



Weald of Kent
Grammar School

Sixth Form Prospectus



CURIOSITY • COURAGE • COMPASSION

www.wealdgs.org

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Welcome from the Director of Sixth Form

Welcome to Weald of Kent Grammar School. This booklet is designed to give you a flavour of life in the Sixth Form and to support you through making your subject choices.

Weald of Kent Grammar School enjoys a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence alongside the provision of first-class care, guidance and support. We offer a wealth of enrichment, extra-curricular and leadership opportunities to our Sixth Form students. These enable them to develop into curious, confident and caring individuals with first-class qualifications, a strong sense of responsibility, integrity and self-esteem, the courage to take risks and the skills to lead others in shaping the future.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be the Director of Sixth Form of such a vibrant, purposeful and inclusive learning community where all students are valued as individuals. When you join us in the Sixth Form, you will find your days academically challenging and intellectually stimulating. The rigour and demands of your lessons and independent learning opportunities are exceptionally well supported within a caring and friendly atmosphere. Students at Weald are welcoming, approachable and supportive of one another, keen to make the most of the wide variety of opportunities that are available to them and to lead or contribute to the wider life of the school as well as acting as role models to the younger students.

We hope that, after reading this prospectus, you will have all the information to decide that Weald of Kent Grammar School would provide a wonderful opportunity for your Sixth Form education, but if you have any further questions then we will be happy to answer them. Should you require additional information about the Sixth Form, or the admissions process please contact us via admissions@wealdgs.org

I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Mrs B Swaffer
Director of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Study

The Sixth Form Curriculum

The wide range of subjects offered at Weald of Kent enables students to make a variety of choices that suit their needs. All A Levels now have a fully linear structure with all examinations taking place at the end of the course after two years. Weald operates a ten-day timetable cycle which means that we divide each term into two-week blocks. In each fortnightly cycle, the normal timetable allocation in both Year 12 and Year 13 is ten one-hour lessons in each main curriculum subject.

At Weald, students in Year 12 will usually opt for three subjects; some students may wish to study four subjects and will be required to meet an additional criterion to do this.. As part of the curriculum, Sixth Formers also benefit from a tutorial and comprehensive enrichment programme that develops skills to prepare for life beyond school.

Subjects

Subject to numbers, staff and timetable restrictions, we intend to offer the following curriculum subjects:

Art	English Literature	Philosophy
Biology	French	Physical Education
Business Studies	Geography	Physics
Chemistry	German	Politics
Computer Science	History	Psychology
DT: Product Design	Mathematics	Sociology
Drama & Theatre Studies	Mathematics (Further)	Spanish
Economics	Media Studies	Extended Project Qualification
English Language	Music	Sixth Form Sport

Ella Geography, History and English Literature

Here at Weald, the Sixth Form not only plays a large role in the wider school community but also has a strong sense of autonomy as a cohort itself. Shifting into smaller classes with a more collaborative approach to teaching, and with the opportunity for self-directed learning, students have the space to gain an insight into what studying at university looks like.



Enrichment

Sixth Form students follow a programme of enrichment which is specifically designed to support them through their studies, maintain good well-being and prepare them for life beyond school.

The Year 12 curriculum is designed to improve students' academic, social and emotional development. A series of talks and workshops, which draw on performance psychology, help students develop their positive mindset, study skills and performance under pressure. In addition, the school's dedicated enrichment days provide students with the chance to develop their independence, and this is also enhanced through a series of school-based workshops on topics such as Drugs Awareness, Sexual Health and Safe Driving.

In Year 13 enrichment days focus on supporting students in their preparations for Higher Education and life beyond school, for example through an Interview Practice Day as well as preparation for independent living with sessions on budgeting, finance, student accommodation, first aid and menu planning.

All Year 12 students participate in weekly Sixth Form Sport on Wednesday afternoons, with opportunities in a wide range of activities. This supports our students' well-being, health and fitness, whilst engaging with the wider year group community.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Alongside their A Levels, Year 12 students can choose to study for the EPQ: a project or dissertation that they research, write and present on a topic of their interest and choosing. The qualification allows students to develop a wide range of skills including planning, time management, research, analysis and evaluation. It also provides them with the opportunity to produce a carefully structured piece of extended work (similar in length and form to an undergraduate dissertation) which they then present to an audience

Alice

Biology, Chemistry, Spanish and EPQ

At Weald, Sixth Form students' approach to learning becomes deeper and more independent as the focus shifts towards fostering independence and critical thinking. Teachers are seen more as mentors guiding students through advanced subjects, with a more collaborative and interactive style of teaching. Students are encouraged to engage in lively discussions, research projects and more self-directed learning.



