



— UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL —

Westcliff High School for Boys



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Fide et Fortitudine - Our School Motto

Westcliff High School for Boys celebrates more than 100 years of world-class education, and we are proud that is also recognised through our Outstanding Ofsted rating. We continue to hold dear our values and traditions, whilst fostering academic excellence through a first-class all-round education.

As a Grammar School, we hold the highest of aspirations for our pupils and set similarly high standards, encouraging pupils to unlock their potential and realise their ambitions. We believe that education has the power to transform lives, and that it must never be narrow. Through our exceptional teaching and wealth of extra-



curricular activities, we provide a unique education filled with exciting, challenging and enjoyable experiences, while valuing and caring for every individual within our community.

Choosing the right school is fundamental; Westcliff High School for Boys opens remarkable opportunities and possibilities for our pupils, and the benefits of our provision endure throughout their lives.

We take great pride in creating a welcoming and nurturing School community in which our pupils know they belong, and in which they can grow and feel empowered to contribute and succeed.

It is a joy to be Headmaster of this fine School and I hope you find this prospectus helpful in getting to know our community.

M A Skelly, Headmaster



“ I LOVE THE SUPPORTIVENESS
OF EVERYONE AT WESTCLIFF
HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS. ”

Henry



THE LEARNER PROFILE

Our Learner Profile demonstrates that we wish to inspire pupils to think independently and to value knowledge, imbuing them with the confidence and true sense of self-worth to become active and compassionate lifelong learners in an increasingly globalised and interdependent world.

Through our Learner Profile, we ask each pupil to become a Lifelong Learner; to be Intellectually Curious; to maintain Personal Integrity; to be Collaborative and Supportive; to remain Open to Opportunities; to be Globally Aware; and to learn to become an Effective Communicator.

By developing these attributes in our pupils we aim to raise their aspiration and set high standards, to enable them to realise their ambitions on their journey to becoming well-rounded and principled young people who are equipped for adulthood.

The Learner Profile strengthens our sense of community and enables pupils to acquire a respect for scholarship and learning, and inculcates values which are worthwhile. It helps our pupils to develop an appreciation of human achievement but also to learn to think critically, to respect evidence, to distinguish between opinions and prejudices, and to make balanced judgments of their own.

WELCOMING YEAR 7 PUPILS

We understand that joining a new school can be daunting for both pupils and their parents. However, we regard every individual as a unique member of our community, and we work hard to effect a smooth transition such that every new pupil feels happy and settled.

WHSB is a warm, welcoming and supportive school. Our older pupils and staff collaborate to offer advice and guidance to those new to the School or in difficulty. Year 7 pupils are based in their own building and have their own recreational area, whilst being supported by Sixth Form students who are designated as Form Captains and attached to Year 7 Form Groups. There is always something exciting to do and someone to talk to.

We are proud of our history, and every new pupil becomes an important part of our heritage. We ensure that each pupil enjoys learning, makes progress, and participates in the wider life of the School so that they may go on to become confident and responsible citizens. We are motivated by our shared desire to inspire young people, and to share our passion for learning.





“ EVERYONE IS REALLY FRIENDLY AND EASY TO TALK TO. ”

Jimi



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH EXTENSION

WHSB seeks to inculcate in its pupils a love of learning and a sense of intellectual curiosity that will stay with them throughout their lives. Pupils follow a traditional curriculum that allows them to develop their knowledge and skills in the Lower School across a broad range of subjects in the Arts, Humanities, Languages, Mathematics, and the Sciences, before making their GCSE and Advanced Level choices from an even wider range of subjects.

Our pupils are encouraged to develop positive attitudes to scholarship and intellectual curiosity. Pupils discover where their interests and aptitudes lie, make progress and, ultimately, achieve at the highest level. Across all levels, public examination outcomes are consistently of the highest order, and this (together with the broader perspectives and deeper insights which go beyond the narrow confines of the subject specifications) provides a secure foundation for future study. The natural destination for almost all our pupils is the Sixth Form and, beyond that, university.

