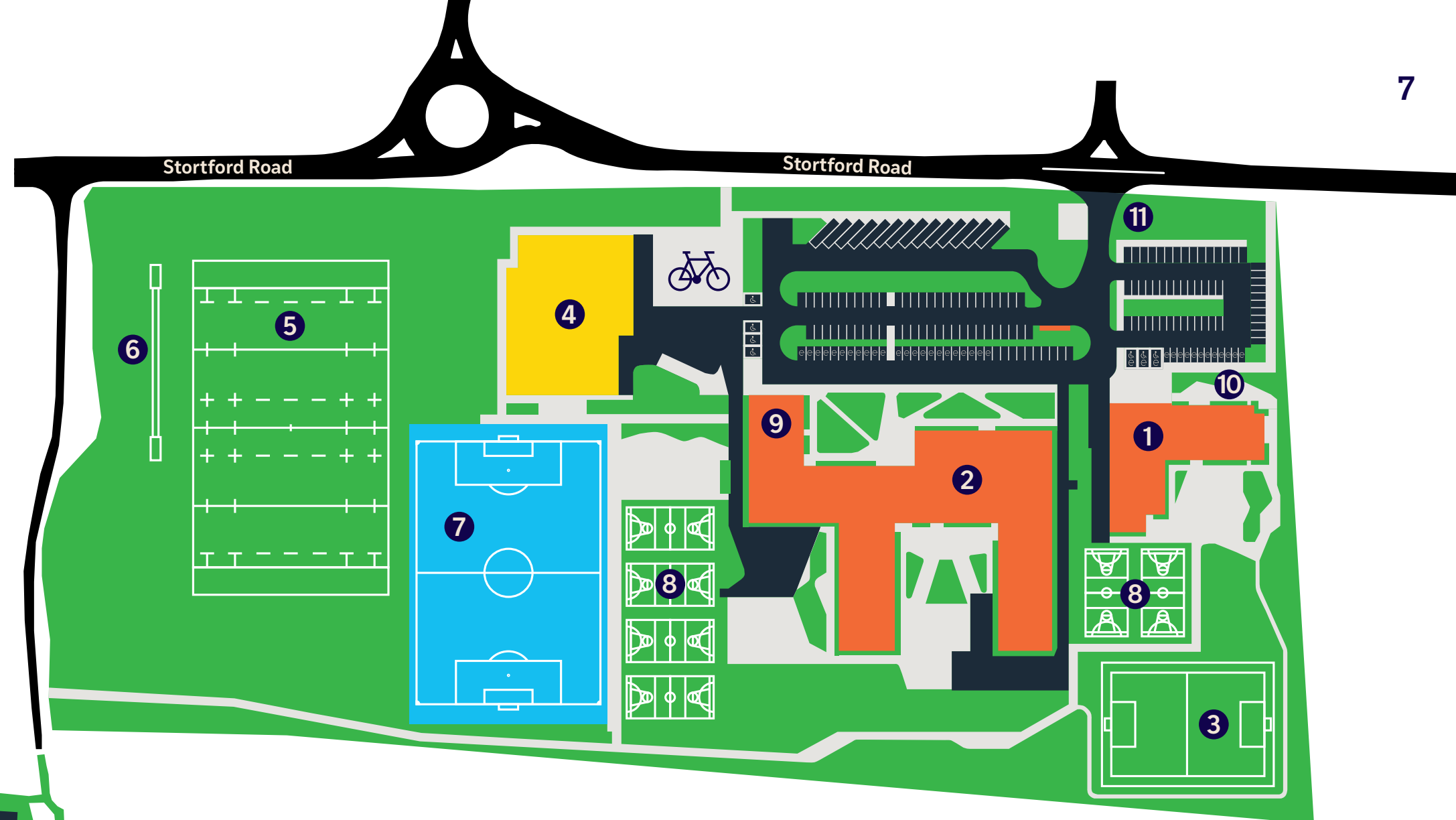


"We're proud that well-rounded individuals leave our school. Nothing holds our children back from succeeding. We treat every student equally, and the values we teach will shape who they become."
Teacher

Our New Campus

We are undergoing a significant transformation. With our relocation to a modern, purpose-built campus close to the woodland setting of High Wood, we are not just moving, we are evolving. Our new site, developed by the Department for Education, sets a benchmark in sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and exceeding current environmental standards. High Wood School is poised to become a national example of what a modern, future-ready school can be.

