

INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



The school's work to promote students' personal development and welfare is outstanding.

Ofsted, 2019

Students are immensely proud of their school.

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Leaders have created a truly inclusive school where every student is valued and cared for.

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WELCOME



Ms Jefferson
Headteacher

PASSIONATE ABOUT UNLOCKING
YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Wetherby High School is an inclusive, relationship and restorative-led community in which every decision is based on what is best for the children.

We are proud of our offer which centres around:

- High quality teaching and learning that stretches and challenges all students to achieve their best.
- A broad, enriching and personalised curriculum.
- Personalised pastoral care through our Coaching programme.
- Equity of access to a wide range of personal development opportunities.
- A relationship-led community that cares about each child as an individual.
- Extensive opportunities for extracurricular participation and competition.

At Wetherby High School all our staff are deeply committed to ensuring every child receives an excellent education.

Our curriculum, teaching and pastoral care enable students to achieve at the highest academic level, unlocking doors to the future of their choice.

Our school values: Know Our Children Well; Partners in Learning; Enjoy and Aspire; and Character for Learning shape everything we do, and our relentless child-centred approach means every individual is given the opportunity to excel.

This is a place where young people can be successful, not only in their schoolwork but also in their wider school life.

We have numerous opportunities for students - and secondary school is the perfect time for them to experiment and discover where their interests, passions and talents lie.

We want our students to reach their full potential academically, well prepared and equipped for adulthood. We understand that central to this is developing character and a sense of social responsibility.

We place the children and their personal success at the very heart of all our work which means that sometimes we do not take the easiest path, but the path that is right for each individual child.

We know that when a child feels safe, happy and supported they thrive.



OUR VALUES

At Wetherby High School we have four key values to ensure each child can reach their potential.



KNOW OUR CHILDREN WELL

We believe that strong relationships, between the staff and the students and between the students themselves, lead to great learning. These relationships create the distinctive, close-knit family feeling of our school community.

Each child is unique and valued for what they contribute to our school. Our Coaching programme is the starting point for this. Every child has an adult who is their point of contact and who can be their advocate. They build a high-quality relationship, learning about the whole child. Our commitment is to educate and develop each child personally, as well as academically, to reach their full potential.



PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Our students know that as a school community, as a year group and as a class group, we are responsible for the progress and development of each other.

We should challenge and support each other to be the best version of ourselves. This partnership extends to home. We know students benefit when there is open and frequent communication between school and home; it is a key relationship.

We are also privileged and fortunate to be in the heart of the community we serve. In recent years we have successfully built a significant network of local businesses, partners and organisations who have generously and whole-heartedly supported the school and our students.



CHARACTER FOR ACHIEVEMENT

We know that to achieve well in the rigorous exams-based education system, students need to overcome any challenges they may face. When our students move on from Wetherby High School, we want them to leave not only with the best academic results, but also the character to be successful young adults in a modern world.

Additionally, a sense of civic responsibility, emotional intelligence, self-regulation and empathy are traits that we know will help students flourish as valued members of any community they become part of.

We build character in students on a daily basis, providing them with a challenging and pacy classroom environment, as well as a wide range of enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom.



ENJOY AND ASPIRE

School should be a happy and enjoyable time for our students; a safe learning environment where all students can grow and develop.

We are committed to providing a wide-range of enrichment opportunities so all students can find their passion. Our Flexible Learning Programme, House activities, careers events and trips develop character, identity and a sense of achievement at such a crucial time in their lives.

Our focus is to enable each student to leave Wetherby High School with the desire, personal attributes and academic outcomes to pursue their own goals.

Whilst we are proud of the academic achievements of our alumni, the feedback about them as articulate, happy, aspirational and thoughtful people are equally valued and cherished.

You feel comfortable to talk to anyone in the school. People from different year groups are friends and you can get to know the staff well too. I am happy here and my confidence has grown since joining

Year 8 student

I enjoy my lessons because the teachers know how to challenge you, but you always feel you can ask for help when you need it.

The teachers really care that you are making progress and work with you to make sure you do.

Year 11 student

TEACHING IN A RESTORATIVE CLASSROOM

Our aim is to teach all children to achieve their best and understand how to learn well from a range of different starting points. We have developed 'The Learning Line', a consistent approach across school to deliver high quality lessons.

Our teachers are highly skilled and passionate professionals that develop strong relationships with the students. This results in every lesson presenting predictable high challenge in a purposeful learning environment where students can thrive. Students learn more than subject content in lessons: they develop character, learn key life skills such as how to solve problems, negotiate and communicate.

ONLINE LEARNING

Online Learning provides students with the opportunity to continue their studies at home. Our targeted Online Learning is designed to improve areas for development identified in exams and assessments. It is an important life skill for students to be able to manage their own time and develop their ability to work independently.

THE
LEARNING
LINE



CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

CURRICULUM

We are committed to children experiencing a broad curriculum and a variety of learning experiences to develop their skills and interests. Our courses match different learning styles and abilities.

Key Stage 3 - The National Curriculum is taught in English, Maths, Science, ICT, Languages, Geography, History, RE, Art, Music, Drama, Technology and PE. Additionally, students have problem solving and communication sessions that develop fundamental skills that underpin academic success across all areas.

Key Stage 4 - Students are offered an extensive range of GCSE and other accredited courses including vocational qualifications.

The curriculum content in each subject is developed to suit our children to engage and challenge them. Through the curriculum we encourage children to find their strengths, explore their passions and develop aspirations for life after high school.

ASSESSMENT

Teaching staff undertake continual assessment of students' progress in lessons to ensure the learning is pitched to provide consistently high challenge. We report home on progress five times a year. As part of our commitment to being partners in learning, these reports are discussed by each child and their coach to set targets together.

