



WESTLANDS SCHOOL



2024 - 2025 Prospectus

EXPECT MORE

WELCOME TO WESTLANDS

OUR SCHOOL ETHOS



Welcome to Westlands School, where our well-established reputation for success is built on an inclusive, nurturing and aspirational learning environment.

At our school, traditional values concerning personal responsibility, excellent behaviour and hard work are combined with a strong sense of community that encourages kindness and care for one another.

High-quality teaching and learning and a rich curriculum provides our students with opportunities to develop as independent learners and allows them to progress no matter what their background, learning needs, gifts or talents. As a large school we are able to offer a wide range of facilities and courses to appeal to students who are academic, creative, and practical. There really is something for everybody.

Academic progress, especially in literacy and numeracy, is a top priority. Our results suggest that we are right to emphasise these key skills, as our students' academic success and the progress they make has been noted through successive OFSTED reports and in the Performance Tables year after year.

Our five RADAR values are the basis for the way we organise our school, motivate our students and impart a shared moral code. The RADAR values were formed after consultation with parents, staff and, most importantly, our students. In this booklet we aim to give you a flavour of what life is like at Westlands by exploring each of our core values in more depth.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our school, so that you can see first-hand what a great school we have and why we are so proud of our students.



Miss C Honess Headteacher



“Respect comes first. We value respect for others and respect for ourselves. Care, courtesy and consideration cost nothing, and we expect kindness because it makes our school a happier place. We appreciate the advice and experience of staff who work in our school.”



RESPECT

“High expectations and praise, balanced with clear consequences create a fantastic and supportive community for young people.”

Year 10 Parent

At Westlands School we have a stringent behaviour policy. We use traditional sanctions to enforce our expectations and ensure that everyone is treated with the respect they deserve. We do not tolerate prejudice of any kind.

The safety of our students is our top priority. To support with safety issues, children use different playgrounds, canteens and toilets, depending on their age. We have developed Calm Zones for students who prefer a quieter social space and at break times, staff and students trained as peer mentors are on duty, wearing high visibility vests. They support students if they need advice.

We do allow mobile phones in school, especially as some students travel a significant distance to and from school. However, students may only use them before school, at break times and after school finishes. If phones disturb learning, we confiscate them and expect parents/carers to collect them.

Our uniform is smart and formal. We believe that when students put their uniform on in the morning, it gives them the right mindset for school. We tell students in assemblies that if you look smart, you feel smart and you learn smart!



“The school is a harmonious environment, with pupils showing respect towards each other and adults. Strong relationships between staff and pupils help pupils feel safe and secure.”

Ofsted 2019



10. How many of the following features are present in the area shown on the map?
- A lake
 - A river
 - A road
 - A railway
 - A bridge
 - A field
 - A hill
 - A stream

11. Write down the name of the place shown on the map.

Feature	Present	Absent
Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Write down the name of the place shown on the map.

“The minute I arrived on my first day, everyone welcomed me and made me feel less nervous.”

Year 7 Student





ACHIEVEMENT

“The great range of facilities means there is something for everyone to succeed here.”

