



# Woodbrook Vale



*ASPIRE ENJOY SUCCEED*

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# Message from the Headteacher

**It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Woodbrook Vale School.**

Woodbrook Vale is a highly successful and oversubscribed 11-16 school situated in the south of Loughborough. We were rated as 'Good' during our most recent Ofsted inspection, with many outstanding features highlighted. Ofsted reported that students make good progress and skills in reading, writing and mathematics are strongly promoted across a range of subjects.

At Woodbrook Vale, we are committed to delivering the best possible education. The school is inclusive in its outlook, and innovative in its engagement with students, parents/carers, and the wider community.

Together we aspire to provide a safe, caring and calm learning environment where every person matters, where no child is left behind and where every child has an opportunity to succeed. We have a strong commitment to ensuring that the learner is at the heart of everything we do, as epitomised by our school motto: "Aspire Enjoy Succeed".

Students at Woodbrook Vale are wonderful - hard working, enthusiastic, fun to be with, and genuinely impressive young people.

We have high expectations of them all and aim to develop confident, resilient and independent learners who enjoy their time at school.



I am privileged to lead a team of dedicated teachers and support staff who provide a high standard of education and value the many and varied achievements of all our students, including academic and wider success. We recognise that everyone learns differently and that making mistakes and taking risks are both part of the learning experience.

We value the strong relationships we have developed across our school community. We recognise that governors, parents/carers and students have played a role in ensuring the success of the school.

We are delighted to receive visits from prospective students and parents/carers and we look forward to meeting you as you begin the process of selecting your preferred choice of secondary school.

We have an Open Day and Open Evening in September which I hope you and your children will attend. This will give you an ideal opportunity to meet the staff and view the school on a "typical" day.

I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher at Woodbrook Vale School and look forward to meeting you and your children in the near future. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit our website to find out more about us.

**Gary Peat**  
Headteacher





# Ethos

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We want our students to be motivated by learning and proud of what they achieve. We expect them to contribute to the life of the school and grow up to be mature young people with high self-esteem and respect for others in society.

## **“Aspire Enjoy Succeed”**

Our vision is that Woodbrook Vale School will provide each student with an outstanding education in a caring, calm, safe and supportive environment. Learning will be engaging, challenging and inspiring so that each student will achieve individual excellence and be the best that they can be.

To achieve this, we will create opportunities for all students to achieve their potential through inspiring, creative and differentiated teaching and enrichment opportunities. We aim to collaborate with students, parents/carers and the local community to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people and to ensure students are well prepared to make appropriate choices in our rapidly changing world.





# Pastoral Care

**We aim to make the transition from primary to secondary school as smooth as possible. We begin to work with children well before they join us at Woodbrook Vale. We work closely with our primary school colleagues to ensure students have the best possible start to their time in secondary education.**

We place a high priority on how we care for your child at Woodbrook Vale. 'Pastoral Care' is focused on your child's welfare and development as an individual. We firmly believe that it is essential for parents/carers and teachers to work together to make sure that this most important period in your child's development is both happy and rewarding.

Your child will join a Tutor Group, led by a Form Tutor. Tutors are the first point of contact for you and are constantly on hand to offer encouragement and advice. Tutors take professional responsibility for your child's overall academic, personal and social progress.

If you ever need to speak with our staff about your child's progress, we will always be happy to make an appointment for you.



# Teaching and Learning

We encourage all our students to maximise their potential and be the best they can possibly be.

All students are individuals, with different strengths. In order to provide a personalised education for every individual:

- Students are assessed and then placed into ability sets. Achievement is regularly monitored and students are assigned to groups according to their progress.
- Termly reports are provided for every student.
- A Parents' Evening is held for Year 7 at the start of the academic year to introduce new students to the school. Later in the year all students have a Parents' Evening to report on progress and targets.
- The Frog Parent portal means you can look up your child's attendance, achievements, behaviour and school reports at any time.
- Our staff deliver active, challenging and innovative lessons for each group using high quality equipment and resources.

We actively involve parents in many aspects of school life and work in partnership to deliver the best possible education for our students.





*"Teaching is good. Teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects. Relationships between teachers and their classes are strong."* OFSTED



## Celebrating success

We all do better and try harder when somebody takes time to praise and encourage us. Children and young people are no exception. We are proud of our students' achievements and have an excellent system for rewarding and celebrating their successes. This includes our celebration assemblies, attitude to learning awards, governor commendations and our annual awards evening.

