

Weatherhead High School

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

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A Year in Pictures (2023-2024)



SEPTEMBER -
Year 7 Cookery Club



OCTOBER - Poetry Slam recital



NOVEMBER -
gymnasts perform at Sports Awards Evening



DECEMBER - 'Winter Warmer' Christmas show



JANUARY - STEM Club



FEBRUARY - the cast of Matilda JR



MARCH - Year 8 rowers out on the water



APRIL - members of the School Council



MAY - Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition to North Wales



JUNE - Dot Art Schools competition winner



JULY - Olympic themed Sports Day

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted that you are considering Weatherhead High School for the next stage of your child's academic and personal development. Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions you will have to make and you should be reassured to know that Weatherhead places particular importance on supporting each child as an individual, seeking to nurture and care for every individual so they fulfil their potential during their time at school.

Weatherhead High School is a popular and successful 11-18 girls' comprehensive school with a mixed Sixth Form. In total, we have over 1,500 students on roll, but pride ourselves on getting to know each student individually. The school has a reputation for excellence and we encourage our students to be resilient, show respect for themselves and each other, and reach for their dreams. Our vision is *'to be one of the best schools in the country, renowned for academic and teaching excellence and outstanding student support, and to have an inclusive community based on mutual respect that instils a world class ambition in all its students, no matter what their background'*. This vision is central to all aspects of school life and we are truly committed to bringing out the best in every child.

The quality of learning, teaching and support at the school is second to none and is at the centre of our success. We place our students at the heart of everything we do and work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure all young people flourish and achieve in school. We have an ethos of hard work, aspiration and success, delivered in a supportive and encouraging environment where students feel challenged, have a strong sense of belonging and are genuinely able to thrive. Weatherhead's teachers motivate and enthuse the students in their care, delivering lessons that capture their interests, challenge and inspire them to learn. Success in public examinations is important and the results we have sustained in recent years are testament to our ability to successfully prepare students for the next stage, be it higher education, further education, apprenticeships or employment. The

curriculum is carefully designed and sequenced to take students on an exciting learning journey; it is also appropriately challenging and personalised, being well-matched to the ability of all students. Students are effectively guided by their teachers as well as encouraged to work collaboratively and think independently in class. They are also set meaningful and well-considered homework tasks that consolidate learning and enable them to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding of the curriculum.

At Weatherhead, students have a rich experience that extends well beyond the classroom and I am particularly proud of our extra-curricular programme and wider opportunities that provide enrichment and help to shape character. A broad and diverse range of activities are offered to students during the lunch break and after-school, and every student will find activities that capture their imagination and interests. Included in the extra-curricular package is one of the largest Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes on the Wirral and we are very proud of the high numbers of students who engage in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

High quality pastoral care is central to the ethos of the school. Although Weatherhead is a 'big' school we take pride in getting to know every individual and ensuring they are well-cared for and supported through the challenges that life at high school presents. I can assure you that there will always be someone ready to help if your child has a concern.

The school has had many successes over recent years, including a recent 'good' judgement by Ofsted (November 2022) and recognition as a High Performing Academy by the Department for Education (most recently in 2021). It is a school that provides students with rich and exciting opportunities, and is a community in which all individuals are valued. Our prospectus gives a glimpse of these opportunities and I hope that when you visit the school you talk to our students and staff, experiencing first-hand the culture of respect, kindness and high aspiration that permeates Weatherhead.

Mr D Mackenzie, Headteacher



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Joining Year 7

Many of our new students are already familiar with Weatherhead as a consequence of our outreach work with local primary schools. To ensure students have a smooth transition to high school and gain confidence in advance of them arriving, we organise primary school visits, a comprehensive induction day and exciting transition Summer School. Parents and carers are kept fully informed of their child's progress and the Year 7 Form Tutor Information Evening in October of the first term supports the settling in process. We firmly believe that every child is entitled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy learning, make a positive contribution to the school and achieve, and we have a dedicated team of teaching and support staff who work under the guidance and direction of our Senior Leadership Team to ensure that this is realised. Students are encouraged to be the best they can and to join extra-curricular clubs and get involved in the wider life of the school. In the words of one of our students, the highlights of Year 7 are *'making new friends, joining clubs, becoming a member of the School Council, the opportunity to perform in school shows, creating cards for care home residents, taking part in the Weatherhead termly Bake Offs, competing in Sports Day and the Conway Centre residential'*.