Making Informed Subject Choices

Choosing subjects for A Level study can be a tricky process. Some subjects are significantly different at a higher level in both content and assessment pattern; other subjects are completely new at A Level. The purpose of our guidance programme, including this booklet, is to provide information about the subjects and specifications to help you make an educated choice.

At Weald we strongly believe that all subjects are valuable in their own right and students should opt for subjects that they have a genuine interest in above all other considerations as they are more likely to flourish at A Level.

Students are able to take a broad variety of subjects, for example taking a humanities or language alongside two sciences, and this should be particularly considered for students who wish to keep their options open.



Overall, I cannot recommend the school highly enough. My daughter loves it there and as parents, we love the fact that she feels nurtured, stretched, and supported by all her teachers.

Year 12 Parent

Making Informed Subject Choices

Choose what you enjoy

This is crucial as enjoyment and examination success go hand in hand. Students will find self-motivation much more of an issue if they take a subject that they do not find interesting and exciting.

Great grades follow great choices

By opting for a subject which you are excited to study, you are more likely to succeed. Alongside this, students should consider what they are good at, without being overly influenced by just one examination result e.g. a GCSE mock. Instead, they should reflect over the last two years to get the best indication as to their likely success in each subject.

Future career or university choice

For many careers, any combination of A Levels is appropriate, however if you have a particular vocational career ambition, then it is always worth checking university entry requirements using the UCAS website.

The recent off curriculum day was an excellent example of how Weald look for new innovative ways to encourage and engage students in taking the initiative and responsibility for their own learning.

Year 12 Parent



Ava

PE, English Language and Psychology

The range of A Level subjects on offer means that students have the opportunity to choose an individualised curriculum, supporting their passions and future aspirations. We are actively encouraged to choose subjects we love and that we have an aptitude for, so that we are giving ourselves the best chance of success beyond school.



Independent Study

Our aim is to develop all of our students as independent and lifelong learners. Teachers will always look to promote knowledge and understanding that takes students beyond the confines of the examination specification. We carefully manage the transition from the highly structured nature of Year 11 in preparation for Higher Education and beyond, and students will have non-contact study periods alongside taught lessons. Students are expected to use these study periods constructively and wisely to support their academic studies. Much of this work will be self-directed and will involve wider reading, research and note-taking; skills that are essential at this level. Students are expected to devote a minimum of ten hours per fortnight outside of lesson time to each of their subjects, increasing this as they prepare for their final examinations. This equates to students being expected to spend an hour on independent study for every hour of teaching they receive.



Induction

To support and carefully manage the transition from GCSE as well as to prepare students for the Sixth Form, all students go through a detailed and extensive induction programme. This includes two induction days. The first, in June, focuses on the academic aspects of the Sixth Form and how best to prepare for A Level study. The September induction is focused more on expectations of life in the Sixth Form as well as learning to work as a team. This includes an Orientation Day for new joiners and then the Year 12 Induction Day for the whole year group, including a BBQ and social, aimed at team building and encouraging students to make new friends. The autumn term PSHE programme for Year 12 students focuses on the skills needed to be successful at A Level. In addition, there is an evening for parents/carers to learn how best they can support their young person throughout the next two years.

Mackenzie

Biology, Chemistry and English Language

Joining Weald from a different school may seem daunting at first, but we quickly settle in after meeting the staff and other students. They are quick to make a positive, lasting mark, giving immediate support where needed, also taking into consideration previous educational backgrounds. There are many opportunities to get fully involved in the life of the school, such as being a Form Representative and then later on a Prefect.



Facilities

Weald is fortunate in having excellent facilities that enable us to deliver a high-quality learning experience for all students. The school enjoys well-equipped science labs, dedicated technology and music blocks and IT suites. We have a drama studio and well-resourced art rooms. Our school library allows students access to a wealth of resources.

Our Sixth Form Hub includes a common room as well as a large Sixth Form study area. The Sixth Form Café provides food and refreshments throughout the day within a university style environment. This ensures that Year 12 and 13 students have the space and facilities to study productively in their study periods, as well as socialise with their friends, and ensures that life in the Sixth Form feels very different from life in the main school.

Our sports facilities are first class. In addition to a sports hall and dance studio we also have tennis and netball courts and a large school field which is used for both Sixth Form Sport and as a social space.