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

What we teach is designed to suit the needs of all learners within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Our curriculum includes a range of National Curriculum subjects. We also extend the range of activities offered through a varied extra-curricular programme.

### Extra-curricular activities include:

- The Hub (Homework Club)
- Choir/Singing
- Orchestra
- Rock Band
- Sports Clubs
- Art Clubs
- Computer Club
- Drama, Dance
- School Production
- Chess Club
- Mandarin Chinese Lessons
- Debating and Philosophy Club
- Woodbrook Vale TV
- Woodbrook Vale Media Association
- Darts Club
- Film Club
- "Sewing Bee" Club





# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

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## Core and options

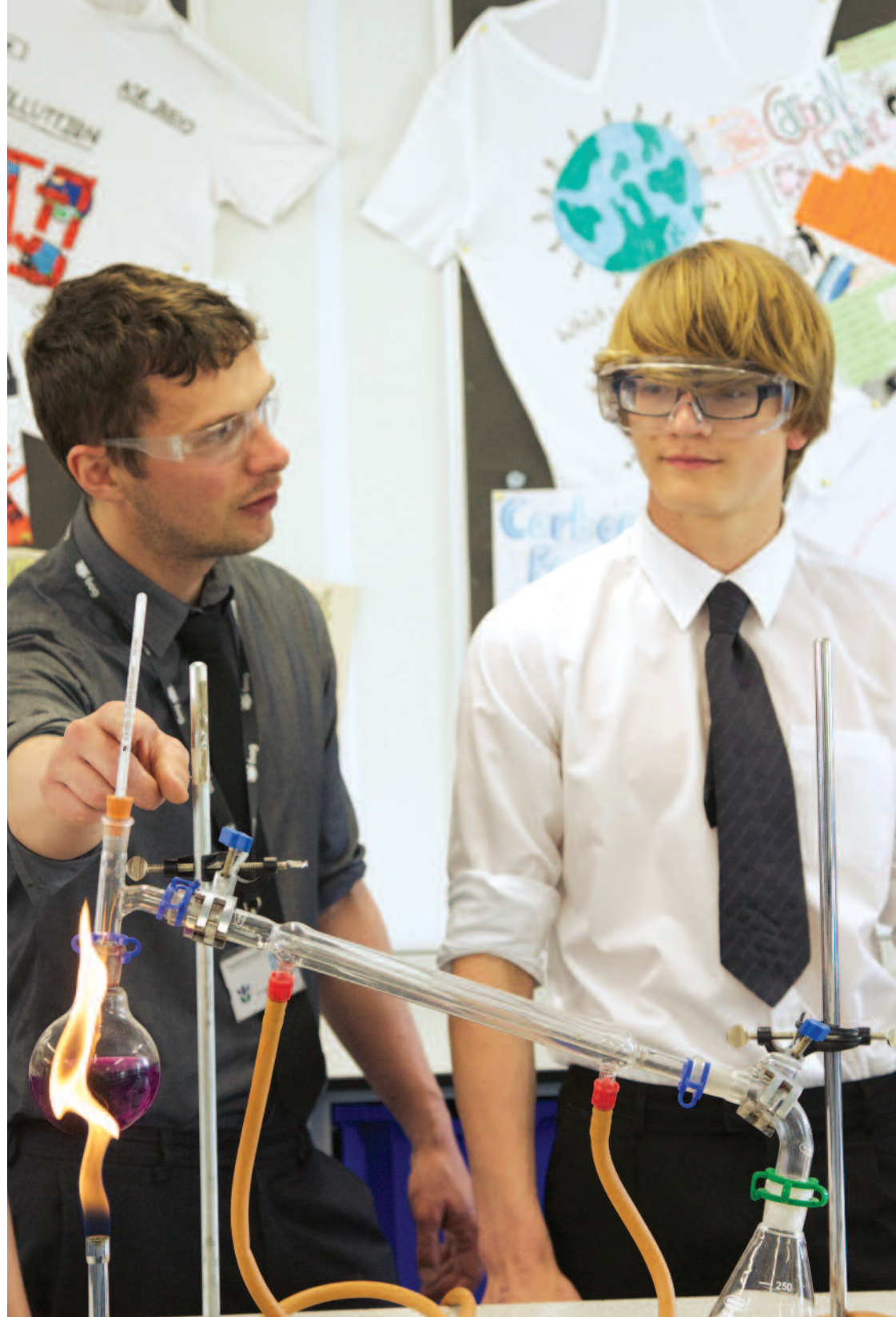
The majority of Year 10-11 courses are GCSE, with most students studying the English Baccalaureate Pathway. Almost all will take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, a modern foreign language, a humanities subject, Physical Education and Personal Development. Students also choose from a wide range of option subjects including: Business Studies, Media Studies, Spanish, Computer Science, Fine Art, Drama, Music, Product Design, Food Technology, Psychology and Sociology.

