



Woodbrook Vale School

An 11 to 16 Arts and Science Academy

OPEN DAY

Monday 18 September

9.00am - 12.00pm

1.45pm - 2.45pm

6.30pm onwards

COMING TO YOUR NEW SCHOOL

Aspire • Enjoy • Succeed

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Coming to your new school

We work closely with our partner primary schools to make the transition to Woodbrook Vale School an easy and natural one. There are regular meetings with primary teachers and we work hard at providing opportunities for students to get to know us before joining the school.

Our **Open Day** will be on **Monday 18 September 2017**. At that time parents/carers and students are invited to visit us to learn about the school and the education we offer.

The Open Day includes an **Open Evening at 6.30pm** when students and staff demonstrate the teaching and learning that takes place in the school. Staff are on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

Students will have the chance to spend two days with us to get a taste of what life is like at Woodbrook Vale. These are our **Induction Days** which take place in the summer term. Students will meet their new teachers and experience exciting lessons by following a special introductory timetable.

During the summer term, our teacher in charge of links with primary school children, Mrs Kell, will visit each primary school to work with all the children who will be joining Woodbrook Vale School. Year 5 students from our feeder primary schools also have the opportunity to visit Woodbrook Vale during this period.

Applications for places for August 2018

Woodbrook Vale is a popular 11-16 comprehensive school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 160 students. Students will be admitted at age 11 without reference to ability or aptitude. Our Admissions Policy can be found on the Woodbrook Vale School website under "About us/Admissions" and applications should be made using the Leicestershire County Council website at www.leics.gov.uk/admissions.

Details of our priority criteria for acceptance (listed below) are in the Admissions Policy, which can be downloaded from the school website:

1. Students who are in public care
2. Students who will have an older brother or sister attending our school
3. Students who live in our catchment area
4. Students attending a feeder school who may not live in the catchment area
5. Children of staff who work at Woodbrook Vale and have been on a permanent contract at Woodbrook Vale for at least 2 years when the application is made
6. Children who live nearest to the school

Our catchment area covers the catchment areas of Holywell, Mountfields Lodge, Outwoods Edge and Beacon Academy Primary Schools.

Woodbrook Vale School is a place where each student is provided with a high quality education in a safe and caring environment, where every child enjoys their learning and is encouraged to succeed in his or her own way and where each student aspires to be the best they can possibly be.

As an academy, Woodbrook Vale enjoys the freedom to innovate and to raise standards by providing all-through education up to GCSE level for 16 year olds. This prospectus gives further details of what your child can expect to study at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 and how we will enable them to maximise their potential.

School Ethos: Aspire Enjoy Succeed

At Woodbrook Vale School we have students at the heart of everything we do

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.

We want all our students to be:

- **Motivated and enthused** by the challenge of learning
- **Aspirational** and determined to fulfil their individual potential
- **Inspired** to enjoy and succeed in all aspects of learning
- **Proud** of their own achievements and to value, respect and celebrate the success of others
- **Positive** contributors to whole school life and within the local community
- **Resilient**, life-long learners who are well prepared for their post-16 destination and for life in the modern world
- **Mature** young people with high self-esteem
- **Accountable** citizens who are responsible, respectful and tolerant within a diverse and evolving society
-

To achieve this we will:

- Provide a caring, safe and stimulating environment
- Focus on inspiring, creative and effective teaching and learning across a broad and balanced curriculum
- Create personalised and inclusive opportunities that motivate and recognise the potential of each individual
- Have the highest expectations of all staff and provide a supportive environment that will enable them to develop professionally and be valued as one collective staff team
- Develop leadership skills by ensuring that leaders at all levels act as positive role models and lead by example
- Provide enrichment through extra-curricular activities
- Promote equal opportunity in all aspects of school life
- Work in partnership to develop effective communication and collaboration between students, parents/carers, staff, governors and the local community, including primary schools and post-16 transition
- Invest in social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of every student
- Deliver effective guidance to prepare students to make appropriate choices in our rapidly changing world
- Ensure that financial resources are used effectively to benefit our current students

Modern Facilities



The school was opened in 1982 and has enjoyed the benefit of many modernisations and improvements in recent years.

Since 2013 student numbers have increased and we have been able to invest in making the building and its facilities very modern and attractive. This has included nine additional classrooms, a science lab, a sports centre and dining hall extension. All this has contributed to creating an inspiring environment for learning.



We now have 120 computers for student use, fully networked and connected to the Internet. To support homework, students with home computers can access their work remotely. All students have email. Mobile devices are also used to provide students with interactive tools and information across the curriculum.



All teachers use their laptop computers for planning, to present lessons and to develop learning materials. Throughout the school, modern teaching aids bring excitement and motivation to the classroom and complement the more traditional resources such as modern textbooks.



The School Day

There are six 50 minute lessons each day – providing 25 hours of lessons each week. Registers are taken in every lesson. Morning registration is at 8.30am. The lunch break starts at 12.25pm and ends at 1.20pm. Afternoon registration takes place during lesson 5. For students, the formal school day ends at 3.00pm. The HUB and other activities continue after school.

Time	Activity
08:30	Registration
08:45	Period One
09:35	Period Two
10:25	Morning Break
10:45	Period Three
11:35	Period Four
12:25	Lunch
13:20	Period Five
14:10	Period Six
15:00	End of the school day
15:00 until 17:00 (Mon-Thu)	The HUB offers homework assistance and various enrichment activities for students.
15:00 until 16:45 (Fri)	

Lunches are provided in a cafeteria style system which offers a wide choice of good quality food. The high quality of our lunches helped us gain the 'Healthy Schools Mark'. Students may bring a packed lunch to school. At break time drinks and snacks are available from the canteen; water is available from water coolers.

