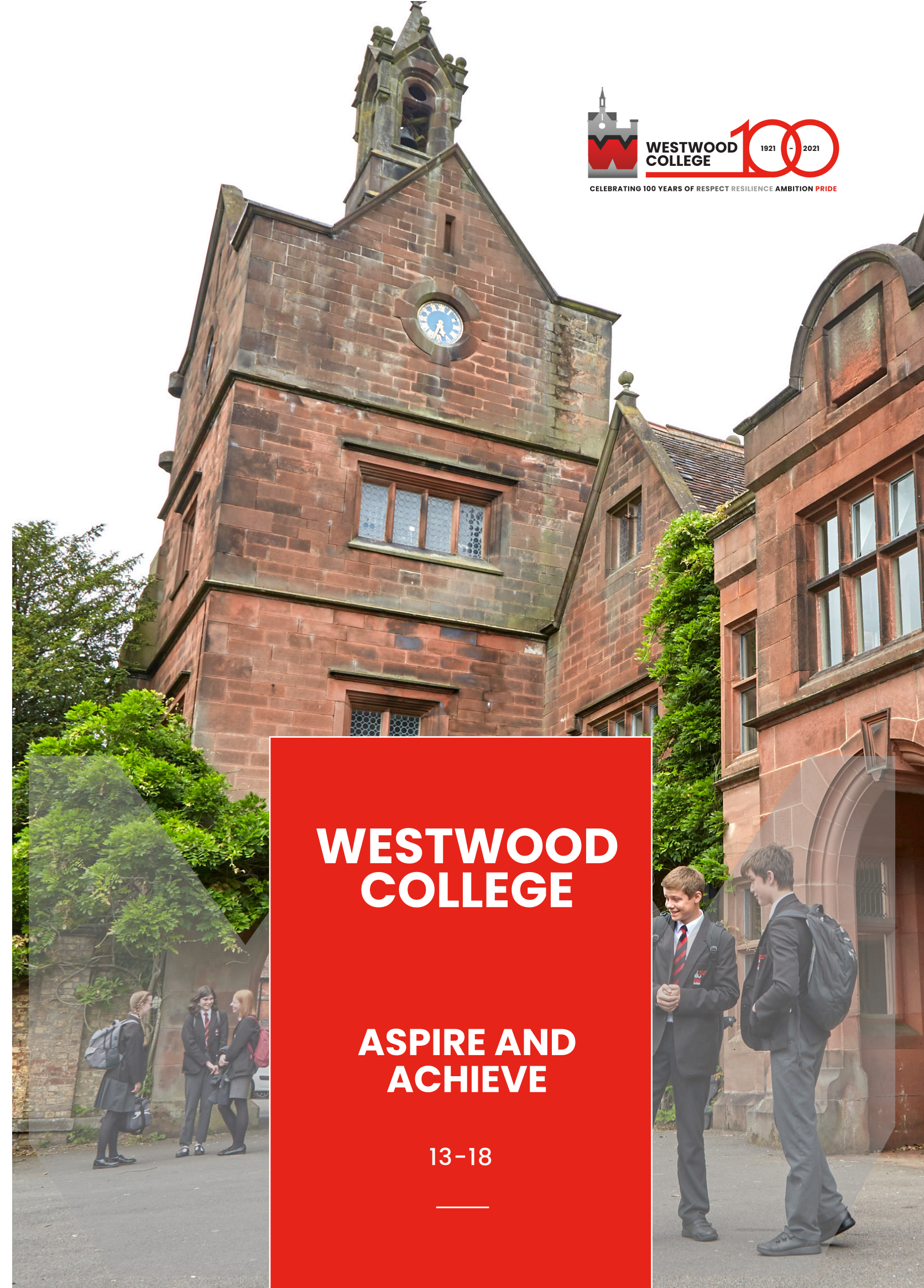


WESTWOOD COLLEGE

**ASPIRE AND
ACHIEVE**

13-18





OUR SCHOOL

Westwood College has a rich heritage and a good reputation locally and beyond. The main building was built originally as a private residence, but has been the heart of a successful school since 1921.

Having been through several transitions, not least the addition of New Hall in 1963, Westwood became a 13-18 comprehensive High School in 1980 and remains so today.