Beyond the classroom, academic extension and enrichment are an important part of the opportunities offered to pupils at WHSB. This might be the Junior Mathematics Challenge, the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, rocket building with the Physics Department as part of UKRoc, meetings of the Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Society, trips to sites of historical importance, participation in Modern Foreign Language competitions, and much more.

“ THE TEACHERS ARE REALLY KIND AND HELP ME TO BE BETTER IN SCHOOL AND IN LEARNING. ”

Lakeeb

SPORT

Sport is an important part of life at WHSB. We are passionate about sport and value the role it plays in promoting healthy lifestyles, instilling discipline, fostering effective communication, enhancing leadership qualities, and developing character. No matter what a pupil's age or ability, there are sporting opportunities available to them. We are committed to competing at the very highest levels and have achieved notable successes in local, regional and national competitions across a range of sports. If representative sport does not appeal, there are many other ways to become involved, including recreational sports clubs and inter-House sporting competitions.

Our sporting facilities are first-class, including a four-court multi-purpose Sports Hall, a modern Fitness Suite, an all-weather athletics area, several rugby and football pitches, two cricket squares and much more besides.

Sporting opportunities include: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Cross-Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Rugby, Swimming, Table Tennis, and Tennis.



“ I HAVE MADE GOOD FRIENDS AT WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS, AND I AM INVOLVED IN LOTS OF ACTIVITIES. ”

Conor





CENTRE OF ACTIVITY



A distinctive feature of life at WHSB is our extra-curricular provision. We believe this is vital in building happy, successful, and well-rounded young people with the instinct and desire to continue learning and to be open to opportunity throughout their lives. The provision at WHSB is diverse, wide-ranging, and continually evolving.



Our variety of clubs and societies is extensive, ranging from Poetry to Robotics, from Investment to Medicine, and from Chess to Wargaming. We also encourage pupils to establish societies and extend their own interests in doing so, in areas such as Economics, Psychology, and Finance. House events provide wonderful opportunities for pupils to engage in further activity, such as inter-House Sports, House Pokémon and Rubik's Cube, and House Drama. At the same time, teachers lead regular day and residential trips, including theatre and musical visits, trips to Norway, Barcelona, and Germany, tours of the First World War Battlefields in Belgium and France, and trips to support the study of Modern Foreign Languages.

There is something for everyone at WHSB and we encourage all our pupils to participate and to extend their horizons. At WHSB, pupils often take their first steps in developing interests and enthusiasms that are sustained into their adult life. These experiences give them the self-confidence to manage change, and to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

“ THERE IS A FANTASTIC VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS; THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! ”