## English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is awarded to students who have achieved at least a C grade in the following GCSE courses: English, Mathematics, Science, a foreign language and either Geography or History.

## Independent learning and coursework

We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and gain the confidence to undertake research to become independent and self-motivated learners. Structured programmes of study enable students to create high quality work and to revise effectively for their public examinations. They also have online courses available which support independent learning. Students can access their work and other learning materials remotely using "Frog Learn".





# English, Mathematics and Science

**English, Mathematics and Science are central to your child's future success and we are proud of the high standards achieved in these subjects.**

English teaches students a wide range of skills including speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and spelling. A variety of non-fiction and fiction texts are studied ranging from classic literature to modern popular fiction. The subject is taught using a range of active approaches that include drama, ICT, media and project work. Students are always encouraged to be independent learners and to use feedback to improve their writing.

Key Stage 4 students will study GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Mathematics motivates students by teaching them to apply functional Mathematics to everyday life and encouraging them to investigate problems for themselves. The use of the "Manga High" website makes it easy for students to practise their skills at home.

Key Stage 4 students will study GCSE Mathematics and most will have the opportunity to study GCSE Statistics.

*"Students particularly enjoy lessons in Science. They develop a good understanding of how to devise valid practical investigations." OFSTED*



Science is taught in a "hands on" way, with lots of practical lessons. Students get the chance to attempt lots of experiments, and see staff demonstrate some explosive ideas – including screaming jelly babies, fire writing, pocket rocket, exploding bubbles and elephant's toothpaste – to name just a few! We talk about how these experiments are relevant to the real world, and discuss important scientific theories. Creating a love of Science enables our students to succeed in their GCSE examinations.

Key Stage 4 students will study GCSE Combined Science and will have the option to take a GCSE in separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).



## Modern Foreign Languages

**The modern foreign languages taught at Woodbrook Vale are French and Spanish. The teaching concentrates on listening, speaking, reading and writing, with a range of activities being used to help students learn. Students are able to learn techniques which will help them learn other languages in the future.**

Students are also encouraged to learn about other countries and cultures. They do this by celebrating cultural traditions and writing to students in other countries. They have opportunities to learn different languages, such as Mandarin Chinese, and Key Stage 3 students also have an opportunity to visit France.

Key Stage 4 students will have the option to study GCSE French and Spanish.

## Humanities

**Humanities teaches students to understand the world that we live in and consider where we have come from. In Geography students have the opportunity to study physical and human aspects of the subject, with a strong emphasis on understanding how our environment was formed and how human activity is changing it. In History the focus is on understanding how Britain has changed over time and how the past is interpreted by historians. In Religious Education students learn about the six major world religions and study moral questions concerning right and wrong.**

In Humanities lessons students are encouraged to develop their thinking skills and question sources of information. There is also a strong focus on extended writing and developing arguments which are supported with evidence.

Key Stage 4 students will have the option to study GCSE History, Geography, Sociology and Psychology.



# Computer Science and Business Studies

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**We are committed to giving our students all of the required tools to be able to programme their own applications and to understand how a computer works.**

Within the Faculty we give students the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities including web design using HTML and CSS, and programming different applications and games. The students are given the chance to learn

how to programme using a range of platforms including Scratch, Python, Mozilla Thimble and the BBC microbits.

Through our Virtual Learning Environment (Frog Learn), Woodbrook Vale students and parents/carers can access their school work through the internet, making homework easily accessible.

Key Stage 4 students will have the opportunity to study Computer Science and Business Studies at GCSE level.





## Art and Design Technology

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**At Woodbrook Vale we are very proud of our students' high achievement in Art and Design. We have a team of experienced staff and well equipped workshops where our students can be creative, develop their own projects and learn independently. Alongside a specialist food preparation room and technology workshop, we have a dedicated suite of computers, which along with our laser cutter, 3D printer and specialist CAD/CAM programmes, enable our students to access the latest technologies.**

We provide students with opportunities to access a wide range of learning experiences through practical activities including print making, cooking, pottery, computer-aided manufacturing, image editing and photography. We pride ourselves on providing high quality resources to stimulate and inspire our students, resulting in excellent outcomes.