Pastoral Support

At Weatherhead, the individuality of each student is valued and respected, and the school prides itself on being a vibrant, happy and caring environment. Underpinning the school's values - RESILIENCE, RESPECT, REACH and REWARD - is a system of pastoral care and support which exists to promote positive relationships and a culture of self-respect and respect for others. Every student has a Form Tutor who remains with the tutor group throughout Years 7 to 11, supporting students to quickly develop a sense of belonging, settle into friendship groups and build trusting relationships with their teachers. The Weatherhead Charter sets out the importance of valuing and respecting all members of our school community, and we ensure that student resilience, self-esteem and self-confidence are encouraged and developed with additional support given to those who find the journey through high school more challenging. The Student Services Team is made up of professionals dedicated to providing the best for Weatherhead students, including a Year Leader and Pastoral & Academic Support Worker for each year group. We also have a Mental Health Lead and Safety & Well-Being Officer as well as dedicated and experienced Attendance, Safeguarding and SEND teams. As a parent you can rest assured that your child will be well cared for and supported during their time at Weatherhead High School.



Curriculum and Learning

We offer a broad, balanced and exciting Key Stage 3 curriculum (Years 7-9) which has been designed to capture the interests and imaginations of students. Alongside the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and Spanish, students are taught regular lessons in Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Dance, Drama, Food & Nutrition, Music, PE, PSHE and Religious Studies. The curriculum allows students to develop a core body of knowledge, providing essential foundations for success at GCSE. At Key Stage 4 there is a good degree of curriculum flexibility delivered through our curriculum pathways. Students typically study nine GCSEs (or equivalent) although this may be adapted for some students. Alongside the core curriculum, they are able to make options choices from a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses, including Child Development, Health & Social Care, Photography, Sociology and Textiles, providing breadth and allowing students to play to their interests and strengths. In all subjects, students are taught by experienced, passionate and highly skilled specialists who deliver engaging, creative and challenging lessons, inspiring students' love of learning. Fundamental to students' success is the extra time their teachers invest in supporting them well and helping them to remove barriers to learning, particularly when preparing for public examinations. The strength of the relationships that students have with their teachers is unique to Weatherhead and was recognised by Ofsted inspectors during their visit in November 2022, who commented '*relationships between staff and pupils are strong*'.

Students are encouraged to develop good study habits and are taught how to learn effectively, and homework forms an integral part of students' learning journey through school. Planners are provided to all students and homework is set using the EduLink app which is accessible to parents, allowing them to support their child's learning by discussing their homework with them and providing an appropriate environment for them to study independently at home. Any concerns can be noted in the planner so the Form Tutor and/or subject teachers can contact parents to discuss them.

The school was only built 20 years ago and has exceptional facilities. Students benefit from being taught in a stimulating learning environment and have access to specialist facilities, including a theatre that seats an audience of 450, a dance studio, specialist rooms for the delivery of Science, Computing and the Technology subjects and a Learning Resource Centre that is organised across two floors. Sports facilities are excellent and include a four-court sports hall, gymnasium and fitness suite, netball and tennis courts and a full-size 3G football pitch. The school is very well-maintained and students take pride in the environment and all it has to offer.

Weatherhead is a proudly inclusive school where all children are challenged, supported and nurtured to succeed. A wide range of curriculum enhancing opportunities are offered to the most able students, including the chance to visit universities and museums, and participate in the Scholars' Programme, preparing them well for academic study at university. By the same token, those students who require additional support and personalisation are very well-cared for by our dedicated SEND team, enabling them to access the curriculum and achieve success. It truly is an environment where every young person can enjoy, achieve and fulfil their potential.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

At Weatherhead it is appreciated that learning is not just something that happens in the classroom. Students have a wide range of extra-curricular activities from which to choose, catering for all interests and allowing them to try something new. There is a strong emphasis on the creative arts with students having opportunities to immerse themselves in an exciting extra-curricular programme across art, dance, drama and music. There are also plenty of opportunities to play individual and team sports, and the school has an excellent track record of success in local, regional and national sports competitions. From rounders to rugby to rowing, the extensive extra-curricular sport programme promotes good health and the benefit of activity amongst our students. Extra-curricular opportunities extend far beyond the creative arts and PE with most subject areas and the Learning Resource Centre offering lunchtime and after school enrichment, including clubs for Sign Language, STEM, Coding and Film, to name but a few.