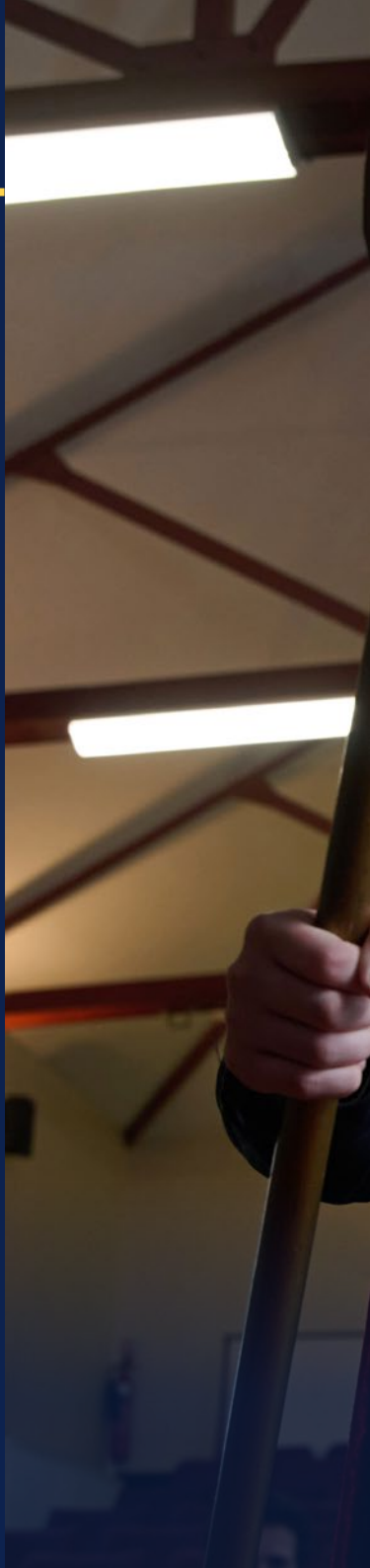
Benjamin

THE ARTS

Westcliff High School for Boys prides itself on being a centre of excellence in the Arts. Our LAMDA Programme is firmly established, with opportunities available for all pupils to study Public Speaking, Verse & Prose, and Acting, all in small groups with specialist teachers. WHSB is an Examination Centre for LAMDA, and all lessons and examinations take place in School. Our Drama Productions Programme sees pupils stage a new production each School Term, with a biennial performance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Recent productions have included *Les Misérables*, *Oliver!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and many more.

Music is taught in all year groups and is a popular option at GCSE and A Level. There is a vibrant extra-curricular musical life at the School, including a symphony orchestra, a jazz band, string ensemble, horn group, brass ensemble, choirs, and a big band. The Department features a fully-equipped studio, and its rooms and resources are regularly used by pupils to rehearse their own bands and groups. These groups perform regularly alongside soloists in assemblies. There is an extensive programme of concerts, including three symphony concerts, three chamber concerts, and two big band concerts each year, as well as opportunities to attend professional concerts and operas in London.

Art is also prominent within the School, being studied by all pupils in their first three years at WHSB. Many of our pupils go on to study Art at GCSE and A Level and achieve impressive results which enable them to study at prestigious Art Schools. There is an annual exhibition of pupils' artwork, which showcases their wonderfully creative talents.





“ I FIND THAT THE
TEACHERS ENJOY
TEACHING THE LESSONS
AS MUCH AS WE ENJOY
EXPERIENCING THEM. ”

Cass

“ WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR
BOYS OFFERS EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES IN ABUNDANCE. ”

Jose



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Westcliff High School for Boys values extra-curricular participation as a means to extend pupils' learning and develop them as individuals. Through personal discovery and challenge, pupils find new sources of strength and personal resilience.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, available to pupils in Year 9 (Bronze) and Year 10 (Silver), encourages pupils to explore new activities, develop and gain recognition for existing areas of participation, and take ownership of their own Award experience. The School runs challenging expeditions, where pupils grow through deploying teamwork skills alongside navigation and campcraft, learnt in School to enable them to complete the route whilst being self-sufficient.

WHSB's School Ski Trip has been running since the 1960s and offers an annual trip to a European resort. This immensely popular trip provides our younger pupils with an opportunity to acquire new skills and friends on the slopes, developing a lifelong interest and new sources of well-being.

The School community is proud of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF), the first established in a UK School under the Government's Cadet Expansion Programme in September 2012. The CCF at WHSB began with an Army Section of 25 cadets, later establishing its Royal Navy Section in 2018, and more recently a Royal Air Force Section. This makes WHSB one of the few state school Tri-Service Units in the country. The CCF offers a remarkable opportunity to participate in field activities and camps, and to build a wide range of skills including leadership, teamworking and communication. Our CCF is exceptionally popular with around 250 cadets involved from Year 9 upwards.



PASTORAL CARE

The welfare of our pupils is a duty we take seriously. All members of staff have a responsibility for ensuring the well-being of each individual pupil. At WHSB, education is underpinned by a pastoral system which meets the changing needs of our pupils from their carefully phased induction into Year 7, through to their completion of Sixth Form study. Each phase of a pupil's education is supported by the work of our Lower, Middle and Sixth Form Pastoral Offices. Each Pastoral Office is overseen by a Director of School who leads a dedicated team of Progress Leaders and a full-time Pastoral Tutor. Parents can contact the Pastoral Offices directly if they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's education and well-being.