The teachers are passionate about teaching and genuinely interested in supporting my child to be the best he can be. My child is thriving and feels totally supported by all of his subject teachers. Well done Weald.

Year 12 Parent



Support and Guidance

Pastoral Care

Each student in the Sixth Form is allocated to a tutor group with an experienced form tutor who is dedicated to supporting them through their A Level studies and has an excellent knowledge of the UCAS system used for university applications. There is time at the start of every day for the tutor to meet the form during the registration or assembly period.

Each year group has a Head of Year whose role is to manage the tutor team for their year group and an Assistant Head of Year whose role is to provide additional one-to-one mentoring and support to students. They also play a vital role in the monitoring of students to ensure that appropriate support is given and provide a vital link for parents. Our Careers Manager and Independent Careers Advisor ensure students have access to a wide range of contacts within different professions and expertise. Our aim is to make sure students are well supported in order to achieve to the best of their ability and make the most of the opportunities on offer to them. Each fortnight students participate in several assemblies: a year group assembly and an assembly run by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Alongside this a programme of tutorial activities helps their development as individuals and as a member of their form.

Our Student Services Team further supports the pastoral care of students. This includes a school nurse, School Counsellor and SENCo. We support students throughout their time at school including managing access arrangements for examinations and emotional health and well-being support.



Maggie

Biology, Psychology and Sociology

We have a wide range of easily accessible pastoral support available to us, such as our Tutor, Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, Student Support and Learning Support. We are a school where students are encouraged to be confident expressing themselves and also comfortable to reach out and talk to someone if they need support.



University Guidance

We provide an extensive and comprehensive UCAS guidance programme to support students in their choice of university and course. Information evenings take students and parents through the process, provide an update on any new developments and provide answers to any questions.

Students attend the UCAS event in London to receive information from many universities about Higher Education. There is a Higher Education Day in Year 12 where University Admissions Tutors talk about personal statements, choosing courses, completing the UCAS form and preparing for interviews. As a result, our students proceed onto high quality universities and Higher Education institutions when they leave us in Year 13. Nearly all of our students successfully obtaining a place at one of their chosen universities, with over three quarters gaining a place at their first-choice university.



Oxbridge

Any students aspiring to apply for a place at Oxford or Cambridge are supported through an extensive programme overseen by our Oxbridge Coordinator. Support includes a meeting with an Admissions Tutor, discussion groups specific to a student's chosen subject and weekly meetings with the Oxbridge Team. Students also have an opportunity to hone their interview skills in Year 13 with subject specialists to prepare for the academic questions they will be asked.

Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science

We provide a highly supportive programme for any student wishing to apply for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science. This includes thriving and highly successful Medical and Dentistry Societies which help support students with their applications. Support includes a meeting with an Admissions Tutor, interview practice with subject specialists and weekly meetings with the Medics Team.

Careers Advice

Careers and Work-Related Learning is a key part of our Sixth Form provision. All Year 12 and 13 students are offered a one-to-one session with our independent careers advisor who can give personalised guidance regarding university and career path choices. Year 12 students undertake a week of work experience in the summer term to help inform their Higher Education choices.



Martha History, English Literature and Psychology

We are encouraged throughout our two years to not only study for our A Levels, but to work towards our future pathways. There are many activities for us to get involved in, which can strengthen our applications for university, apprenticeships and employment.



Extracurricular Opportunities

We actively encourage Sixth Formers to get involved with all aspects of the school and the extracurricular aspect of the Sixth Form is highly valued. There are a wide range of extracurricular opportunities in the Sixth Form and students are encouraged to set up and run activities, clubs or societies for themselves, either through personal interest or within their departments.

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is offered to students in the Sixth Form providing a great opportunity to challenge themselves and their own personal development. There are a wide range of sporting opportunities available to Sixth Form students via Sixth Form Sport, where students can play netball, rugby, football, golf as well as take part in activities such as yoga, trampolining and walking.

Students also enjoy taking part in charity events which the Sixth Form lead. There is also an annual Sixth Form Entertainment in which Sixth Formers create a presentation for the whole school to watch, and numerous trips in the Sixth Form supplement the academic programme.



Alice Biology, Maths and Physical Education

At Weald, we offer a wide variety of extracurricular activities, all tailored for enjoyment and education. Clubs on offer range from a huge variety of sports to subject-specialist options. Sixth Form Sport on a Wednesday afternoon has increased the breadth of sports and activities students take part in. This opportunity has allowed students to meet a wider variety of students and interact within their year, creating a welcoming community throughout the Sixth Form.