Extra-curricular activities allow students to visit galleries, work with artists and designers and take the Arts Award qualification at Bronze and Silver level. At Key Stage 4, students can opt to take Product Design, Fine Art or Food Preparation and Nutrition at GCSE level.











# Sports

There is a wide range of sporting opportunities for students of all abilities, both within school and at extra-curricular clubs. In competitive sport, the students enjoy great success, winning many tournaments and trophies.

## Examples of sports offered:

- Football / Netball
- Rugby / Hockey
- Badminton / Basketball
- Dance / Gymnastics
- Cross-Country
- Tennis / Cricket
- Rounders / Athletics
- Rowing (indoor)
- Aerobics
- Volleyball / Boccia

We have a state-of-the-art sports centre which is large enough to contain four badminton courts and a bespoke classroom. We also have a gymnasium, excellent sports field facilities and hard ball courts.

Key Stage 4 students will continue to take part in PE lessons and have the option to study the subject at GCSE level.







## Music

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**Making music brings us together. We are committed to giving students the opportunity to compose, listen and perform music at every level.**

Woodbrook Vale has a superb class network of keyboards linked to state-of-the-art computers allowing students to compose music and work together on complex musical tracks.

From rock bands to string quartets – our Music Department aims to give a broad appreciation of all musical interpretation. Many of our students take individual instrumental lessons and achieve high standards in external examinations.

Key Stage 4 students will have the option to study Music as a GCSE subject.



## Drama

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**Our purpose-built theatre is an excellent facility and the home of our own drama productions. We also host productions for our partner primary schools so many children have performed at Woodbrook Vale even before they become our students.**

Productions include drama, dance and music and are truly something to remember. Students across all year groups are invited to take part in productions whether that be acting, dancing, music, costumes, scenery or lighting.

Key Stage 4 students will have the option to study Drama as a GCSE subject.





# Special Educational Needs

Woodbrook Vale aims to meet the needs of all students by delivering “Quality First” teaching. Our Special Educational Needs Department is dedicated to making sure that children with learning difficulties are given support and every opportunity to succeed. We provide detailed assessments to identify children’s needs and then work with parents, students and colleagues to provide a personalised programme to meet these particular needs. In English and Mathematics, we provide particularly small groups, taught by specialists in learning needs.

Our Gifted and Talented provision aims to stretch those children who require high degrees of challenge. We aim to deliver this challenge within the curriculum through more difficult tasks and the exploration of higher level ideas and skills. This work is supported by our Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator. We also provide additional activities and visits that encourage independent thinking.

The SEN Information Report details our full provision and is available on the school website.

*“Disabled students and those who have special educational needs make good progress. This is because teachers and teaching assistants know their students well and work closely together”.*

OFSTED



# The School Parliament

We encourage student participation in contributing to the day-to-day life of the school and actively engage with student views.

The School Parliament provides experience of organised democratic activities as well as ensuring a proactive involvement in school life.

School Parliament members are democratically elected by students and are often asked to host visitors to the school and represent the school externally at community events. Members also take part in school interviews.

# Careers Education

Careers Education is taught in all years, from Year 7 to Year 11. Younger students learn about their strengths and abilities, how to value and record their achievements and how decisions and choices affect their lives.

Older students investigate careers and qualifications and look at life beyond school. This includes attending a careers fair where students meet local employers and representatives of further and higher education. They also have the opportunity to visit a university to inform and inspire them. During Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to complete a week of Work Experience.

All students have access to an independent careers interview, a careers library and interactive resources.



# Visits and Trips

Students have the opportunity to participate in an educational trip to a foreign country, a residential adventure visit and a ski trip to Italy. Key Stage 4 visits, including residential trips, will focus on the requirements of the curriculum.

Ever mindful of our responsibilities of care, we invite parents/carers to attend meetings so that they are fully informed of the detailed arrangements.

Trips in most subjects are offered throughout the year. These include visits to theatres, museums, galleries, exhibitions and competitive events.

# Travel to school

Where safe and practicable, children are encouraged to cycle to school.

Bicycle storage racks are available for students to use.









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**Business Manager:**  
Mr Dave Green