During break and lunchtime students will be looked after by lunchtime supervisors, teaching assistants and teachers. There is a wide variety of sporting, musical and other activities for students to enjoy at lunchtime and the Learning Centre is available to read or complete homework.

There is a Year Assembly each week and on other days the Form Tutor will lead their Tutor Group in a range of activities.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted to be in view during the school day or be switched on in lessons unless explicit permission is given by the classroom teacher. Phones will be confiscated if this school rule is not adhered to and retained in the Student Office. The school will take any incident where filming has taken place on a mobile phone extremely seriously. If a student needs to contact home, they will be allowed to use the telephone in the Student Office if it is felt appropriate for them to do so.



The Curriculum - What We Teach

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all, which students will find exciting, challenging, and interesting.

In order to make sure that we can target the appropriate teaching and support to every individual, students are grouped by ability for most subjects e.g. in Maths, English and Science, Humanities and French. The average class size in Year 7 is 25.

People learn in different ways so we use a variety of teaching styles to provide the right kind of learning to suit each child as an individual. These methods include a mix of whole class teaching, group and paired work and independent learning.

In KS3 students will study:

English	Mathematics	Science
History	Geography	Religious Education
Food Technology	Resistant Materials	Art
Physical Education	Music	Drama
French	Personal Development	Computing

In KS4 the majority of Year 10 and Year 11 courses will be GCSE and the vast majority of students will study the English Baccalaureate pathway. Almost all will take GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, French or Spanish and History or Geography. Lessons in Physical Education and Personal Development are also studied by all students. Students also choose from a wide range of option subjects including: Computer Science, Dance, Design Technology, Drama, Fine Art, Food Preparation and Nutrition, French, Geography, Health and Social Care Technical Award, History, ICT, Media Studies, Music, PE, Religious Studies, Separate Sciences, Sociology, Spanish.

We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning and gain the confidence to undertake coursework and 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 access to online courses which support independent learning.

We offer a range of activities, including educational visits both in this country and abroad, sports, music, drama and community involvement - as well as many clubs.

Mathematics



Insert



Key Stage 3

Mathematics is everywhere! If you want your child to be challenged, the Maths Team can supply it; if they like working in different ways, we can provide them; and if they have difficulties then we can offer lots of help. As well as traditional style lessons incorporating number, algebra, geometry, ratio and proportion and data handling, we encourage group work, discussions and investigations to try to help improve the ability to understand maths and apply it to real life situations.

We offer opportunities to take part in local challenges and national competitions.

In the Mathematics Faculty we encourage the use of technology to enhance students understanding. We use online resources such as 'Manga High' and 'Diagnostic Questions', alongside the schools VLE. We also encourage the use of teaching videos to improve home learning. I-pads and ICT resources are also used within lesson time to challenge students.

We aim to build up every child's confidence, improve their numeracy skills and encourage them to apply the knowledge they have learnt. Most of all, we hope that they are able to enjoy Maths at Woodbrook Vale.

Key Stage 4

The aim of Mathematics GCSE at Woodbrook Vale is for students to:

- *Develop an ability to think and reason mathematically*
- *Apply Mathematics in the real world*
- *Have the understanding of how to use Mathematics up to GCSE level*
- *Create a firm foundation for those wishing to study the subject further*
- *For students to have a positive attitude towards Mathematics and to achieve to the best of their ability with confidence and enjoyment*

Students have access to on line textbooks and emphasis will be placed on using Mathematics to solve problems. Students will be set according to ability.

The GCSE Mathematics examination has been changed to a linear examination. Students will sit 3 papers at the end of the course which begins in Year 9. Two papers will be calculator papers and the other is a non-calculator paper.

The Maths Faculty also offers some students the opportunity to gain additional Maths qualifications. These include Statistics (GCSE) and for more the most gifted Mathematicians the Freestanding Mathematics Qualification (FSMQ).



Key Stage 3

In English students will learn how to improve their reading and writing by taking part in many different activities. These activities will range from group work to presentations, project work, reading aloud, debates, individual written work and private reading. Students will spend time learning how to improve their confidence when speaking and listening.

Students will read a range of stories, novels, plays and poetry, including Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and many modern authors such as Robert Swindells and Malorie Blackman. They will have the opportunity to develop their own creative writing and even write and perform pieces of drama and poetry.

We will encourage students to think for themselves and become independent learners, have confidence in their own ideas and share them with others.

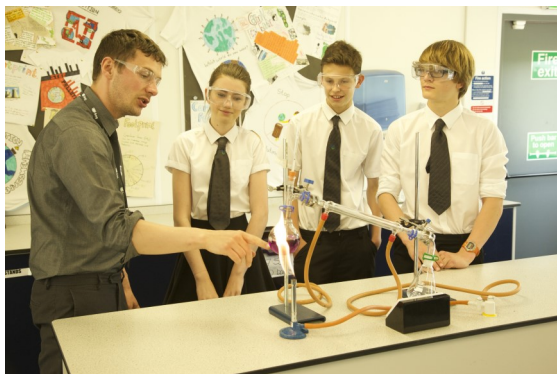
We aim to offer extra-curricular activities for students to enjoy. These include theatre visits, workshops, visiting authors, public speaking competitions and activity days.

Key Stage 4

The GCSE English course consists of both English Language and English Literature, and builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired throughout Key Stage 3. Both GCSEs are linear courses and success in both provides two GCSE qualifications. Students will also have the opportunity to take GCSE Media Studies.

Students will be exposed to a range of fiction and non-fiction novels and extracts, including poetry, short-stories and speeches. Drama will also be used to embed some themes, particularly when studying Shakespeare. Work is varied and includes theatre trips and revision tips in order to aid learning.

