

Prospectus





Welcome

“We feel very privileged that our children are part of such a fantastic community.” Parent comment



Welcome to The Weald

Welcome to The Weald! Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus; we hope to give you a flavour of our wonderful school and some key information for how to join us.

The Weald is a warm and friendly school where our ethos is that everyone is valued and has a vital role to play to make it an excellent place to learn, grow and thrive. Our vision is summed up in two words: opportunity and community.

We know that young people learn best by being provided with opportunities to take risks while feeling safe, to seek out challenges while being supported and to

embrace failure while understanding that this makes us all stronger. We are fortunate and grateful that our community of students, staff, parents/carers, governors and wider locality works harmoniously together to create our unique environment.

Students at The Weald achieve well academically but equally importantly they become outstanding citizens, ready for life beyond school. Relationships are key to this success, alongside rigorous standards and attention to detail.

Our young people know that smart uniform, excellent attendance and punctuality, and above all respect are our expected norms.

We are a school that listens and responds to our students. Whether it is the larger issues such as social diversity, inclusivity, equality for all, or a more personal topic - if it is important to our students, it is important to us and we seek to involve young people in our decision making.

These are exciting albeit uncertain times and we believe our optimistic outlook will drive us towards great achievements for our whole community. We very much hope to see you soon!

Sarah Edwards
Headteacher



Opportunity

Curriculum

The Weald's broad and unique curriculum provides students with a rich, diverse and personalised learning experience. The expertise and dedication of our staff means students actively participate in engaging, inspiring and challenging learning. These combine to encourage students to set the highest aspirations and develop as independent thinkers and learners, whilst furthering their knowledge and understanding. The outcome is confident young people who have experienced both academic and personal success and demonstrate the attitudes, values and skills for life beyond school.

Students of all abilities have pathways through the curriculum that closely match their needs, stretching and challenging them to ensure they achieve the best qualifications and exam results that they can, whilst providing support and intervention when necessary. Choice is a key motivator and our curriculum structure provides

opportunities every year for students (and parents) to influence their educational experience.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) is undertaken over three years. Students decide which GCSEs they would like to study in the spring term of Year 8, and begin their Key Stage 4 formal learning at the beginning of Year 9. The extra time this creates enables us to run enrichment opportunities as specific days, weeks or courses. These broaden the experience and enjoyment of learning whilst offering further opportunities to embed wider skills such as creativity, collaboration, communication, problem solving and resilience.

Teaching & Learning

Central to both the Curriculum and Teaching & Learning at The Weald are the 'Big Four':

- **Feedback** - in all its forms, as well as students' response to feedback
- **Autonomy** - developing our students' ability to be independent learners and to make informed

choices about the way they learn best

- **Challenge** - having the highest expectations for all, ensuring that all students have access to a broad, varied and exciting range of knowledge
- **Engagement** - making learning fun, whilst appreciating that students are engaged when they are challenged

These form the basis of outstanding experiences in the classroom.

As a school, we pride ourselves in remaining up to date with the latest educational research to ensure that all our students can maximise their progress both within the classroom as well as during their independent study time. Recent key foci that have significantly impacted on our classroom practice are:

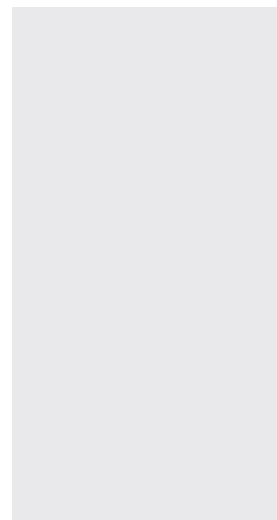
- Making learning explicit - What are we doing? Why are we doing this? Why in this way? Why now?
- Closing the vocabulary & knowledge gap - with a key focus on reading and memory retention strategies



“My son is so keen to come to school each day. He’s up, ready and dressed proudly in his uniform before we get up.” Parent comment

Opportunity





Student Leadership

We believe student leadership is demonstrated every day by every student. It forms the basis of the day to day decisions that take place as a part of daily school life. It is developed in form time, lesson time, social time and myriad wider opportunities where students are able to apply those leadership skills in alternative activities and roles.

The range of leadership opportunities is broad and varied. The Weald Leadership Award Scheme provides a coherent tiered structure to encourage students' citizenship, self-awareness and belief in their ability to make an impact. They work in environments as diverse as House and School Council through to working with younger students in developing

language, numeracy or literacy skills both across the school and in our primary schools. Every strand is focused on developing the skills and experience in young leaders that enable them to make a difference of which they can be proud.

Enrichment

In addition to achieving excellent examination results, we pride ourselves on the provision of wider opportunities that enable students to develop the skills and personal qualities that will enable them to thrive in the 21st century.

A whole school approach to broadening cultural awareness encourages engagement in form and lesson time as well as in a wide range of clubs and after school activities

including Art, Dance, Theatre, and Music. Sport is also a vibrant aspect of our school community and is enjoyed at both recreational and competitive levels. More unusual activities are encouraged and often student led, to allow students the opportunity to try something new and step out of their comfort zone. Not least of these would be our significant international links that enable students to travel and work with people from other cultures and countries in ways they might never have experienced and which are often life changing, across Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

All aspects of our wider curriculum focus on the skills necessary to succeed, including communication, collaboration, creativity, resilience and problem solving.

“When I listen to my daughter talk about the variety of places she’s visited I realise how extraordinarily lucky she has been to attend The Weald with the wide range of trips and opportunities they make available to students.” Parent comment



Community

Pastoral Care and Support

Mixed aged group support is a particular strength of our structure. On entry to The Weald, students are allocated to mixed year tutor groups within Houses. In these smaller groups, tutors are able to support and guide students through their school career, building up a sound knowledge and understanding of the qualities and needs of each of the young people in their care.

