



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL

Westcliff High School for Boys Sixth Form

ABOUT WHSB

Fide et Fortitudine - Our School Motto

To join the Sixth Form at Westcliff High School for Boys is to become part of an ambitious and dynamic community of students and staff committed to academic excellence. Founded in 1920, the School has a rich heritage, strong values and a clear sense of purpose which fosters intellectual curiosity and a true sense of self-worth in its Sixth Form students.

Through our exceptional teaching and promotion of the seven attributes of our Learner Profile, WHSB encourages Sixth Form boys and girls to think independently and value knowledge. In an increasingly interdependent world, we help students to develop the confidence to become active, tolerant and compassionate lifelong learners. We believe this inspires and enables our students to realise their full potential and most will go on to take up places at the best universities in the UK or abroad.

Our Sixth Form students are leaders within their school community, who act as mentors to younger pupils, offering them subject support, guidance and encouragement. Our extensive extra-curricular programme and House activities are overseen and supported by Sixth Form students, who benefit from having the opportunity to develop leadership skills in order to give something of value to their community.

WHSB is a welcoming and supportive community that values and cares for the individual. Our students take a pride in their School and we are proud of their longstanding record of outstanding achievement. The School is determined to ensure that Sixth Form students experience a unique education filled with exciting, challenging and enjoyable experiences.



INTELLECTUALLY
CURIOUS



PERSONAL
INTEGRITY



LIFELONG
LEARNER



EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATOR



COLLABORATIVE &
SUPPORTIVE



OPEN
TO OPPORTUNITIES



GLOBAL
LY AWARE





INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS

Aspects of our Sixth Form curriculum

Public examination outcomes are consistently of the highest order in the Sixth Form; the extent to which attainment at WHSB exceeds national outcomes is not only significant but is, in many subjects, growing. Such levels of achievement, together with the broader perspectives and deeper insights which go beyond the narrow confines of the subject specifications, provide a secure foundation for future study. Moreover, for many Sixth Form students, the A* grade is becoming a prerequisite for access to the more competitive courses at the most prestigious universities and the School has an enviable track record of helping students to achieve at the highest level.

Having taken a wide variety of different courses across Years 10 and 11, students have earned the right to both specialise and exercise freedom of choice when they enter the Sixth Form. Because we understand that making such choices can be daunting, students are offered support in choosing those courses that fit best with individual interests and aptitudes, and advice is given in circumstances where particular subjects are prerequisites for future study.

The School offers different routes through the Sixth Form to ensure that all students embark on programmes of study tailored towards their individual academic profile. The numerous opportunities for enrichment allow students to develop the necessary positive attitudes towards study and scholarship that will be required when they move on to Higher Education.

The area that most differentiates students, particularly when it comes to completing their personal statement for UCAS, is the extent to which they are able to articulate intellectual curiosity that is both deep and sustained in their chosen subject areas. Independent reading around a subject, research, and a willingness to engage with the subject in its broadest sense are all expected of Sixth Form students as a matter of course.

PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Developing a moral compass

We believe that personal integrity is just as important as academic accomplishment and our teachers encourage students to cultivate a passion for learning by ensuring that they are accountable for their own development within a supportive and caring environment. As a result of this scholarly yet compassionate ambience, students' friendships, based on mutual respect and a shared desire to excel, are easily made and can last a lifetime.

WHSB is a thriving community in which students are given the opportunity to flourish by taking responsibility for their own maturation. Although our students are given a well-defined structure, we believe that it is essential that they are provided with space to take ownership of their own studies and personal development. The School's facilities enhance students' ability to achieve their goals and the state-of-the-art Sixth Form Building encourages a mature learning atmosphere within which they can complete work using modern equipment and bespoke areas for independent and collaborative study.

WHSB's uniquely academic and supportive atmosphere does not stop at the gates of the School. Our students are keen to engage with the community to make a real difference, and WHSB encourages them to do so. Many of our students assist in local primary schools and hospitals, and participate in other civic activities, such as charitable enterprises, as a part of their Sixth Form programme.