Science



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Key Stage 3

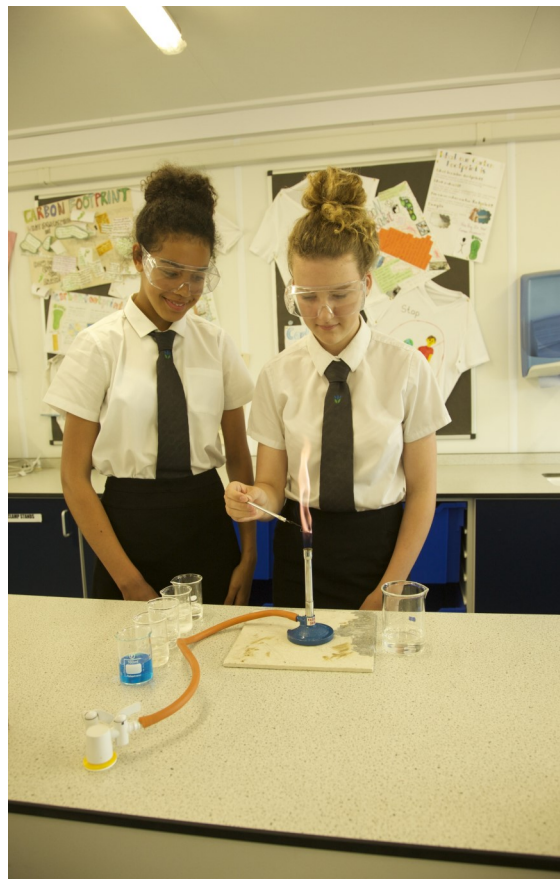
Science is taught in a 'hands-on' way here at Woodbrook Vale and students will get the chance to experience lots of practical experimentation. We talk about how these are relevant to the real world, and discuss important scientific theories. We use Go 4 Schools to ensure that students can access homework and revision material from home to enhance their studies.

The study of Science at Woodbrook Vale covers a broad range of exciting and innovative topics. Practical experience is linked with scientific ideas, and they will be encouraged to think critically and creatively. They will explore how Science influences our everyday lives – from the improvements in technologies, medicines and industries through to the environmental, historical and cultural impacts of scientific discoveries.

In **Biology** we study life in all its grandeur. From the very small algae to the very large elephant, life has a certain wonder about it. With that in mind, how do we know if something is living? Is a virus alive or dead? What are the characteristics of life? These are all very important questions with equally important answers.

Chemistry deals with the building blocks of the world around us, from sub-atomic particles to massive man-made structures. In Chemistry we learn how the universe fits together and best of all to improve our practical skills we get the chance to melt it, burn it, and explode it!

The aim of **Physics** is to study nature at its most fundamental level, to discover and apply the general laws that govern force and motion, matter and energy, space and time. Physics can be as concrete as the stresses in a bridge or as abstract as the curved space-time near a black hole. It studies systems ranging in size from the smallest elementary particles to the entire universe. Physics lies at the heart of the natural sciences.



Key Stage 4

At GCSE students take Combined Science or choose to take 'Separate Sciences' as one of their options. Students will take some common modules, with the more in depth modules being reserved for the separate sciences.

To enhance the curriculum and support more able learners we work closely with our partners at Loughborough University and the Institute of Physics to provide excellent science enrichment opportunities. Students are invited to join us to design and build rockets, write their names in fire, build and race their own hot air balloons and be dazzled by experiments that cannot fail to inspire.

Whether students have a longing for a career in Science, or just have questions about the world around them, we hope to enthuse them with a life-long passion for Science.

Music and Drama



Key Stage 3

Making music helps students make sense of the different styles of music around them. Students will compose music for film scores, rap backing tracks and dance sequences. They go from medieval to modern and study the music of Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Students will soon learn how to achieve exciting and 'professional' results from our class network of keyboards linked to computers. Ideas can be recorded and multi-tracked with the GarageBand programme and the Industry Standard Logic Pro software. A popular element in Music lessons at Woodbrook Vale features the opportunity to try samba drumming, as well as learning about the music of Brazil. Students develop their group working skills in music lessons by forming bands and producing performances of pieces linked to the topic they are studying and use keyboards, guitars, drum kit and singing.

Drama is great fun and teaches students about co-operation and teamwork, responsibility and self-control. The topics covered in our study units - for example, bullying, family life and relationships will help develop the imagination and understanding of social issues. By regularly presenting ideas students will become more confident and effective in front of others.

There are opportunities for students to perform in school ensembles including Drama Club, School Orchestra, Singing Club and School Rock Band. Students are also encouraged to form their own groups and rehearsal rooms are available for students to use at lunchtimes and after school on most days. There is opportunity for students to showcase their talents at our Christmas and Summer Concerts and our school production, as well as other performances in the community throughout the year.



Key Stage 4

Students will have the option to study Music and Drama at GCSE. They will study different styles of music, compose their own pieces and perform as an individual and as part of an ensemble. In Drama students learn about devised theatre (improvisation, physical theatre and theatre in education). Scripts are also studied and a visit to a live production forms part of the course. Drama is assessed through practical performances, a portfolio of evidence and a written exam paper worth 40% of the overall grade.

If students are especially keen on Drama, singing or music they will want to perform in our Production or Expressive Arts Evenings. Our musicals have quite a reputation, with up to a hundred students taking part as performers, musicians, set designers and technicians.

Art and Design Technology

Our aim is to make learning exciting. We have a bright and visually stimulating environment to work in and students will use a variety of tools, machinery and resources to design and make a wide range of high quality products. We have excellent ICT facilities and computer aided design and manufacturing equipment including a laser cutter, cutter plotter, a 3D printer, digital cameras, scanners and colour printing facilities.

As well as class based work there are opportunities to visit galleries and work with artists and designers. We regularly enter students' work into local and national competitions and students have the opportunity to take the Arts Award qualification at Bronze and Silver level. Students will have the option to study GCSE Fine Art, Food Preparation and Nutrition and Design Technology during Key Stage 4.