The content of the report also forms the basis for conversations between the coach and parents/carers. Progress is rewarded at the end of each term, with assemblies celebrating success. Certificates are presented to students demonstrating outstanding Character for Achievement attributes such as resilience, independence, motivation and empathy.

Coaching is my favourite part of the week. Through Coaching I have made friends with children from different year groups and they give me advice. Coaching is like your family at school; you play games, talk about things and it builds your confidence.

Year 8 student

COACHING, WELFARE AND WELLBEING

Our Coaching groups are one of the main ways we operate differently from other schools.

The **Coaching programme** is fundamental to knowing our children well and forming the strong relationships that are crucial.

A Coaching group contains approximately eight students from across all year groups with a member of staff who is trained to carry out these sessions. The groups meet three times a week for 'check-in, check-up and check-out sessions' looking at areas as varied as health and wellbeing, careers and citizenship.

As a regular point of contact, coaches also offer one-to-one support about concerns or achievements.

Coaches also develop strong relationships with students' parents or carers with whom they meet three times a year on Meet Your Coach Day. These days have become very popular with families who recognise the benefit of knowing someone in school who can be an advocate for their child.

We also achieve strong relationships through **restorative practice**.

This process of building, maintaining and repairing relationships is integral.

We have staff and students trained in restorative practice who lead others in coaching circles.

Our restorative approach is characterised by being relationship lead. The adults work with students to ensure they meet the highest expectations; to make the right choices because it is the right thing to do for themselves, and the school community.



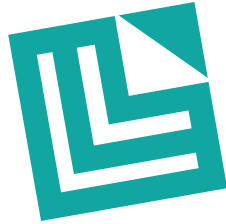
The behaviour of the students is outstanding.

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Students behave extremely well in classrooms and when moving around the school. They are committed to their learning and want to do their very best. They work well together and show the highest level of respect towards each other and towards members of staff.

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LIFE LEARNING



We take our responsibility to prepare students for life outside of school seriously.

Our Life Learning sessions enhance our provision for this.



VENTURE

In Venture, students take part in a range of House competitions.

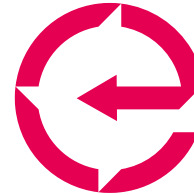
These require the students to work as part of a team across different year groups, developing their communication, creativity and sense of community.



FORUM

Forum sessions are designed to give the students the opportunity to discuss and debate topical issues and world affairs.

It is about students developing their understanding and opinions and having the confidence to effect change in their communities and society.



ENDEAVOUR

Endeavour allows students to take a part in either an activity they have a real passion for or an activity they want to try for the first time.

The whole staff team deliver a wide range of activities bringing the school community together and developing character.



ENRICHMENT

FLEXIBLE LEARNING

An extensive range of activities take place after school for students to opt into. These can be for the enjoyment of participating or to represent the school in competitions.

Activities include: sports, drama, music, STEM, art, food and many more.

In addition to Flexible Learning activities, there are a wide range of trips, residentials, careers events and leadership opportunities.

Taking part in clubs has been a good way to make friends with people that have similar interests to me. I have enjoyed the drama club the most and taking part in the school production.

FLEXIBLE



LEARNING

WHS has been fantastic in ensuring our daughter settled well into high school. She loved the transition events and is flourishing at WHS. The Coaching system means we have a point of contact who knows our child well in school, which we find really reassuring.

Parent of student starting in September.

MOVING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

We know that leaving primary school for 'big school' can seem a daunting prospect. We strive to make this process as smooth as possible with the aim that all our children can start their new school with confidence.

Our transition process is designed to enable us to get to know the children as quickly as possible and this begins with the transition events we hold before they start in September. There is the option to attend up to 7 transition days across the summer term and summer holidays. This allows the children to get to know the school which goes a long way to settling some of the nerves that understandably exist.

We know the relationship between school and home is key in providing consistent and meaningful support. As a parent/carer you meet your child's coach before the summer, so you start to build that relationship and open dialogue. We also work very closely with our primary feeder schools to ensure the transition process is open and understood by everyone involved.







Ofsted
Good
Provider

OFSTED 2019

We are delighted that our most recent OFSTED report reflects our child-centred approach. The full report can be accessed through our website. www.wetherbyhigh.org.uk

Here is a selection of some of the inspectors' comments:

Students are courteous, friendly and routinely regulate their own behaviour. Students have very high expectations of each other's behaviour.

The culture and ethos of the school is very supportive to students and staff alike. The school's impressive coaching model and personal development curriculum is highly regarded by students and families and supports the school in being a strong and caring community where students accept each other's differences and celebrate diversity.

Students feel, and are, safe in the school. They know who to turn to if they are worried about themselves or their friends.

Staff create a very positive atmosphere for learning through their passion for their subjects and the caring relationships they share with their students.

The pastoral support provided by the school is a clear strength. Leaders have created a truly inclusive school where every student is valued and cared for. Students and staff are unanimous in their praise for the help, support and guidance they receive when they need it. Parents agree that the school is a safe place for their children.

Breaks and lunchtimes are calm and sociable occasions. Adults provide positive role models for students, which helps them to develop positive social skills.

Students are immensely proud of their school.

Current students make good progress across a range of subjects. This is because they experience appropriate levels of challenge from teachers.

We know the Ofsted report is part of the journey, not the end, and are determined to continue to improve our offer and outcomes for all our students.





We welcome all prospective student and parent visits to the school by appointment.

Admission arrangements are provided by Leeds City Council through the Children's Services Department.

To contact Wetherby High School about a place for your child, email **admissions@wetherbyhigh.co.uk**.

If your child is applying for a place in Year 7, you will need to contact the local authority.

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