"We're educating a generation that must tackle climate change. It's important that our students understand their responsibility to the planet. With our modern net-zero building, we have an opportunity to make sustainability part of everyday school life." Governor



The new, carbon-neutral school will be more than just a new building. The ground floor will house the subjects designed to unlock pupils' creativity: with specially equipped classrooms, a cutting-edge recording studio, multiple practice rooms, a black-box drama studio and art and technology classrooms containing the latest equipment. The Main Hall will provide students with an exceptional performance space and the fully-equipped Library and Learning Zone will encourage reading and independent learning. On the first floor, the technical subjects of Science, Mathematics and Computing will be taught in laboratories and teaching suites which are spacious and well-equipped. The second floor will house subjects linked by the theme of communication with children taught English, Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages in classrooms which are modern and attractive, ideal for developing oracy and reasoning.

A unique feature of the new school will be exceptional sports facilities which include an eight court sports hall, dance and activity studio, fitness suite, several large playing areas, multi-use courts and a 3G, all-weather pitch.

Students in the sixth form phase will benefit from a Sixth Form Café, Common Room, and well-equipped Study Centre.

- 1 Primary School**
- 2 Secondary School**
- 3 U9/U10 Football pitch**
- 4 Sports Centre**
- 5 Rugby Pitch**
- 6 Long Jump**
- 7 3G - All Weather Pitch**
- 8 MUGA**
(Multi Use Games Areas)
- 9 Sixth Form Centre**
- 10 Early Years Play Area**
- 11 Main Entrance**

Primary Phase

Introduction

In the primary phase of High Wood School, our aim is for every child to feel both inspired and supported to achieve their academic, social, and personal best. We want each child's experience of primary school to be full of joy and wonder as they learn, achieve, make friends, and discover the world around them.

We maintain the distinctive, nurturing ethos of a traditional primary school while leveraging our unique all-through status. This allows us to expand our primary offer, giving children access to enthusiastic subject specialists, advanced resources, and a wonderfully broad curriculum.

We foster strong links between home and school, encouraging parents to be actively involved in their child's educational journey. Our staff are always happy to connect, and we regularly celebrate your child's successes with you. We also host regular parent workshops to share insights into school learning and suggest practical ways to support this at home.



Primary Curriculum

We offer an exciting, ambitious curriculum packed with high-quality learning experiences that reflect the world we live in. Designed to challenge and inspire, our curriculum focuses on key concepts and topics that are revisited and developed over time. This enables children's knowledge, skills, and understanding to build progressively year on year.

Reading sits at the heart of everything we do. Because we believe reading is the gateway to all learning, we place a strong focus on developing fluency from the very start, cultivating a lifelong love of books in every child.

As an all-through school, our children benefit from a wealth of specialist knowledge and facilities. Physical development is well catered for with dance, PE, and swimming lessons, alongside fantastic opportunities for specialist teaching in languages and music.

We know that many children thrive outdoors, and we regularly take learning beyond the classroom. This includes hands-on outdoor learning at Forest School, activities within our extensive school grounds, and educational trips both locally and further afield.





Personal Development

At High Wood School, learning goes far beyond the classroom. We are dedicated to nurturing well-rounded, resilient, and empathetic individuals. Through a rich blend of leadership opportunities, community engagement, and unique cross-phase mentorship, we help every child discover their strengths and grow in confidence.

Everyone has a voice in our school, and we encourage our children to be active, engaged members of our community. Children are given regular opportunities to share their ideas on how to improve our school, helping them make real decisions about matters that are important to them. Through these experiences, they learn the vital lifelong skills of collaboration, negotiation, and mutual respect.

We are deeply committed to engaging with our local community. Our curriculum design takes full advantage of the rich geography, history, and culture of Great Dunmow and its surrounding areas, and we encourage our pupils to give back to the community whenever they can, developing a strong sense of civic pride and social responsibility.

Being part of an all-through school gives our children a unique developmental advantage. Our young people grow up alongside inspiring older role models while simultaneously learning how to become leaders themselves. Whether it's sixth form students leading paired reading or Year 10 Sports Ambassadors supporting our sports day, these connections build a unique sense of belonging and aspiration.

Our well-rounded extra-curricular programme gives pupils the space to try new things and uncover hidden talents. Run by our school staff, children can dive into energetic sports and dance, crack codes in maths and quiz clubs, or explore creativity through stories and festive celebrations.



Pastoral care and transition

Our school values underpin everything we do and are woven throughout our curriculum. Staff act as positive role models, ensuring our approach is always caring, inclusive, and supportive.