Year 7 Student

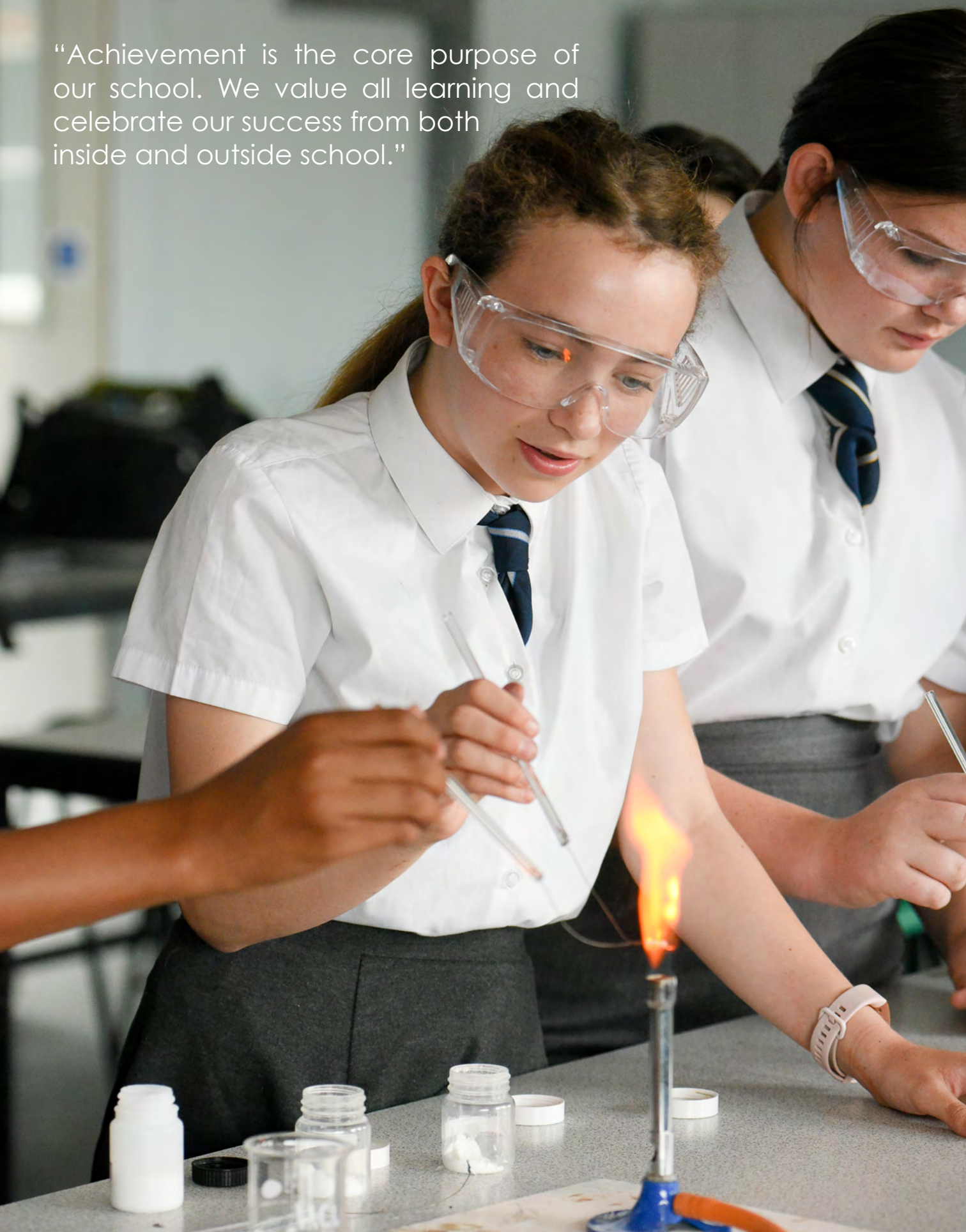
Academic progress, especially in literacy and numeracy, is a high priority. We particularly value reading. Students at Westlands are consistently academically successful and make impressive progress. This has been noted through OFSTED reports and in the Performance Tables year after year.

We constantly review our curriculum to ensure that all students experience the best quality teaching and learning. We offer a range of academic, practical, creative and vocational subjects. Homework is set according to a timetable and we offer a huge number of Out of School Learning sessions, particularly as students approach their exams.

Students are set by ability for academic subjects but individual progress is reviewed regularly and set changes may occur throughout the year. Classes are taught by experts, and teaching assistants support individual students.

Although incredibly important, achievement at Westlands is not just about academic success. We support students in achieving all kinds of personal successes, celebrating these with them.

“Achievement is the core purpose of our school. We value all learning and celebrate our success from both inside and outside school.”