Being a member of the Sixth Form at WHSB is a life-enhancing opportunity which broadens students' horizons. It is a place where young people come together in a nurturing environment to develop into unique and well-rounded adults.







COLLABORATIVE & SUPPORTIVE

Working with and supporting others

When young people embark on a new venture of Sixth Form study, whether joining WHSB or remaining here following their GCSE courses, the range of choices and possibilities, coupled with the increased academic demand and pace of the courses, necessitate strong pastoral support.

Form groups contain fewer than twenty students, and provide students with a tutor who will guide them through the Sixth Form. Tutors hold weekly meetings with their students, both in groups and individually, to review their progress and wellbeing. In addition, Year group Assemblies encourage a wider perspective and allow for efficient communication in relation to guidance. The Sixth Form Pastoral Office team includes a Progress Leader for each Year group, a Pastoral Tutor who also provides specific support to our young women when they need female counsel, as well as dedicated and highly experienced Higher Education and Careers Advisers.

Students are welcome to seek support from any member of staff and, with two specialist teachers in most subjects, the Pastoral Office staff, and staff who lead the wider educational programme, students will find teachers on their wavelength and able to help and support them through these important years. School activities, particularly on Wednesday afternoons, enable students to develop their emotional intelligence and leadership skills through volunteering and organizing new ventures, for example directing and performing a play, or assisting in a local primary school. Students are encouraged to support each other, and Subject Prefects, student mentors and School Prefects are always on hand to provide a listening ear and specific support. Parents and students alike have commented on the unique and superb value of the Pastoral Support at our School.

OPEN TO OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond the classroom

A distinctive feature of Sixth Form life at WHSB is our extra-curricular provision. We believe this is as important as academic work in building happy, successful and rounded young adults. Our provision is diverse, extensive and continually evolving. We encourage our students to become involved, not only as participants, but also as organisers of our clubs and societies. Those who involve themselves fully are often those that excel at the very highest level academically.

There are extensive opportunities for students to step out of their immediate comfort zones. In Music, there is the chance to join a variety of musical ensembles including the Sinfonia orchestra, string and jazz ensembles and our popular Big Band. Students can choose to learn the fundamentals of military drill, first aid, camp craft and how to fire a rifle by involving themselves in the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), and perhaps taking responsibility for leading the training for junior members of their Corps.

Sixth Form students can also become involved in Sport through coaching, leading, assisting and actively participating, either recreationally or within representative teams. We have successful Sixth Form teams in rugby, football, cricket and netball. All students have access to our excellent sporting facilities including a Sports Hall, squash courts and a modern Fitness Suite.

We have numerous clubs and societies at School including Politics, Classic Films, Debating, Medicine, Tolkien and Poetry to name but a few. Teachers conduct regular day and residential trips, ranging from theatre and musical visits, to excursions further afield to places of geographical, historical and cultural importance such as Iceland, Barcelona and Russia. The School also organises annual ski trips and foreign exchanges; there is never a dull moment at WHSB.





OPEN TO OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBALY AWARE

SPORTIVE • COLLEGE



TO OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNICATOR • EFFECTIVE

GLOBALLY AWARE

Looking toward Higher Education

There are many reasons why over 90% of WHSB's Sixth Form students apply to university. For some, it is the recognition that a degree brings with it better job prospects, higher earning potential, and greater economic security. For others, especially those aspiring to careers in Medicine, Veterinary Science or Law, it may be a necessary condition of entry into those professions. Such practical considerations are worthy enough and we encourage our students to aspire to the very best universities in this Country and abroad.

However, at WHSB we do not encourage university study to be seen simply as a means to an end, but rather as something which is worthwhile and life-enhancing in itself. It offers students the opportunity to study a particular discipline (or disciplines) for three years, or sometimes longer, within an academic community; to think, to write, to argue, to experiment and to enlarge their experience and understanding. Our students gain greater independence, new friendships and fresh interests. In short, it may be an experience which will influence the rest of their lives, and even the very way they view life.