We take the time to build a meaningful connection with every single child, developing the strong relationships necessary to ensure they feel happy, safe, and valued.

We aim to instil lifelong learning behaviours that enable children to be reflective and resourceful, taking responsibility for their own learning and striving to achieve their best. We teach children how to solve problems and persevere when facing challenges so that they are prepared for more independent learning as they move into the secondary phase.

We will get to know your child as an individual and help ensure that their time with us is happy and successful. We recognise and respect that every pupil is different and we will work alongside parents to establish the best way to support their child's progress. Our staff also work closely with other agencies, where necessary, to make sure that every pupil receives appropriate support.

Our primary phase prepares children for the next step of their educational journey as they move automatically into the secondary phase at the end of Year 6. This guarantees a seamless, anxiety-free transition; our children will already know the secondary building from various performances and sporting events, and will have already been taught by many of our secondary specialist staff.

SECONDARY PHASE

As an all-through school, we ensure the transition from the primary to secondary phase is a seamless one, both pastorally and academically. Our close liaison with our feeder primary schools also guarantees that students joining us from the start of Year 7 are well supported to be successful.

In this phase of the school, we are dedicated to unlocking your child's full potential in a supportive, challenging and inspiring environment.

Holistic Education

Our ambitious and rich curriculum is designed to produce well-rounded students and ensures students have full access to a wide range of academic, creative and technical subjects.

Passionate Educators

Our subject specialists are passionate about their subjects and cultivate in students the knowledge and skills needed to be successful. They act as mentors and coaches, guiding our young people through this important phase of their education.

Inspiring Learning Environment

Our state-of-the-art facilities support students' academic journey, enhancing their experience and unlocking their curiosity, creativity and critical thinking

Pastoral Care

Our dedicated staff understand that each child is unique and provide the support needed to guide them educationally and to enhance their happiness and wellbeing.



Secondary Curriculum

Students study a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development and prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

At Key Stage 3, the curriculum is varied, enjoyable and challenging, and aims to inspire every child to reach their potential. Across all programmes, cultural trips and other activities are included – especially chosen to offer students different perspectives on the world around them. Students study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics), Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish), Music, Drama, Art, PE, Dance, Computing, Textiles, Design Technology and Food.

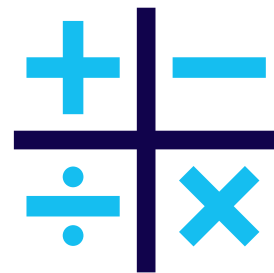
We use our knowledge of each student's abilities and aptitudes to offer them high quality information, advice and guidance to inform their curriculum choice. In Year 9, our students get the chance to personalise their curriculum and to try new subjects with a view to deciding if they want to study them for GCSE. New subjects include Business, Child Development and Health and Social Care.

In Key Stage 4, our students study 10 GCSEs and are encouraged to build a rich portfolio of subjects, encompassing academic, creative, practical and vocational courses. Our students are highly successful and achieve excellent grades, as well as being equipped to move into the sixth form and then to university, apprenticeships and employment.

Our strong professional development programme ensures that our subject specialist teachers are expert in the very latest teaching methods. They use their knowledge of each student's abilities to guide, support and challenge them. They know how to inspire a passion for their subject and what students need to do to be successful and achieve excellence.



English



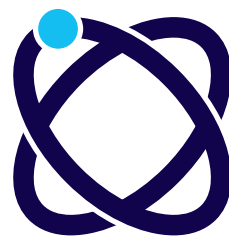
Maths



Biology



Chemistry



Physics



History



Geography



(RPE) Religion
Philosophy & Ethics



Spanish



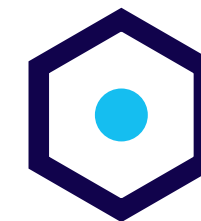
French



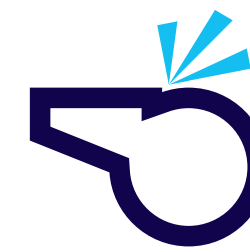
Music



Drama



Art



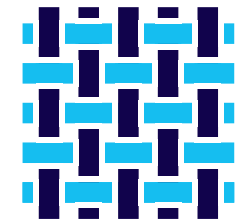
PE (Physical
Education)



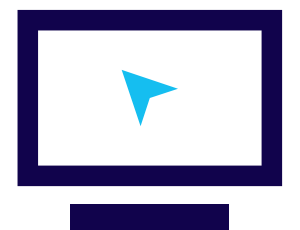
Dance



Computing



Textiles



Design Technology



Food

Personal Development

Our personal development programme ensures our young people are resilient and responsible decision makers, fully prepared to become active global citizens.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

Our carefully crafted Personal, Social, Health, Emotional (PSHE) programme equips students with the vital life skills needed to navigate modern risks, make informed decisions, and develop resilience. We have a dedicated pastoral team and counsellors that support the wellbeing of our young people.