“Teachers’ strong subject knowledge fosters an eagerness to learn across the school.”
Ofsted 2019

“The rich curriculum offers pupils a very wide range of subjects, enriched by a range of extra-curricular activities”

Ofsted 2019





DIVERSITY

Westlands School is more diverse than it has ever been in terms of the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of our students. This adds so much to our school because we believe that students can learn from others who might be different from themselves. We regularly give students the opportunity to give feedback on their views, and ensure this includes students from minority groups within the school community.

We are skilled in ensuring that students who need high levels of support make excellent progress and play a full part in the life of the school. Inclusion is important to us and we do our best to accommodate some students with high levels of special needs into the mainstream school environment. Our physically disabled students are a credit to our school and are valued by the other students. They really do inspire others.

We are not afraid to deal with some quite sensitive issues through lessons or in assemblies. In our modern world, where students have almost instant access to social media and the internet, we need to teach students how to treat people appropriately and how to look after themselves. We also encourage charity events so that students have a sense of empathy towards others who are less fortunate. This also gives students the chance to see themselves as people who contribute to a wider community.

“There's plenty of support at Westlands to help any pupils, no matter what.”
Year 8 Student

“We embrace the fact that we come from different backgrounds. This diversity makes our school a more interesting and inspiring place. We value inclusion and encourage those who need extra support.”







ASPIRATION

We believe we have an important part to play in raising aspirations. We have very high expectations of our students in a number of different ways. Students are set targets in terms of their attainment. We have a Grammar Stream for our most academic students who have passed the 11+, who have achieved excellent results at primary school, or who show potential. However, we understand that others can excel in different areas, so we have facilities such as our school farm, our construction and engineering skills centre, and our dance studio, to name a few.

“We get a lot of support in making decisions about our future.”

Year 13 Student

Our Head Boys, Head Girls and Prefects lead on occasions such as our Awards Evening. We have Student Mentors who support younger children and we take student representatives to conferences and competitions.

Our Post-16 provision offers students a range of academic and vocational courses. Teaching groups are small and additional intervention is provided to ensure that students meet or exceed their expected grades.

We understand students need to have experiences outside the classroom. Our extra-curricular opportunities are exceptional. There are regular residential trips abroad, such as expeditions, ski trips and activity weeks. There are day trips out to France, to the theatre, to historical sites and geography field visits. Furthermore, there are a host of clubs and activities, such as Young Farmers, performing arts and sports teams.



“We really do believe in our school motto we ‘Expect More’. We aim to develop skills for a life of learning. We value ambition, both at school and in developing our character.”





RESILIENCE

Children make mistakes. When they make these mistakes, we place real importance on students reflecting on what has happened and considering how they can move forwards. This helps our students to succeed, develops their character and ensures they take responsibility for their actions.

We are always ready to reward students who are successful, as this motivates them and encourages an ethos of hard work. We are equally ready to give students opportunities to put things right when they have not gone so well. We understand that resilience can be encouraged in all aspects of the students' lives: in all areas of their school day, at home and in the local community. We communicate frequently with parents/carers to make sure we work closely together for the benefit of our students.


It is fair to say that 'resilience' will be a key quality for being successful in the workplace, so we do our best to prepare our students for their future, even though many will take on jobs and careers which have yet to be created. We consider school as a place to develop lifelong learning skills, a positive outlook, common sense and a sense of humour.

“We have lots of opportunities to get involved and help each other to keep trying.”
Year 11 Student



“We value the effort and determination to keep trying when we have made a mistake. Developing the ability to recover quickly when faced with challenges will help us to respond to pressures we might face in our lives.”





“Westlands’ dedicated staff work tirelessly to assist pupils to meet their full potential. Children are treated as individuals and their achievements are congratulated. The support given both academically and within a pastoral capacity is exemplary. Any concerns are dealt with immediately. They appear to genuinely care about the wellbeing of their pupils and ensure the lines of communication between pupils, parents and staff are always open.

Former Year 13 Parent



“In pupil voice sessions, our ideas about the school are heard.”
Year 9 Student









WESTLANDS SCHOOL

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Learn more and discover where high expectations plus a little application can take you.