Art

Key Stage 3

Students will work with a wide variety of high quality materials and experiment with interesting techniques such as, print making, felt making and clay work as well using more traditional painting and drawing skills.

They will have their own personal sketchbook in which to work experimentally and produce final pieces including homework. Students will look at the work of professional artists using the school art collection, books, internet, DVDs and CDs to influence and develop their own art work.

Key Stage 4

Students can opt to take the AQA GCSE Fine Art course which provides them with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to study Art. Students will work independently to create personal and individual work exploring a variety of media including painting, sculpture, printmaking, animation and photography.

The faculty is open at lunchtimes and after school so that students can use the Art Club to extend their studies or catch up with missed work.



Design Technology

Key Stage 3

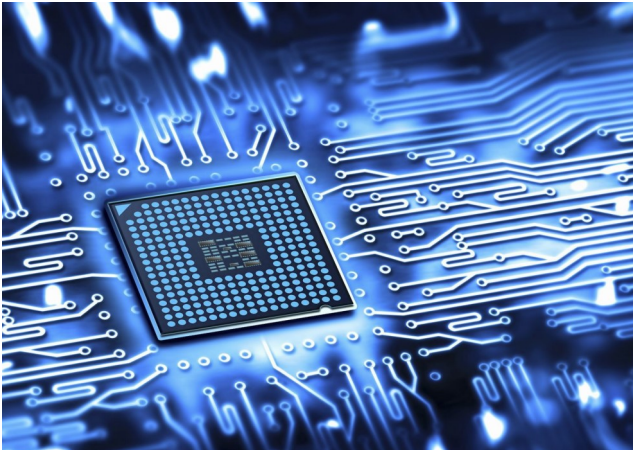
Students will study Food & Nutrition and Design and Technology and will look at products made by other people as well as designing and making products of their own.

Folders are produced containing design and research work in both areas and many exciting high quality products are made which may be taken home. Whilst doing practical work students will get the opportunity to use a wide range of equipment and machinery including a laser cutter, cutter plotter, a 3D printer, a vacuum former and electronics equipment. In food they will learn about food science, diet and nutrition as well as making food products.

Key Stage 4

There are two GCSEs available in Design Technology at Key Stage 4. The AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course gives students the chance to learn more about nutrition, meal planning, food science, food preparation and safety and hygiene. The AQA GCSE Design and Technology course teaches students to develop their own design ideas and have first-hand experience of making their own innovative products. They have the opportunity to work independently using a range of materials, tools and machinery and also learn about sustainability, ergonomics and packaging.

Computing



Key Stage 3

Computing is imperative to all aspects of life in the modern world. At Woodbrook Vale we, through our computing lessons, give students an understanding of how computers work, as well as how to use them effectively. Through project based activities students will begin coding, writing their own software and websites from scratch. Students will be able to use visual and text based programming to develop their computing skills.



The school is fully connected to the internet allowing students to search and retrieve relevant and up to date material to support their learning. This system is fully monitored allowing safe and controlled access. Everyone will be shown how to access the internet and required to sign and keep to the school's ICT acceptable use agreement. In addition students will experience an internet safety workshop prepared by CEOP. Anti-bullying work focuses on internet safety and students will be given access to websites including "Think U Know", which will help them stay safe online.



Key Stage 4

During Key Stage 4 students will have the option to take OCR GCSE Computer Science or Edexcel ICT. Both qualifications are challenging and require students to use problem solving and logical thinking in order to create solutions.

ICT Students will be expected to be able to use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace and in further and higher education. They will also develop an understanding of how to select the most appropriate software and to use tools to meet specific business requirements while developing skills to enhance documents of a variety of file types. Learn techniques to search for, select and store information in a variety of contexts and how to select the tools and techniques to communicate information and solve problems.

Computer Science is an academic qualification. The lessons will have a strong focus on problem solving and logical thinking, with students expected to display their learning using a variety of methods. Students will be able to use computers to aid their studies, but time spent working in groups will prove to be just as valuable.

The first two units are Computer Systems and Computational Thinking, these are assessed through two written exams. The third unit requires students to complete an assessed task (programming project) under timed conditions in school.

Physical Education



Insert



Key Stage 3

Woodbrook Vale has a vibrant and action-packed programme. Lessons are full of energy delivering high quality PE that caters for every student. Every half term there are different sports on offer. We cover a wide variety of topics that include:

- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Orienteering
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Football
- Handball
- Basketball
- Dance
- Healthy Exercise
- Trampolining
- Fencing
- Tennis
- Outdoor Education
- Rugby
- Volleyball
- Rounders
- Table Tennis
- Boxercise

Key Stage 4

Key Stage 4 students will have the opportunity to study PE at GCSE as well as continuing to take part in PE in the core. The GCSE course includes both practical and theory lessons. Students who take PE as a GCSE option will study healthy, active lifestyles as well as performance in PE and competitive sport. Topics include health and fitness, anatomy and physiology, history, biomechanics and analysis of performance. There will be an opportunity for our students to be sports leaders and develop this role in school and the wider community.

After school clubs meet regularly and we encourage all students to get involved. Fixtures are played against local schools in football, rugby, cricket, basketball, tennis, netball, rounders, athletics, table tennis, badminton and trampolining.

The clubs available vary throughout the year and from year to year depending on the demand and interest of students. Popular events throughout the year are the inter-form competitions. Students have the opportunity to join others in the tutor group to participate and support in various competitions throughout the year.

Regular drop in activities are held in the Sports Centre to encourage the students to be active in sport at Woodbrook Vale.

Humanities

The Humanities Faculty at Woodbrook Vale offers Geography, History and Religious Studies during Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 GCSE is offered in History, Geography, Sociology and Religious Studies. All students will continue to study Religious Studies as part of Personal Development.