At WHSB we value and champion academic study and intellectual endeavour. For the vast majority of our students, continuing their path on to university is a natural progression. Our aim is to seek to ensure that the path is as clear and smooth as possible. We will advise, guide and assist students to make their own decisions and help them rise to the challenge.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

Developing confident and mature students

We appreciate the value of developing effective communication skills in our students, both within and beyond our wider school community.

Through our Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme, students in the Sixth Form have the opportunity to enhance their communication skills by working in local primary schools, participating in sport, undertaking work experience, or taking part in competitions such as Rocketeers, the Engineering Education Scheme, Young Enterprise and Oxford Debating. Some choose to hone their written communication skills and contribute to our entirely student-run School magazine, The Insider, or the School journal, Tabula.

Sixth Form students are encouraged to embrace a role of responsibility. These can range from being an inspirational Form Captain, acting as a Prefect, assisting with primary school events, running a club or society, coaching a junior sports team, or organising events for our Annual Charity Week.

The WHSB Sixth Form is an integral part of our community and, as such, students will be role models and mentors for the younger pupils. They may lead whole School Assemblies, contribute to the School Council, or lead their Houses to triumph in The Phoenix Cup.

All members of the Sixth Form are valued for their contribution to the school community and participation is part of our ethos.



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

LIFELONG LEARNER

BALLY AWARD



COMMUNITATIVE



IRIOUS • IN

LIFELONG LEARNER

Developing study skills

Joining a Sixth Form is a watershed in a young student's academic journey.

Students in the Lower Sixth are permitted to specialize in those subjects of greatest interest, and, accordingly, it is expected that students will want to take their understanding in those disciplines to its limit. Teachers at WHSB will expect students to read widely, and to evaluate their own progress to a greater extent than is possible with younger pupils. The excellent academic backgrounds of our staff enable students to receive tailored support as they explore their subjects, within and beyond the syllabus, and this can be achieved formally by undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), or informally through separate meetings. The relationship between students and their teachers is more collaborative and flexible than is the case during GCSE studies. A learning journal enables students to chart their progress and development both academically, and in their broader education.

The new Sixth Form building, within which study spaces were developed in consultation with students, facilitates silent study as well as collaborative learning. While desktop computers are still provided for online research, students may use their own technology via the wireless network to complement this work.

The rich range of clubs and societies enable students to develop new skills and some are closely allied to academic subjects, for example the Medical Society, Photography, Programming, and the Health Survey project; others enable new territory to be explored, such as founding a business through the Young Enterprise Scheme. At heart, however, the traditional qualities of scholarship are essential to anyone if they are to develop into a critical, reflective and versatile student and citizen, and the development of these qualities is one of our priorities when teaching our Sixth Form students.

BEYOND WHSB

The School's interest in its students does not end when they complete their Sixth Form studies. WHSB is proud of its alumni's achievements and many Old Westcliffians enjoy highly successful careers in the private and public sectors. The School's alumni include world class academics, professionals at the forefront of their chosen fields, captains of industry and leaders within the Arts, Media and Culture. Indeed there are few, if any, state schools that can boast four former students serving as MPs in Westminster concurrently, including a Cabinet minister.

The WHSB alumni are an integral part of our community and they provide a strong network which supports current students as well as allowing Old Westcliffians to stay in touch and support one another. The School maintains a database of Old Westcliffians who volunteer to support current students with their aspirations to enter particular fields. From Banking to Medicine, or Politics to Engineering, there are usually Old Westcliffians who can support our students on their journey towards their career goals.

Old Westcliffians come together at the School for social occasions and our annual Alumni Dinner provides an opportunity to catch up with old friends, network and keep up-to-date with the School's development agenda. The Old Westcliffians are generous benefactors of the School and have provided substantial funds to support our thriving Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Of course, many Old Westcliffians work and live at some distance from the School and we harness technology and the power of the internet to ensure they can maintain contact with their School. Wherever in the world they may ultimately find themselves, as Old Westcliffians will testify, the experience of an education at WHSB stays with you throughout your life.







Westcliff High School for Boys

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