

Weatherhead High School

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

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Summary from last Ofsted Report

Students make outstanding progress whatever their starting point or circumstances and the standards they achieve are significantly above the national averages.

- ★ The achievement of pupils is outstanding.
- ★ Teaching is outstanding.
- ★ Excellent relationships exist between staff and students, built on mutual respect, which inspire confidence and create an environment in which outstanding learning takes place.
- ★ The school has a very strong sense of community and the successes it has achieved are very much the result of a team effort.
- ★ Pride in the school is shared by all.
- ★ All leaders and managers are uncompromising in their quest to give all students first class opportunities to learn and as a result students make outstanding progress.
- ★ Unswerving commitment to improvement leads to exceptional student achievement.
- ★ Outstanding leadership from everyone is at the heart of this school's success.
- ★ The 'culture of success' is shared by all. This is a truly cohesive school where everyone shares the same values.

Overall effectiveness	Grade Outstanding
Achievement of pupils	Grade Outstanding
Quality of teaching	Grade Outstanding
Behaviour and safety of students	Grade Outstanding
Leadership and management	Grade Outstanding

Visit www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk for the full **Ofsted Report**

Note - this summary is taken from the last full inspection at Weatherhead.
As a Grade 1 Outstanding school, Weatherhead is not subject to the normal cycle of inspection.



Welcome to Weatherhead High School



Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your interest in Weatherhead High School. This prospectus will give you some information about the school and supports our culture that the learning and the well-being of our students is at the centre of everything we do. We have an ethos of hard-work, aspiration and success delivered in a supportive and encouraging environment where students thrive and are happy.

The school is an extremely popular and successful 11-18 girls' comprehensive school with over 1,600 students on roll including a mixed Sixth Form of approximately 400 students. The quality of learning, teaching and support at the school is outstanding and is at the centre of our success. All staff work tirelessly to ensure that our students have an appropriately challenging curriculum, matched to their ability and expertly delivered. We encourage students to think independently whilst guiding them to achieve excellence in their external examinations. I am particularly proud of the extra-curricular programme that the school has, including one of the largest Duke of Edinburgh provisions on the Wirral.

Please do take the opportunity to visit the school, and I am always happy to discuss in more detail any of the points of interest you find in this prospectus. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will have to make. Weatherhead places particular importance on supporting each child as an individual and this is at the heart of what we do. The prospectus only gives a glimpse of the very special opportunities we have for students so please do take up our invitation to visit the school on our Open Evening and Open Mornings so that you will have the opportunity to talk to staff and students and experience first-hand the very caring ethos that is so important to us.

The school has had many successes over recent years including an Outstanding Ofsted report, and is recognised by the Department of Education as a High Performing Academy. We have many awards to demonstrate our commitment to continuing our development and pursuit of excellence. The staff and governors are very proud of Weatherhead and we work hard to ensure that we look for every opportunity to continue to improve all aspects of our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Whelan'.

A Whelan

Headteacher

Joining Year 7

Many of our new intake students are already familiar with Weatherhead as a consequence of our outreach work with local primary schools. We organise induction days and curriculum visits to ensure students are given confidence and start learning as soon as they arrive. Senior students help Year 7 settle in and find their way around the building. Parents are kept fully informed of progress and we also ensure that there is a Parents' Evening in October of the first term to give an opportunity to discuss any issues of concern. Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any time if they need clarification or if they are concerned about their daughter. Also, we provide the opportunity for open surgery events where parents are able, without appointment, to visit and discuss issues of concern with the Executive Headteacher or the Head of School. The dates for these are well publicised in advance on our website.

Pastoral Student Support

Happy students are successful students and we work really hard to ensure that we develop positive relationships, rewarding students for their effort and commitment to their studies through our specialist reward system. Every student has a Form Tutor and wherever possible that Form Tutor remains with the student for five years until the end of Year 11. There is a culture in the School where everyone is valued and respected. We ensure that student self-esteem and self-confidence is encouraged to develop so as to provide the best possible chance for a mature, informed and healthy life. A Pastoral Student Services Team has a team of professionals all dedicated to providing the best for Weatherhead students. We have a part-time School Nurse based at Weatherhead and there are other extended service healthcare professionals visiting the school on a weekly basis providing healthcare needs. The quality of our work in supporting students has been recognised by Ofsted and by the numerous awards of excellence presented to the School.



Curriculum and Students

We offer a broad, balanced curriculum where students study core and foundation subjects in Years 7-9: English, Maths, Science, Technology, History, Geography, Music, Art, Computer Science/ICT, PE, Spanish and Religious Studies. We enrich the curriculum with many other opportunities, for example, Latin is taken by some Year 7 students as part of an extra-curricular programme. Also, Media and Drama are introduced into the curriculum. From the outset emphasis is placed on high academic standards for which the school is very well known. Members of staff are alert to new developments in course content and teaching methods and we ensure that students develop skills that will help them throughout their life. Leadership opportunities are provided through many routes; Form Captains, Lunch Leaders, Charity or School Council Reps, Curriculum Ambassadors and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. All students are encouraged to develop good study habits and are taught how to learn effectively. Homework forms an integral part of the courses offered at all levels at the school. Homework planners are provided for every student and parents are encouraged to support students and their learning by discussing their homework with them and signing the planner on a weekly basis. Any concerns can be highlighted in the planner and Form Tutors and subject staff regularly contact parents to clarify issues and support students.

Weatherhead Sixth Form

Weatherhead Sixth Form is an increasingly popular and successful sixth form with a community of over 360 students, studying a combination of over 35 academic and vocational courses. A Levels are offered in almost all disciplines and there are also a range of vocational courses on offer.

In the future, almost all Year 7 students will continue their studies into the Sixth Form. Weatherhead students have first priority in application for places at Post-16 level. The Sixth Form offers high quality teaching from committed teachers, we also provide outstanding pastoral support. Excellent extra-curricular opportunities, specialist careers advice, and a variety of enrichment and leadership opportunities ensure continuous social and personal development. The Sixth Form Scholars' Programme prepares gifted students for applications to top universities through the fortnightly debating club, visits to Oxford and Cambridge and mock interviews. Our specialist Sixth Form staff ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We take pride in all our students' progression routes. All students attend two school led university trips. Last year over 120 students were successful in their applications to university, many at Russell Group universities, to study a wide range of courses, including: Business & Marketing, Chemistry, Criminology, Fashion, Genetics, History, Maths, Nursing, Physics, Politics, Primary Education and Sport.



What is special about Weatherhead?

- High quality academic standards
- Outstanding facilities
- Open every day from 8.00 am (Breakfast Club) until 5.30 pm
- Excellent Sixth Form with first preference entry to girls in Year 11 at Weatherhead
- Very caring and supportive teachers with an outstanding range of extra-curricular activities
- Recognised by the Government as an Outstanding high performing school
- International visits and opportunities, including exchanges
- An extensive Student Leadership Award Programme
- A wide range of opportunities for community service and to engage in charitable activities
- Outstanding pastoral support to ensure students reach their full potential
- 'Secondary School of the Year' at Wirral Globe School Awards 2017



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