Character and Leadership

Through our Student Leadership programme our students build independence and responsibility, becoming dynamic leaders with an understanding of how to effect change in the school community.

Careers

Our Careers programme gives students access to high quality, impartial careers advice and access to a range of employers to ensure our students are ambitious and highly employable.

Citizenship

Through our whole-school charity work, links with the local community, Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and through our secondary students working with our primary students, we teach our young people about the vital importance of their contribution to the community.



*‘Making the
students of
today the future
of tomorrow’*

Enrichment

We are committed to helping each child discover their strengths and forge new passions and interests. Through our ambitious enrichment programme, we seek to light sparks in our young people that will burn brightly for the rest of their lives.

Sport

Our comprehensive sports programme builds excellence, with our teams competing at the highest local and national levels. Our curriculum and range of clubs actively promote inclusivity by encouraging all students to develop a love of physical activity.

Drama

Drama is at the heart of school life, staging two major productions a year. The Drama Club is thriving and our students are given opportunities to shine on the local and national stage in competitions.

Music

All students in the school participate fully in music and many take part in local competitions. Alongside an ambitious range of music clubs, our students have access to individual music lessons and will be able to use the recording studio in our new school building. We are fortunate to work with Saffron Hall, giving our students access to world-class artists.

Dance

Our Dance Department instils a life-long love of dance, with many young people going on to work in the industry. Through the annual Choreography Competition, and opportunities to work with industry professionals, our students excel in this arena.

Super-curricular Programme

This comprehensive programme offers educational trips and visits that bring subjects to life beyond the classroom: from cultural visits to museums, theatres, historical sites, to taking students to industry workplaces to see the kinds of careers that subjects might lead to.

Trips

All students have opportunities to take part in trips to local, national and international locations. Our annual Activities Week gives our young people the opportunity to expand their cultural horizons, learning new skills and challenging themselves.

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Scheme

This programme is long-established at the school, with a significant number of students achieving bronze, silver and gold awards.

Pastoral Care and Inclusion

Every student in our school is important. We value the diversity within the school, providing care and support to enhance every child's school experience. We are an inclusive school that recognises and respects that every student is unique and we have a range of support networks in place to help them reach their potential.

Pastoral Support

Each year group has its own community and every student is known by their form tutor. The Head of Year, alongside the Pastoral Leader, has oversight of each year group. A team of professionals from the safeguarding, attendance and wellbeing team offer mentoring and bespoke support to children who need more help to flourish. We also provide counselling at the school.

Special Educational Needs

Our staff support those students who have, or may develop, a range of additional needs throughout their time at school. We believe that all students, irrespective of their starting points or the challenges they face, have the right to a broad and balanced education. We strive to ensure that all students are able to engage in all aspects of school life. Our goal is to enable students to become independent and confident learners. We want to ensure that they leave school with the necessary skills to succeed in their future lives.

'It has meant the world to us to see my child become part of a group that truly understands her and her individual needs. The staff involved have consistently gone above and beyond their professional capacity to make sure she feels included, safe, and supported'

PARENT

Sixth Form and Beyond

We are able to provide our students with a seamless transition to our vibrant and exciting Sixth Form.

- Our Sixth Formers act as ambassadors to the whole school community, promoting leadership at every opportunity through mentoring students in the younger phases of the school and through the community work they lead.
- Our dedicated and knowledgeable team of subject specialists ensure our students leave the school with excellent results that set them up for life beyond school by giving them access to the most prestigious universities and apprenticeship programmes, whilst also ensuring they are highly employable.
- Our curriculum is rich and ambitious, with students undertaking both A Levels and vocational courses. A range of enrichment opportunities are on offer to complement students' academic qualifications, expanding their horizons and enriching their CVs.

'When faced with the decision of where to pursue my sixth form studies, having completed five years at the school, the choice to continue my education here was a clear one. The transition was seamless as I already knew the majority of my teachers and the school environment, which gave me confidence stepping into the Sixth Form.'

Student



High Wood School

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