Key Stage 3

Geography combines a balance of physical and human topics with an emphasis on interdependence, environmental interaction and sustainable development. Units of work are used as a scaffold to develop them into independent learners and to get them equipped for their GCSEs. They complete assessments in a variety of formats ranging from exam style papers, group work activities and mini investigations. These assessments are designed to test both knowledge and skills.

History is taught chronologically, starting with the Romans and moving through to the twentieth century by the end of Key Stage 3. Historical skills are taught in preparation for GCSE, such as using of historical sources and writing an analytical essay. Students are encouraged to challenge existing perspectives in order to develop their own interpretations. Students have the opportunity to complete projects, become independent enquirers and work collaboratively.

Religious Education involves students learning about and from religion. They develop knowledge and understanding of the world's six major religious beliefs and study many human issues concerning right and wrong. Students are encouraged to express their views openly in discussion and to respect the different views of others.

In-



Key Stage 4

The new Geography EDUCAS specification will be externally examined at the end of Year 11 and students will sit three papers which will look at Geographical issues, problem solving and applied fieldwork enquiry. The themes covered in the course will combine physical, human and environmental Geography as well as cartographical and statistical skills.

The new History AQA GCSE examines the History of medicine, the rise of Hitler, international relations between the wars and Elizabethan England. The new specification will be examined by two exam papers at the end of Key Stage 4.

Sociology is offered as a subject at GCSE and will focus on topics such as Crime and Deviance, Research Methods and Education.

Religious Studies is also offered at KS4 and it follows the course requirements set out by AQA. It is assessed through two exam papers at the end of KS4.

Modern Foreign Languages



Key Stage 3

French is the main modern foreign language studied at Key Stage 3. Students will begin by learning how to give information about themselves, their family and school life. By Year 9 they will be describing their future plans and past holidays, and taking part in unscripted conversations. As well as preparing students for GCSE, the techniques students develop will help them to learn other languages in the future.

We concentrate on the four skill areas - listening, speaking, reading and writing - using a range of activities to help students progress. Opportunities are given for example to perform role-plays, work on authentic foreign language websites, record conversations, produce group projects and translate texts.

Students are encouraged to reflect upon differences between customs and traditions in French speaking countries and the UK. Opportunities are available to write to pen-pals in another country.

In Year 9 students study two lessons of French and one of Spanish to give them experience of both languages before choosing options. Mandarin is also offered as an after school club.

Key Stage 4

Students will be able to take GCSE French, Spanish or both languages. Topics covered include healthy eating, the world of work, media, family and friends, customs and festivals, freetime and travel and tourism. The course covers the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, each of which represents 25% of the final grade.

The revised GCSE course does not have a coursework element, but requires students to translate, as well as writing and speaking spontaneously on a range of topics. Teaching builds on the grammar introduced at Key Stage 3, students are taught a wide range of structures and vocabulary which they can adapt to any circumstances.

Personal Development



Key Stage 3

Personal Development is taught for one lesson a week. The course is based around six themes.

- Rights and Responsibilities.
- Careers.
- Identity and Diversity.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Relationships and Risk.
- Economic Wellbeing.

Key Stage 4

Personal Development will be taught for one lesson a week. Themes covered include:

- The media and young people.
- Consumerism.
- Business and Enterprise.
- Employability and Careers.
- Emotional and Mental Health.
- Economic Wellbeing.

Personal Development incorporates PSHE and Citizenship. Activities are designed to help students improve their awareness and identity, develop talent and potential, facilitate employability, enhance quality of life and realise their dreams and aspirations. The Personal Development course incorporates lots of active and stimulating learning opportunities. Our aim is to help students become confident, independent and responsible citizens, who are able to make good choices and decisions throughout their lives.

The course is taught by Form Tutors.

GCSE Results 2017

Since Woodbrook Vale celebrated their full set of GCSEs in 2015, results have been consistently above national average across a range of key headline measures.

Headline Measure (Provisional 2017)	WBV	National (2016)
Attainment 8	52.9	49.5
Grade 4 or above in English and maths	79.5	62
Grade 5 or above in English and maths	62.9	N/A
English Baccalaureate	44	24

Subject (% 9-4 / A*-C)	WBV	National (2017)
Mathematics	81.5	59.4
English/English Language	78.1	62.1
English Literature	87.9	72.6
Science A	80.7	48
Science Additional	82.6	58.2



Learning Centre and the Hub

The Learning Centre plays a central role in the curriculum and learning of the school. It includes a library, an ICT suite of 30 computers, 3 iPads and a seating area where students can read or complete written homework. Students can also purchase items of stationery in the Learning Centre.

During break students can read, borrow a book or complete written homework. At lunchtime students can use the computers for school work and independent research. Students can borrow two books at a time for 3 weeks. New books are purchased each term and student suggestions and book recommendations are always welcomed.

There are always members of staff available in the Learning Centre to assist students and provide advice.

We have an after-school club called The HUB which meets in the Learning Centre. It is staffed by teaching assistants, who support students with their homework using the ICT and library facilities and helps develop good study habits. It is open between 3.00pm and 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and until 4.45pm on Fridays.

At £3.00 a session, including fruit and a drink, this provides excellent value for money and helps to support learning and develop social skills. Application forms are available from Mrs Moreton at the school. Students eligible for the Pupil Premium are permitted to use the HUB free of charge.



Careers

Key Stage 3

Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) begins in Year 7 and continues to the end of Year 11. It helps students think about their strengths and apply these to the world of work. Students are able to develop the knowledge, skills and independence that they will need when they enter the workplace.

Key Stage 4

The focus is on providing the skills required for applying for jobs, further education and preparing for university in the future. During Year 10, students will undertake a work experience placement, gaining hands-on experience on how a business works on a day-to-day basis. There are also opportunities to visit universities and find out more about Further Education.