The tutor group is at the heart of our pastoral care, and Form Tutors are the primary source of guidance for pupils. Form Tutors are supported by Pastoral Leaders within a framework of care and guidance which fosters both academic progress and personal development. We have high expectations of our pupils, both inside and outside the classroom, as they progress through School.

Pupils take an active role in the pastoral system. Our Sixth Form students are attached to the form groups of younger students, as Form Captains, and also offer their services as academic mentors in their specialist subjects. We use our daily assemblies to encourage empathy, tolerance and community service. Concern for welfare beyond the School is demonstrated in the wide range of charitable events, including the Charity Events arranged by pupils in Year 7 and the Lower Sixth, which raise awareness, and significant funds, for worthy causes.





“ THE TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS
READY TO OFFER SUPPORT. ”

Alex

“ WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS IS A HOMELY COMMUNITY, FILLED WITH ENJOYABLE AND EXCITING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. ”

Rayyan





COMMUNITY

At WHSB, we promote the sense of belonging and community spirit. Within our School community we seek to offer moral and social guidance to our young charges. Our pupils learn that principles matter and underpin one's character, personal integrity, and reputation. They understand that honesty, reliability, and tolerance pave the way to personal growth and contentment. A WHSB pupil knows the value of honour and dignity. Through lessons, assemblies, and our broad range of activities, pupils learn of those people across the globe who do not enjoy the same freedom or prosperity that we do. Pupils are encouraged to recognise the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations, and to appreciate that we have obligations to others and to our community.

We value highly the links we have fostered and maintained with our local area; the interaction between WHSB and the wider community benefits those around us while broadening our pupils' horizons and enhancing their educational outcomes. Our pupils actively engage in charitable fundraising and support many local primary schools, helping younger pupils to develop their skills. We host weekly primary school workshops, and Saturday classes for local Year 5 pupils considering taking the 11+ Test. These endeavours place WHSB firmly at the heart of the community it serves, and help to instil within our pupils a sense of civic responsibility and social conscience.

The Old Westcliffian Association and Alumni help us to maintain strong links with our former pupils who are located around the world. We are proud of their many achievements and delighted that they choose to stay in touch.

JOINING THE SIXTH FORM

We are committed to supporting all our pupils through seven years of education at WHSB, and there are many exciting opportunities available to them when they enter our Sixth Form. Sixth Form students are able to enjoy greater independence in their studies and dedicated, state-of-the-art facilities in our Sixth Form Building and Café. Students develop their leadership potential by taking on positions of responsibility such as Form Captain, House Captain, Peer Mentor, or School Prefect, and by mentoring and supporting younger pupils.

There is a wide range of academic options available to our Sixth Form students, alongside the option to undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), and preparation for University entry tests. The School provides guidance for UCAS (the University entry system), Oxbridge preparation, enhanced support for those applying for courses in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary studies, and advice on professional Apprenticeships. Careers guidance for students includes a dedicated week of work experience towards the end of the Lower Sixth year.

The School organises a lively enrichment programme for members of our Sixth Form, with the opportunity to specialise and to lead. This will often include volunteering their services to make a valuable contribution to our wider local community, in primary schools or care homes. Enrichment opportunities offered within School are varied, including sport, cooking, gardening, Young Enterprise, and a series of diverse weekly lectures from visiting speakers.





“ THE TEACHERS ARE GREAT AT SUPPORTING US WITH OUR EXAMINATIONS, LEARNING, AND WELL-BEING. ”

Mihran



Westcliff High School for Boys

Headmaster: Mr M A Skelly M.A.



Please scan here
for further information
regarding Year 7 Entrants

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 www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

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