Alongside the extra-curricular programme, opportunities for leadership are provided to students through many different routes, including the School Council, Charity Reps, Subject Ambassadors, Event Leaders and Careers Ambassadors. The pinnacle of student leadership in school is the Student Senior Leadership Team which is instrumental in undertaking lunch duties, leading assemblies, organising charity fundraisers and making a significant contribution to school life. Leadership is also developed through the very popular and successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme which attracts high numbers of students at Bronze, Silver and Gold, providing opportunities for teamwork, the development of new skills and service to the community. Engagement in the wider life of school is encouraged and students' effort, commitment and contribution to the school community is recognised and rewarded through the school's reward system.

Excellent extra-curricular opportunities, specialist careers advice and a variety of enrichment and leadership opportunities ensure continuous social and personal development, and the acquisition of character and resilience. It also means that students leave Weatherhead High School well-prepared for higher education, the world of work and the challenges that life beyond school presents.

What is special about Weatherhead?

- A culture of high expectations and aspiration for all
- An exciting curriculum offering breadth and personalisation
- Caring and supportive staff with an excellent range of extra-curricular activities
- Excellent pastoral support to enable students to reach their full potential
- High quality careers advice and guidance, preparing students well for life beyond school
- Recognised by Ofsted as a 'Good' school in November 2022
- Recognised as a *World Class School* in 2018 and 2021
- A thriving *Duke of Edinburgh's Award* programme (Bronze, Silver and Gold)
- Outstanding facilities (including a full-size 3G football pitch and 450 seat theatre)
- Open every day from 8:00am (Breakfast Club) until 5.30pm (4.30pm on Friday) (Learning Resource Centre)
- An excellent Sixth Form with preference given to our Year 11 students
- A vast choice of local, national and international school trips and visits available to all students
- An extensive Student Leadership Programme
- A range of opportunities for community service and to engage in charitable activities



Our School Values



Weatherhead High School is committed to creating an inclusive, engaging and supportive environment where every member of our community belongs and aspires to excellence. Our school is driven by the values of the 4 Rs: Resilience, Respect, Reach and Reward. Our commitment to the 4 Rs guides us in creating an environment where every student can thrive, and we aim to be one of the best schools in the country by fostering a culture of hard work, aspiration and success.

Our charter represents the collective aspirations and commitments of the Weatherhead High School community. It outlines the behaviour and values to which members of the community should adhere, and serves as a guide by all. By living by values, all members of our community work together towards a shared goal of creating a supportive, inspiring, and successful environment.

Core Values

- **Resilience:** We foster resilience in our students and staff by encouraging perseverance and determination in the face of challenges.
- **Respect:** We cultivate an environment where mutual respect is paramount, ensuring that all individuals feel valued and respected.
- **Reach:** We inspire our community to reach for their highest potential in academic, artistic, physical and leadership pursuits.
- **Reward:** We recognise and reward positive behaviour, achievements, and acts of kindness, creating an engaging and motivating atmosphere.





Ava
Year 7

"I chose Weatherhead because of the sports facilities and the clubs on offer. I didn't know many many people before I started - I was surprised how easy it was to make friends. I was also worried that I would get lost, I did, but everyone was really helpful and I soon got used to the school. I found the step up to high school a bit daunting however, going to Summer School really helped."



Joycie
Year 8

"I love the Performing Arts subjects and my highlights of Year 7 include performing a duet at the summer concert and singing with the Junior Choir in the Christmas concert. I was so happy to be cast in the school show, Matilda, and enjoyed the buzz of being part of the chorus. At the end of Year 7, we visited the Conway Centre in Anglesey for three days and my favourite part was tackling the high ropes."



Abi
Year 10

"I have been on the School Council since Year 7. I have enjoyed developing my leadership and communication skills and it has helped build my confidence. Last year, the School Council worked with local charities, consulted on a new lunch menu and helped form the school charter."



Jess
Year 13

"I stayed on in Sixth Form to study Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Computing. After A levels, I would like to study Maths at university. When I was voted Head Girl, it felt like a huge achievement. I enjoy being a positive role model for students and being part of the school community. My advice to anyone starting high school is to be yourself, try your best, and get involved."

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Resilience **Respect** **Reach** **Reward**