Part of the Talentum Learning Trust alongside 8 other schools in the Town and local area, Westwood students and staff benefit from close collaboration in order to provide support and opportunities for all. The Trust is committed to providing the best education and support for all, regardless of background, faith or ability and is committed to the belief that we are stronger together. There is an agreed commitment in all aspects of the schools, communities and the Trust to "Excellence for all".



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HEAD'S WELCOME

Thank you for considering Westwood College for your child.

Throughout its long and proud history, Westwood College has supported the young people of Leek and the Staffordshire Moorlands in reaching their potential and achieving their ambitions.

With our motto of Respect, Resilience, Ambition, Pride, we have an unswerving commitment to ensuring all students have an equal chance to make good use of the education that the school offers, in order to help them choose their future patterns of life and take full advantage of their opportunities in society.

To do this, we seek to develop personal confidence, the ability to make and sustain fulfilling relationships, flexibility, as well as the skills for the world of work.

With an outstanding team of teachers and a truly broad curriculum, Westwood offers students the chance to create their own pathways and to discover and develop their own talents.

Set in 10 acres of stunning parkland, Westwood College is equipped with a wide range of facilities and resources that allow students access to a broad selection of courses. The buildings that feature throughout the grounds support a sense of calm and purpose that allows students to make the very most of their time here. Rarely can a school, and its buildings, have generated such a strong feeling of attachment from its community.

Admitting students into Year 9, Westwood College maintains an admission number of 200 and is regularly over-subscribed. Westwood Sixth Form is equally popular, attracting students from schools throughout the Moorlands.

In order for students to reach their potential, it is essential that a school has a common set of values, a shared vision for success and a mission statement that centres on giving students the very best experiences and life

chances. At Westwood College, our students, parents, staff and board of governors are committed to achieving a level of excellence that secures the success of every student. This requires responsive and resilient students, ambitious and committed staff, and parents who are supportive of the whole educational process.

Westwood's focus on 'high expectations' is what underpins our approach. We expect and demand the best from our students and staff, and are committed to supporting all members of our College community. We recognise that every young person is an individual, that all students are creative, and that all students have their own individual talents. We foster a caring and supportive environment and our curriculum offers wide choice whilst emphasising the emotional, physical, intellectual and cultural development of each young person. As an integral part of the community, we apply strong moral values to everything we do and our daily work seeks to support the growth and development of the whole student. Ultimately, our aim is to create a happy, caring and co-operative college community that celebrates learning in all of its forms.

In 2019, Ofsted commented that 'Westwood is a welcoming, friendly school. Pupils and Sixth Form students are happy here because they say that they are treated as adults and feel their voices are heard. They develop a strong sense of equality and fairness.'

At Westwood College we're proud of our exceptional students, proud of our committed staff team, and proud of the stunning environment in which the College is situated. Our goal is for students to be proud of the achievements of their peers, proud of the College, and most importantly, proud of themselves.

Mr M Taylor
Headteacher

“
**STUDENTS DEVELOP
A STRONG SENSE OF
EQUALITY AND
FAIRNESS**
”

(OFSTED MARCH 2019)

**RESPECT
RESILIENCE
AMBITION
PRIDE**



CURRICULUM

Westwood's intent is to offer all students a curriculum that is relevant, engaging and creative, and that promotes choice and independence. Our curriculum is committed to challenging all students, regardless of their starting points, in order to discover and develop their talents. It emphasises the social, spiritual and cultural education of each young person, as well as their physical and emotional development, in order to best equip them for their next steps and future pathways.

At Westwood all subjects are taught by subject specialists. Whilst the primary purpose is to help students achieve qualifications in the subject areas they are studying, equally important is for the curriculum to develop the wider student. These two aspects to the curriculum can easily be illustrated: parents want their children to be knowledgeable about Science and French, but also to have resilience, pride, respect, to be honest, industrious and caring. These qualities are developed and nurtured intentionally and unintentionally by all the adults and young people in the College.

Students in Year 9 follow a common curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science, French, Art, Design, Drama, Geography, History, Information Technology, Music, Personal and Social Education (PSCHE), Religious Education and Physical Education. In addition to French the vast majority of students will experience a 2nd foreign language of either German or Spanish.

Students in Years 10 and 11 study 4 Option subjects. In addition to those subjects offered in Year 9, students can also choose to study Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Media Studies and Computer Science.