There is careers information available at the school. Students have the opportunity to discuss their future with a specialist careers advisor.

Working Together

Students achieve most and are happiest when there is a successful partnership between home and school. As well as the regular contact between tutor and parent/carer, there are various additional ways by which we aim to encourage such a partnership.

For example, a weekly "Student Planner" summarises the homework given and encourages students to think about their achievements. Parents/carers will be asked to sign the planner each week and pass any comment that they may wish to make back to the Form Tutor. This is an easy and effective way of communicating between school, student and parent. We encourage parents to contact subject teachers by email. Email contacts are available on the school website.

Our website (<http://www.wbvs.co.uk>) is the best way to find the latest news about the school. We publish a weekly news sheet and a termly newsletter for parents/carers, students and friends of the school. The bulletin, newsletter and website aim to keep everyone up to date with important matters affecting the school and celebrate the many achievements and activities of its students. You can also follow the school on Twitter@WoodbrookVale.

When starting at Woodbrook Vale students and parents will be asked to sign a “Home-School Agreement” which sets out how the school, students and parents/carers will work together over the course of your child’s five years here, to provide the best possible education. By working together we will all achieve success.

Attendance



Children can only do well at school if their attendance is good. Students with high attendance are far more likely to achieve their potential. Our school target for each student's attendance is 97%. Whole-school attendance at Woodbrook Vale is very high. In July 2015 Ofsted said that "Attendance is high because students enjoy coming to school."

We will continue to work with students and parents/carers to ensure that attendance remains as high as possible. We have agreed a common framework on attendance between all local schools and any unauthorised absences are promptly investigated. We ask parents/carers to co-operate by notifying us, in the Attendance Office, on the first and any subsequent days of absence, explaining the reasons for any absences from school.

Each half term we recognise students with 100% attendance. All students who have achieved 100% attendance are entered into a year group prize draw in assembly. Form groups with the highest attendance each half term receive a collective award.

Since September 2013 the government has made it statutory that no parents/carers can take their child out of school for a family holiday unless the circumstances are deemed exceptional. In the event of wishing to take a student out of school parents/carers must request permission by writing directly to the Headteacher who will consider the application, taking account of Department for Education guidance.

Safeguarding

We take the health, safety and wellbeing of children very seriously. In accordance with our responsibilities under section 175/157 of the Education Act 2002 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016' we have a number of Designated Safeguarding Leads. Staff are aware that it is their responsibility to follow the procedures set out in the school Safeguarding Policy. Occasions do arise when our concerns about a child requires us to consult other agencies including Social Care. Whilst we would always aim to work in partnership with parents/carers there may be exceptions to this when concerns are raised for the protection of a child. The role of the school in situations where there are child protection concerns is not to investigate but to recognise and refer.

Pastoral Care

We place a high priority on how we care for your child on a day-to-day basis at Woodbrook Vale School. 'Pastoral care' is the promotion of the welfare and development of an individual. We firmly believe that it is essential for parents/carers and teachers to work closely together to ensure that the years that students spend at Woodbrook Vale are both happy and rewarding.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year. Year 7 is divided into six tutor groups of approximately 25 to 30 students. Form Tutors are responsible for monitoring and co-ordinating overall academic, personal and social progress. Form Tutors will normally be in the best position to offer help, advice and encouragement. For this reason we encourage parents who have any concern at all to make their initial contact with your Form Tutor. Parents will be offered an opportunity to meet with your Form Tutor at a 'Welcome Meeting' in the autumn term, in addition to the subject consultation evening later in the year.

Sometimes students need extra help and support and we work with lots of different people from external agencies, such as the school nurse and 'Relate Counsellors', to make sure that we support them if they need it.

Anti-Bullying



Many students and parents/carers worry about bullying. Whilst any school cannot say bullying never happens, we do know that we have successful systems in place to support students who might be worried. We always celebrate anti-bullying week and give lots of positive messages in assemblies and through Personal Development lessons. We have a student-friendly version of our anti-bullying policy and an anti-bullying charter on every classroom wall. In 2017 we were awarded a Local Authority "Beyond Bullying Award" for our outstanding Anti-Bullying Practice. Our anti-bullying policy is available on the school website.

“Students are very clear that they feel safe in school. Bullying is very rare and [students] have great confidence that staff resolve any issues quickly.

Ofsted 2015”

**Peer
Mentoring**

To support our anti-bullying work we also have a number of students trained to be "peer mentors". These students are there to listen to younger students who may be feeling lonely or anxious. The peer mentors provide additional lunch clubs for younger students and are used to support transition days (Year 6 to Year 7).

Behaviour

Good discipline is essential for learning and Woodbrook Vale's approach is based on fairness, consistency and an awareness of the feelings of others. We expect a high standard of courtesy and behaviour from all students. We aim to create a happy and purposeful environment and this can only be achieved when attitudes and relationships are positive and based on mutual respect.

We aim to work closely with parents/carers on all matters relating to good discipline at the school. As part of this we ask all students and parents/carers to sign our 'Home-School Agreement'.

At Woodbrook Vale we have agreed that:

STAFF SHOULD ALWAYS



P raise	at every opportunity
R ecognise	efforts and achievement
O penly	listen to your ideas and help you to learn
U nderstand	and be interested in you
D ependable	by treating you fairly and consistently

STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS



C ooperate	by following instructions and working together
L isten	in silence
E ffort	by trying our hardest to work and learn
A rrive	equipped and ready to learn
R espect	each other's right to learn

Occasionally some students do not live up to our high expectations and a number of measures exist to support them. We have revised our rewards and behaviour policy. As a result all teachers follow 'stages' to respond to any poor behaviour or disruption. This means there is consistency across the school and students are aware of the expectations of them in each classroom. These stages are recorded on Go 4 Schools and parents have access to this.