Sixth Form Opportunities

Leadership

The Sixth Form is an integral part of the Weald community and students are important role models for the rest of the school. This contact with the younger members of our community is highly valued and immensely rewarding. During the fourth term of Year 12, students can apply for the prestigious positions of Senior Prefects. Senior Prefects take up office in the Summer Term of Year 12 and commit to a highly visible and responsible position in the school's leadership. Prefects have responsibility for different pillars: Charity; Community; Curriculum; Inclusion; and Transition. The team includes the Head Student and Deputy Head Student who meet each week with the Director of Sixth Form and act as ambassadors for internal and external events as well as other duties. As a highly visible presence around the school, Sixth Formers are expected to reflect the highest standards of conduct and set an example to the younger years.

Alongside the Senior Prefect Team, there are additional Sixth Form Prefects who are selected for their passion and commitment to the school. Their duties include mentoring younger students, supporting academic departments and helping with open evenings. Form Ambassadors attend school council meetings, act as mentors to the younger students and run events for the whole school.



Student Council

Overseen by the Head and Deputy Head Students, the Student Council comprises representation from all year groups, led by Year 12 Form Ambassadors. They meet each term to discuss improvements in the school, driving change through student voice. Being a student council representative is a leadership role at Weald, where students take responsibility, represent their form and year groups and create a strong link between students and staff.

House System

At Weald, we pride ourselves on belonging to a community. All students are allocated a House when they enter the Sixth Form. Year 11 students will retain their House into the Sixth Form and will be in mixed House tutor groups. There are many opportunities throughout their time at Weald to earn House points and take part in House events and competitions.

Events and Visits

Alongside the main curriculum, there are many events and visits that run each year providing further opportunities. Recently these have included a French and Physics cross-curricular trip to the ITER nuclear fusion site and city of Aix, a Spanish trip to Valencia and a Geography field trip to the Netherlands. In July 2025 a group of Sixth Form students will be taking part in a World Challenge trip to Malaysia.



Applying for the Sixth Form

Application Process

Internal Students

All internal students will be offered a place in the Sixth Form, subject to them meeting the entrance requirements. To make their subject option choices students should complete their Application form and submit it no later than **Friday 7th February 2025**.

External Applicants

Students not at Weald of Kent Grammar School should apply for a place using the online form via our website in the Sixth Form area.

Applications open on **15 November 2024** and close on **15 January 2025**. Applications will reopen on GCSE results day 2025. Students applying at this point will be placed on a waiting list.

Please note that Weald of Kent does not issue conditional offers to students and predicted grades are only used to identify which students are most likely to be successful in gaining a place. Confirmed offers will be made from GCSE results day onwards until we are at capacity.

Entrance Criteria

The minimum requirement for entry to the Sixth Form at Weald of Kent Grammar School is an average point score of 5.5 over their best eight GCSE subjects and a grade 5 in English Language or English Literature and GCSE Mathematics. Please see our Admissions Policy and our Sixth Form Curriculum Guide for more information. Please note that Average Point Score calculations will only be taken from GCSE and iGCSE qualifications.



Subject Criteria for A Level Courses

Subject	Exam Board	Minimum Criteria
Art	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Art or portfolio seen if GCSE Art not taken
Biology	OCR	Grade 7 in Biology or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science
Business	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Business or Grade 6 in English Literature/Language (if GCSE Business not taken)
Chemistry	OCR A	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science
Computer Science	OCR	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science
DT: Product Design	Eduqas	Grade 6 in GCSE DT
Drama and Theatre	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama or Grade 6 in English Literature/Language (if GCSE Drama not taken)
Economics	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics and Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/Language
English Language	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language
English Literature	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature
Further Mathematics	Edexcel	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics. Must be taken alongside A Level Mathematics.

Subject	Exam Board	Minimum Criteria
Geography	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
History	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE History
Mathematics	Edexcel	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Media Studies	OCR	Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies or Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/Language (if GCSE Media Studies not taken)
Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)	AQA	Grade 7 in GCSE of chosen language
Music	Eduqas	Grade 6 in GCSE Music and minimum of Grade 5/6 standard in both theory and practical examinations
Philosophy	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature/ Language (if GCSE Religious Studies not taken)
Physical Education	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE Physical Education and must compete in sport at club level.
Physics	OCR A	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grade 77 in GCSE Combined Science
Politics	Edexcel	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature
Psychology	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 66 in Combined Science
Sociology	AQA	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature

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