On average students will study 9 subjects at KS4, with students who take Triple Science studying 10 subjects. In addition to GCSE Maths the most able mathematicians can study an AQA Level 2 qualification in Further Maths. Students are not restricted when making their Option choices and have a free choice of subjects from which the Option blocks are then created, for timetabling purposes, enabling the KS4 curriculum to be adapted each year to best meet the needs of all students with the resources that we have. We aim to ensure that all students gain appropriate qualifications by the end of Year 11.

From the start of Year 9 teaching sets are arranged to provide the best possible learning environment for each student. In some subjects, such as English, Maths and Science students are taught in separate ability groups; in others, all-ability groups are used to get the best results.



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RELEVANT, ENGAGING AND CREATIVE



Homework

Subject staff set homework regularly. The amount will vary during the year and will depend on the work being undertaken in a lesson. Work beyond the classroom, often referred to as 'homework' is a core part of the learning process and we know can engender independence in our students, helping them to cope with demands in the future of being an employee or a university student.

We offer opportunities in school for students to work beyond the classroom at lunchtime and after school supervised by staff and/or Sixth Form helpers who have first hand knowledge of 'what it can be like', and the intricacies of the different subjects, having studied them very recently!

Extra Curricular

We offer a wide range of activities, events and clubs that students can participate in beyond their lessons. These include: Sports clubs and Teams; Duke of Edinburgh Award; Inter-House competitions; Trips and visits in the UK and abroad (Slovakia, The Battle Fields, New York, Paris, Barcelona, German Exchange); Drama and Music Performances; Young Engineer and STEM activities.



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



At Westwood we have a strong pastoral system that is led by experienced and knowledgeable Heads of Year who move through the school with their year group alongside the Form Tutors. This helps to build the strong, personal relationships which are a core strength of the school.

The Head of Year Team is complemented by two non-teaching members of staff who support student behaviour and attendance. We also have a designated Mental Health lead who coordinates support for students across all year groups.

We have a strong and experienced SEN team at Westwood who work with students and families to ensure that all learners have full access to the curriculum and to what the school has to offer.

'Pupils spoken to during the inspection said that they feel safe and that there is always a member of staff they can talk to if they have any concerns'

Ofsted 2019.

WESTWOOD SIXTH FORM

The Westwood Sixth Form currently has 250 students on roll with numbers and opportunities for students increasing each year. Approximately two thirds of Year 11 students choose to stay to continue their education with us, with other students joining us from schools in the local area.

Westwood Sixth Form is big enough to offer a full range of academic and vocational courses yet small enough to enable us to provide personalised care, guidance and support to all students. With a history of excellent outcomes, the Sixth Form at Westwood offers students the chance to work with a team of outstanding teaching professionals, many of whom they will be familiar with from their time in lower school.

At Westwood the Sixth Form is deliberately different from the lower school, with no formal uniform and timetabled private study time. Students are seen as young adults and are expected to respond accordingly (both in their studies and social behaviour).

Many opportunities are open to students beyond their subject studies. **These include a Students' Union, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the National Citizenship Scheme, Young Enterprise, Sports and Performing Arts as well as numerous trips and visits, including the chance to visit New York City.**



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



It is outside the classroom where further learning takes place and often where the most memorable learning experiences are made. Westwood has a long tradition of trips and visits, both at home and abroad. In recent years our students have travelled to France with the French and Art departments, to the battle fields of northern France and Belgium with History, to Germany as part of our German Exchange programme and to Spain, Slovakia and Lithuania as part of the Comenius Programme. Visits closer to home, such as those to the UK coast with Geography or to the theatre with Drama and English, offer our students the chance to enrich their classroom-based learning.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a popular programme in College which helps to grow our students into confident and resilient global citizens. The College offers the award at all three levels and perfectly illustrates our commitment to offer high quality extra-curricular provision to complement good academic attainment.

Sport is also a prominent feature in our extra-curricular offer here at Westwood. Sporting clubs regularly meet after school to practise their skills in a particular sport. In doing so, our students also develop important life skills such as time management, team work and commitment.

TEACHING IS ENGAGING AND CREATIVE IN MANY SUBJECT AREAS, WHICH MOTIVATES STUDENTS TO WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE WELL.

(OFSTED MARCH 2019)





The Talentum
LEARNING TRUST

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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION PRIDE

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