



**WESTWOOD  
COLLEGE**



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION PRIDE



**FOR THE FUTURE  
AND BEYOND**

**WESTWOOD SIXTH FORM**

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**PART OF THE LEEK SIXTH FORM**





# HEAD’S WELCOME

Thank you for considering Westwood Sixth Form for the next step in your education. For the past 100 years Westwood has supported students in realising their potential and achieving their ambitions. With a history of academic success and a focus on providing a wealth of opportunities to students, we’re confident that Westwood Sixth Form can give you the best chance of future success.

Set in acres of stunning parkland, the Westwood campus is an inspirational place to study. This campus has stunning study and social facilities, formal Victorian gardens, plenty of space and a sense of freedom unique to Westwood. The grounds have something to offer all year round and students tell us that this sense of freedom and independence contributes greatly to their happiness and success.

As part of the Leek Sixth Form, working in collaboration with Leek High School we offer a wide range of academic and vocational courses selected to provide you with the

necessary skill set for your future studies and careers beyond the Sixth Form.

Progression after studying in the Sixth Form is about so much more than just qualifications and therefore we pride ourselves on the wider opportunities we offer our students and the superb quality of our pastoral care; we provide a supportive environment where students thrive and achieve their goals through personalised tutoring.

What sets us apart is that we offer the best of both worlds: a big enough school-based Sixth Form to offer a wide range of courses, whilst being small enough to make sure that everyone gets the support they need and that no one ‘slips through the net’.

We look forward to meeting you as we begin our second century of supporting students to be the best that they can be.



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# SIXTH FORM LIFE

**Sixth Form life isn’t just about the courses and exam results. It’s also about all the things that help you become the person you want to be.**

Opportunities come in all shapes and sizes, from ‘life-changing’ international visits to New York, Berlin and Paris and foreign exchanges to coaching courses and public speaking competitions. You can take a lead role in the Students’ Union, organising charity events and making decisions about spending on Sixth Form facilities. Maybe you will get involved in our blossoming Duke of Edinburgh programme or take part in the annual shows.

Our fascinating programme of Inspire Cafés – master classes and presentations delivered by university professors who are experts in their field – enable students to access ‘super-curricular’ content which inspires learning beyond the classroom and enhances their UCAS applications. We have links with a number of universities, including the ‘Step Up’ programme with the University of Oxford, a programme specifically designed for schools

like ours - to boost the aspirations of state school students from comprehensive schools. We are one of only a handful of schools chosen to participate in this programme which has encouraged more of our most able students to realise their potential.

All students also benefit from a range of PSCE activities, culminating in a Health and Well-being morning where students get advice on safe driving, mental health, sexual health and other key issues which affect young people, whilst also trying out an activity designed to help release those ‘happy hormones’!

We want every activity beyond the classroom to be open to all. To ensure students with a lower family income can take full advantage of this broad range of opportunities they can apply for funding through the Sixth Form Bursary.

**“ 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. ”**

(OFSTED MARCH 2019)





# TUTORIAL SUPPORT



Personalised support makes us stand out. Applying for University Courses, Apprenticeships or Employment is not easy – students need support through this process.

Each member of the Sixth Form is placed with a tutor in Year 13 whose subject specialism is related to their aspirations. The tutorial team has a wealth of experience in university applications for different fields; they know how to support students to make the very best applications.

Our UCAS support is second to none. We have a dedicated team who work with you on every element of the application process to help you get the university offers and confirmed places of your choosing.

For those heading into the world of work or further training we have similarly impressive support. We have a Work Experience Coordinator and offer an Employability Skills course to students which includes CV building and personal development.



# STEP-UP PROGRAMME



Westwood is lucky enough to be part of the 'Step-Up' programme, where we work in partnership with our link college, New College, Oxford to encourage and support our young people in making an application to the top universities.

The programme is now in its fourth year and students have had the opportunity to visit Oxford and its colleges, attend subject seminars and workshops and have made

valuable contacts with university students currently studying at degree level.

A Year 12 student remarked ***"it's really important to actually see places like this."***

A key part of the programme is to dispel the myths and break the stereotypes surrounding Oxford and Cambridge. Westwood also has strong links with Sidney Sussex College at Cambridge University.

# DESTINATIONS

In sciences, arts and humanities subjects, our students achieve their goals and progress to study a vast array of courses in higher education – from Acting to Zoology – at a wide range of universities in all corners of the country.

Our students are always successful in gaining places at university, with a quarter of recent alumni progressing to Russell Group universities. Recent successes include: History and Politics at Oxford; Medicine at Newcastle; Earth Sciences at Durham; Mathematics at Warwick; Marine Biology and Zoology at Bangor; PPE at Queen's Belfast; French and Russian at Leeds; Chemistry at York; Geological Sciences at Leeds; Biology at Nottingham; Computer Science and Electronics at Bristol; History at Manchester; Business at Monmouth, USA.

Equally impressive is the number of students progressing to respected courses in more vocational areas: Medicine at Newcastle; Physiotherapy at Keele; Adult Nursing at Keele; Media Production at York St. John; Landscape Architecture at Birmingham City; Fine Art at East Anglia; Music at Leeds College of Music; Sport and Exercise Science at Newcastle; Applied Theatre and Community Drama at LIPA; Events Management at Staffordshire; Sport Therapy and Rehabilitation at Derby; Speech and Language Therapy at Manchester.

We also have an excellent track record in supporting students in securing apprenticeships and work placements. Our tailored careers programme allows students to fully consider all options available to them in terms of their next steps.



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

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Choosing the right course can seem a daunting prospect. In addition to looking at your most recent attainment grades, you should consider which subjects you enjoy, and how subjects are related to career paths which you're considering.

If you don't yet have a clue what you might do after Sixth Form, don't worry; you're not alone! Around a third of applicants each year don't yet have any ideas about careers, and many students change their mind along the way.



At interview we will check that your course choices match any career aspirations you have at present, and that your projected GCSE grades are likely to give you access to the courses you have chosen and also give advice on course combinations.



# APPLICATION TIME-LINE

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## October to December

Complete your preliminary application form to help us formulate option blocks that allow as many students as possible to access their first choices.

## February

Fill in your final application form after getting your mock exam results and attending the Options Advice Evening. You will receive acknowledgement of your application and your course choices will be checked against your predicted grades.

## March

Interviews to assess suitability for chosen courses in light of most recent attainment grades.

## June

Induction Day – a chance to meet your tutor and try out some 'taster sessions.'

## August

Expert advice on hand to discuss results and impact on course choices

## September

Your Sixth Form experience begins!



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# ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

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We have courses to suit all ability levels at Westwood Sixth Form, though what's most important is that students study courses that suit them, both in terms of their ability and their future goals.

Most academic and vocational courses require a minimum of 5 passes (or equivalent) at GCSE level including English and Maths, though we will consider applicants with grades below this threshold in certain circumstances. Students who have not passed English and / or Maths at grade 4 or above can access resit classes to help them to achieve these standards.

Certain courses will require specific grades in specific subjects; this information is available on our website and will be discussed at interview.

Should you have any questions or concerns about meeting the entry requirements the best advice is to contact us to see what will work best for you.



**STUDENTS APPRECIATE THE MUTUAL RESPECT THAT EXISTS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND STAFF. TEACHING IS ENGAGING AND CREATIVE IN MANY SUBJECT AREAS, WHICH MOTIVATES MOST STUDENTS TO WORK HARD AND ACHIEVE WELL.**



(OFSTED MARCH 2019)

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**The Talentum**  
LEARNING TRUST

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1921 - 2021

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