For serious lapses in behaviour students may be placed in the "Referral Room" to work with the Behaviour Support Assistant. Senior staff are 'on-call' throughout the day to oversee this. If a student is sent to the "Referral Room" he or she will carry out an after-school detention with a member of the senior staff. Parents/carers will be informed if this action is necessary.

Students may be placed on a Tutor, Head of Year or Senior Staff monitoring card or support booklet. This is to encourage and support a positive attitude to learning or behaviour. We will inform, and always encourage parents/carers to be involved in this process. In the rare event that this does not solve the problem, parents/carers will be involved in further discussion with a Head of Year or other senior member of staff to decide what improvement must be made.

Rewards

We all do our best when someone takes time to praise and encourage us. Students will work harder and learn more when teachers (and parents/carers) encourage them with positive rewards for their efforts. Our formal system of rewards is just one way of encouraging all our students to do their best. Teachers will contact home from time to time to let you know when your child is working really well.

Positive rewards, whether spoken or in another form, provide benefits for all those involved.


Rewards at Key Stage 3

Our formal reward systems is based around 'GOALS'. These are awarded by any member of staff in school. Students will get a GOAL for trying especially hard or doing particularly well or perhaps for being helpful.

Rewards are recorded on Go 4 Schools and parents are able to access this information to see how well their son/daughter is doing.

Prizes are awarded when students meet Goals 'milestones'.

GOALS certificates are awarded in assemblies and every half term each year group has a special awards assembly.

KS3 GOAL AWARDS	
	
25	Tutor certificate Praise letter home
50	Head of Year certificate Praise letter home
&	Prize draw every term Tutor group prizes
75	Assistant/Deputy Head commendation Praise letter home
100	Headteacher award
150	Governor award

There is a healthy element of competition between tutors groups with prizes awarded to the group that has achieved the most GOALS over a term.

KS4 Rewards

Students at Key Stage 4 are older and want to be treated in a mature way but they like to be rewarded too!

Our KS4 formal rewards system is based around Awards.

Students can cash in their awards for a prize or continue to collect awards to save for a better prize. Prizes include water bottles, cinema tickets and vouchers for high street stores.

KS4 Awards	
	
When students reach a milestone they can select a prize linked to that particular milestone or continue to collect.	
35	Letter of commendation WBV water bottle
70	Letter of commendation £5 Topshop voucher
105	Letter of commendation Cinema tickets for you and a friend
140	Letter of commendation Group bowling trip Prize draw for Android Tablet
PLUS Tutor group prizes	

Attitude to Learning Awards

Every term students receive a score in each subject for "Attitude to Learning"(ATL). Students who have high ATL scores are always rewarded. This information is sent home to parents/carers. Form tutors monitor ATL across the year and hold regular discussions with students. This system enables students, parents/carers and teachers to keep track of the effort being made in school, provide positive feedback and support any student who may need extra help with their learning. There is an annual awards evening where prizes are received for outstanding performances in individual sports, the arts, academic subjects, good citizenship and contributing to the life of the school.

Uniform and Equipment

Uniform is an important part of the ethos of Woodbrook Vale School.

Students should be smart in appearance and always wear the correct uniform as outlined in the school dress code. Uniform is available to buy through the school website.

- Blazers should be worn as students move around the building.
- Skirts should be either 18" or 21" dependent on height and should be a formal school skirt.
- The school jumper is optional but if a jumper is worn it must be the official school one purchased through the school website.
- Only formal school trousers should be worn – no skinny trousers or jeans; $\frac{3}{4}$ length trousers or tracksuit bottoms.
- A PE top with a logo will be needed for PE lessons
- Ties should be worn to an acceptable length.
- Outdoor clothing such as hoodies, coats, scarves, hats and gloves should not be worn inside the building.
- Shoes must be plain black with no logo. Sandals or boots are not allowed.



- One pair of stud earrings is allowed. Apart from this, for safety and security reasons, jewellery, including bracelets, necklaces, rings and nose, face or body piercings should not be worn in school.
- Make up is not permitted.
- Nail varnish, including acrylic or gel nails are not appropriate for school and should not be worn.
- Hair styles should not be extreme.

Design

Aprons are provided to protect clothing when children are doing design work.

Equipment

☒ **Pen**

☒ **Pencil**

☒ **30cm ruler**

☒ **Felt pens or coloured pencils**

☒ **Scientific calculator**

☒ **School geometry set**

A small number of lockers are available for students to keep belongings in during the day. Lockers are provided on a first come, first served basis. Students who wish to use a locker must provide their own padlock.



All property and clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name.

Homework

Students will be expected to do homework because it is a valuable part of secondary education. It allows students to practise skills learned in the classroom, to develop their ability to research and helps form study habits necessary to achieve success in the later stages of education.

Students will be given a homework timetable as a guide and a Student Planner. These will enable them to plan their time in order to hand in homework by set deadlines. The amount of homework varies according to age and ability. In Year 7, students will receive up to one-and-a-half hours per evening and this will increase each year through to Year 11.



Homework is supported by Go 4 Schools and SAM Learning. This gives students access to materials they need to complete work at home. Families can help by providing a quiet place to do homework, encouraging students and valuing education at home.

Assessment, Reports and Parents' Evenings

The assessment and evaluation of work are very important parts of the learning process. We assess work frequently and this is used for reporting and discussing progress with students and parents/carers, and for teachers to plan learning.

Students in all years are given annual reports which describe their progress across all areas of study. Each term parents/carers will receive a summary of their child's progress on Go 4 Schools. One of these will be a full written report which will include advice and 'Next Steps' for improvement. Parents/carers will also be invited to meet Form Tutors at the start of the year and Subject Teachers later on to discuss progress.

Go 4 Schools enables parents to view our latest information on their child. It includes summaries of attendance, achievements, behaviour issues, latest assessments and a copy of your child's timetable.