The House system supports our community ethos across all year groups as students throughout the school work together. Students have the opportunity to learn from one another, compete in events together, share ideas and experiences, and develop leadership skills. This community ethos underpins a wider school culture where students are encouraged to learn, lead and work

cooperatively in support of one another. We believe that every child is capable of achieving highly and we work with each individual to build the self-esteem and resilience to enable them to make the most of every opportunity.

Weald students grow into young adults who are responsible, productive and positive members of their community. This is a vital part of our pastoral work and extends into all aspects of students' social and academic life at school. Our young people are supported to be engaged and proactive, to enrich the community and go on to achieve well beyond their expectations.

Well-Being

We take the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all members of our community extremely seriously. Every student knows how they can contact a trusted adult quickly and sensitively, and that their concerns are listened to. Our pastoral team, made up of the Heads of House, Family Liaison Officer, Sixth Form Managers and counsellors, is available throughout the school day and beyond. We engage fully with external agencies for specialist support, in the knowledge that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

Our staff's well-being is also of great importance. We provide a range of opportunities for our whole team to look after themselves, with advice from a range of professionals as well as team-building activities in-house.



“I’m in awe of how staff at The Weald give such personal attention to so many children.” Parent comment

“I am a mum to two very different children, both academically and personality wise. The wonderful thing about The Weald is that the school and Sixth Form cater for them both in equal measure.” Parent comment



Community





“The communication from staff is outstanding, upbeat, positive and most welcomed.”

Parent comment



Behaviour and Attendance

The Weald is an inclusive and supportive community. Weald students are encouraged to reflect on their role within our community and understand how their actions can promote our positive values and impact on those around them. High attendance and participation plays a key role at secondary school and we monitor attendance very carefully. We work closely with families to ensure the best possible attendance so that all students fulfil their potential while with us.

The Weald School expects high standards of personal conduct and behaviour from all members of the community; we promote a ready, respectful, working and

safe (RRWS) environment with positive relationships that enhance everyone’s ability to work and learn. This is underpinned by our four classroom expectations and golden rules that are displayed in every classroom.

There is a recognition that everyone is allowed to make mistakes but that these should represent a learning curve from which one grows and develops. The school supports all students in learning from their mistakes. However, those that repeatedly fall short of our expectations will face increasing levels of sanction to protect students’ learning and hold individuals to account.

Parents and Carers

We welcome feedback from all parents and carers, both formally and informally. Each week our senior staff run a surgery for queries of any kind and we invite parents and carers in to join us for a Parent Voice meeting every half term, where we present key issues and take questions.

We routinely hold parents’ evenings for academic conversations with teachers but we encourage parents and carers to contact key staff swiftly if they have any concerns.

“Staff at The Weald are able to get a measure of a child’s character and nurture it.”

Parent comment



The Weald Sixth Form



The Weald Sixth Form



The vast majority of our students choose to spend seven years at The Weald, owing to our academic success and personalised support. Our examination results position us as one of the leading Sixth Forms in West Sussex and we are extremely successful in placing students with top universities across the country.

The Sixth Form has its own identity and ethos which actively promotes individual excellence in a caring community. This means fostering

a strong work ethic amongst our students and ensuring that they are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our broad range of extra-curricular opportunities also allows students to develop a wide range of personal and social skills, as well as being great fun. Sixth Formers make a valuable contribution as senior students within the school in a variety of ways, including acting as mentors and student leaders both within and beyond the curriculum.

“The Sixth Form is a place I truly feel accepted and teachers want to help you achieve your goals.”

Year 12 student

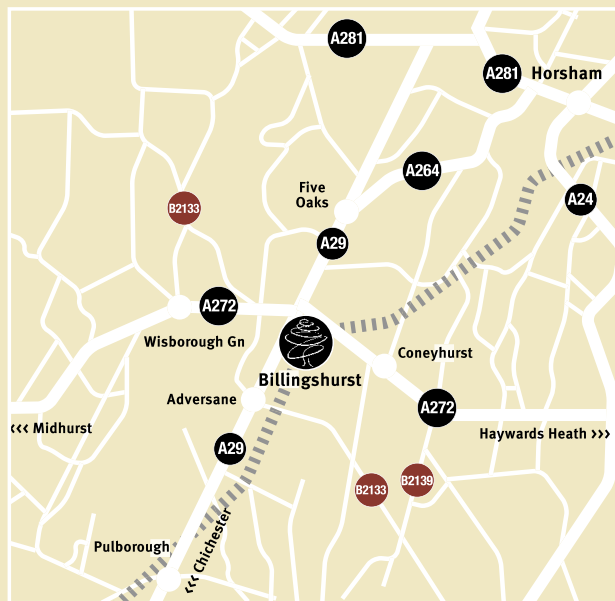


Join Us

The Weald School serves a large rural community from our pleasant 25 acre site on the edge of Billingshurst. Our size offers us many advantages; students and staff alike enjoy the open spaces, and although we are a busy school, there are more tranquil spots for enjoying nature.

The school is conveniently situated very near to Billingshurst railway station. Students from nearby villages are also very well served by our network of local school bus routes.

We know that starting secondary school is a big step and we work hard to make the transition for any new member of our community as smooth as possible. To find out more about our Open Evenings, or to view our Prospectus Information Booklet please visit our website: www.theweald.org.uk



To arrange a visit to the school, telephone us direct on 01403 787200 or email: office@theweald.org.uk

All admissions are managed on our behalf by the West Sussex Local Authority. Please contact them for more information: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-places/>



“One very happy and supported parent here.”

Parent comment

“I feel very proud and honoured to go to The Weald.” Year 8 student





The Weald
community school
and sixth form

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