We are always pleased to discuss student progress – a telephone call or email is all that is needed to make an appointment.

Clubs and Out of Hours Learning

As well as sporting activities, students will have the opportunity to join a range of other clubs. We call this "Out of Hours Learning".

Music and Drama productions at Woodbrook Vale are highly regarded; they are popular amongst students and parents/carers and are extremely successful and enjoyable. Rehearsals take place after school and at weekends.

Other activities and clubs include:



Tennis



Football



School Production



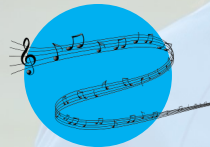
Art



Badminton



Rugby



Singing



Chess



Gymnastics



Cricket



Orchestra



Debating



Dance



Athletics



WMA



Film Club



Trampolining



Rounders



Student Newspaper



Mandarin



Netball



Basketball



Darts



Sewing Bee

We play a lot of competitive team sports against other schools and usually do well. Students will also take part in the inter-form competitions that are held during the year.

Educational visits and outdoor activities play a large part in the life of the school. There will be many opportunities for local excursions, as well as some further afield, two of which are residential.

Community Education

A wide range of community activities take place in the evening and at weekends, some of which are listed below:

Charnwood Drawing & Painting Club.
Premier Soccer – junior football.
Live 2 be fit - Diet and Fitness.

Stagecoach Theatre Arts School.
Zumba.
Loughborough Foxes (Girls football)

Governing Board

Chair - Gavin Brown

Vice Chair - Jo Kavanagh

Gary Peat (Headteacher)
Tim Birkinshaw
Shirley Bood
John Donoghue

Robert Gill
Andrew Gostelow
Colin Hamilton
Steve Marshall

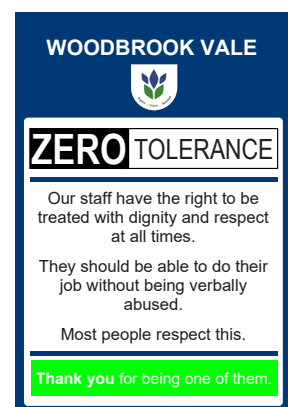
Sylvana Moreland
David Round
Robert Sharp
Andrew Shephard

Complaints Procedure

Woodbrook Vale School prides itself on working closely in partnership with parents/carers for the good of all our students. However, there is an approved procedure for dealing with complaints – please visit the school website for further details. (<http://www.wbvs.co.uk>). We very much hope that this procedure will rarely be necessary and that if you have a concern or query, you will contact the school initially so that the matter can be discussed with the Headteacher or member of staff concerned. We are sure that the vast majority of questions and anxieties can be dealt with in this informal manner. However, if matters cannot be resolved, then formal procedures involving the governors may be initiated by contacting the Clerk to the Governors at the school.

Treatment of Staff

Like students and parents/carers, staff have the right to be treated fairly, with respect and common courtesy. This applies in all written, telephone and face-to-face communications. Mistreatment of staff, whether by students or parents/carers, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.



Right of Access to Educational Records

Parents/carers are normally allowed access to their children's educational records at all reasonable times. A parent/carer wishing to see these records should write to the Headteacher making such a request.

Charging for School Activities



The Governing Body's policy on charging for school activities is as follows:

Materials: If parents wish to keep things which have been made at school, they may be asked either to provide the materials for making them or to pay the costs involved. So, for example, the school will provide ingredients needed for cookery, but if the parents/carers wish to make use of the products then they will need either to provide the ingredients or to pay for them. The school will provide full details prior to the products being made.

Residential Trips: If activities are planned to take place during school hours, charges will be made for the board and lodging element of such activities, and parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution towards travel expenses and entrance fees. Parents will be notified in advance of any such activities and their estimated cost, and parental consent will be obtained for the students participating in any such activity for which a charge is made. Charges will be calculated by reference to the actual cost of providing travel, activities, board and lodging for each student; no other cost will be covered by the charge.

Damage and Breakages: The school will charge parents/carers for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment or other property belonging to the school where that loss or damage has resulted from inappropriate behaviour on the part of a student.

Music Tuition: Parents/carers will be asked to meet the cost of individual and small group music tuition provided by the peripatetic music service. In case of hardship, parents are asked to contact the school.

Travelling to School

Most students walk or cycle to school each day and bike sheds are available for student use. The school requests that all cycles are stored securely using high quality locks.



We ask parents/carers not to drop or pick up students near to the school and not to use the car park at the beginning or end of the school day.

If a lot of cars are parked near the school gates or entering the car park it is very dangerous and puts other students at risk. It would be extremely helpful if you drop them nearby and then they can walk the rest of the way with their friends.

Term Dates 2018-19

Autumn Term

School Opens	Wednesday 29 August 2018
Mid-Term Break	Monday 22 to Friday 26 October 2018
School Closes	Friday 21 December 2018

Spring Term

School Opens	Tuesday 8 January 2019
Mid-Term Break	Monday 18 to Friday 22 February 2019
School Closes	Friday 5 April 2019

Summer Term

School Opens	Monday 23 April 2019
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2019
Mid-Term Break	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 June 2019
School Closes	Friday 12 July 2019



Liability

Parents/carers are reminded that the school cannot take responsibility for any loss of, or damage to, personal belongings.

We strongly advise that expensive electrical equipment such as mobile phones or tablets should not be brought to school.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that all property and clothing is clearly marked and that bicycles brought to school are roadworthy and secured.

Further Information

Detailed policies are available on the school website (<http://www.wbvs.co.uk>) or the School Office in relation to many of the issues expressed in this document.

NOTE

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the contents were correct on the date of going to press, it should not be assumed that there will be no change affecting the relevant arrangements or some matter particularised either before the start of, or during the school year in question, or in relation to subsequent school years.



Woodbrook Vale School

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