

“Throw yourself into the life of the School.”



WELCOME TO WALDEGRAVE



Waldegrave is a great school, where students enjoy learning, feel valued and experience success. We are proud to be a comprehensive school and we welcome students with all abilities, empowering them to be the best that they can be.

Waldegrave prepares students to fulfil their potential and embrace opportunities with confidence. We set high standards of behaviour and have high expectations of all our students. In 2007 and again in 2018 Ofsted graded the school as outstanding. Our results have continued to improve over time and our recent success reflects the ongoing commitment of the staff and leadership team.

Waldegrave School has much more to offer than examination results. We firmly believe that the most successful students are those who throw themselves into the life of the school and have fun doing so. The opportunities are many and varied and all students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, in and out of lessons.

At Waldegrave traditional values and respect for all members of the school community are combined with innovative approaches to teaching and learning. The staff are a committed team of highly qualified teachers and support staff who work tirelessly to gain the best from all students in the school.

We welcome students of all abilities and celebrate the diversity of cultures, backgrounds and talents that staff, students and parents bring to the school. We believe everyone has something special to contribute. We take pride in developing academic achievement, resilience, confidence and mutual respect for others at all times.

Excellence is evident across the curriculum, which is designed to encourage responsibility and independent learning. Our successful and large sixth form means that students are encouraged to stay on and gain a first class further education with us, allowing them to progress into higher education or a career.

We value our partnership with parents, working together to develop the whole child, ensuring that students enjoy school and achieve their best. Students achieve very well here because of this partnership and, by choosing Waldegrave, you will be invited to work with us. I look forward to welcoming you to Waldegrave.

Ms Elizabeth Tongue

ENJOY LEARNING

Learning comes first at Waldegrave and through our talented and passionate teaching staff we deliver a varied and stimulating educational experience. Students engage with both traditional and more creative learning styles and are encouraged to be active learners.

Within the curriculum and in special off-timetable days we emphasise group work, independent learning and presentations as well as the skills and techniques needed to be successful in formal tests and examinations. Our curriculum is broad and balanced so students can keep their options for future study as open as possible. We make provision in the curriculum for students of all abilities and interests, the least and the most able, and personalise timetables for some students.

In Year 7 all students study English and drama, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language, religious education, geography, history, art, design technology, music, physical education and computing. Students are taught in broad ability groups for most subjects (usually tutor groups). This continues in Year 8 then in Year 9 some loose setting may take place in a couple of subjects. Citizenship, personal, social and health education issues are taught across the curriculum and in discrete lessons. During Year 9 we support students to make some choices over the curriculum they will follow during Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

In Key Stage 4 all students study a core curriculum of English, mathematics, science, religious education, PE and PDC (personal development and citizenship). English, maths, science and RE lead to GCSE qualifications at the end of Year 11. Students opt to take a further four subjects from a range including creative arts, humanities, design and technology, modern foreign languages and science. Some students follow a personalised curriculum in consultation with parents, students and staff.



“Waldegrave is like a
second home.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT





“The support teachers
give students with
learning difficulties is
really helpful and they
don’t make you feel
different to anyone else.”

YEAR 8 STUDENT





School Journeys

Students in all year groups benefit from a range of school trips and visits to support their curriculum or to develop skills and experience. Recent day trips include Hampton Court (history), the Houses of Parliament (School Parliament), Globe Theatre (English), English National Opera (music), Buddhist Temple (RE), London Moonwalk (volunteering) and The National Gallery (art).

Residential trips have included: Devon (maths), Italy (skiing), Borneo (challenge) and the Bay of Naples (geography).

Physical Education

All students study PE and our curriculum encourages participation at all skill levels. Waldegrave has "Healthy Schools" status and we promote positive attitudes towards exercise as part of that. Outside of lessons we offer a very broad range of sports clubs including: badminton, cricket, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rounders and rugby. We also hold a hugely popular running club before school twice per week.

All students are encouraged to join a club and older students often take on coaching and leadership roles. We also offer older students the opportunity to develop sports leader skills and they go on to host sports festivals for local primary schools and they lead groups and events in primary schools on sports days.

We field very strong teams in borough, cross borough and some national competitions. We have recently won competitions in netball, rounders, cricket, trampoline, athletics and rowing, to name just a few. The whole school benefits from a sense of pride that comes from our sporting success.

Assemblies

Everyone attends at least one formal assembly a week, usually organised by house. These are led by members of staff or students. Assemblies are an important part of developing a sense of community and promoting moral and spiritual development.

We also use them to reinforce our key values, including respect and tolerance for the diverse range of faiths and beliefs in our school community.

Special Educational Needs

As a comprehensive school we welcome students of all abilities. We aim to make suitable provision for individual learning needs, including the most and least able, within a broad and balanced curriculum. The Learning Zone is a dedicated space for vulnerable students and the Learning Space is for those students with SLCN and ASD. The ethos of our school supports the aims of the Disability Discrimination Act and social inclusion. Although the site is not yet fully accessible to all students with physical disabilities, we are making improvements as funding permits.

FEEL VALUED

Our pastoral support for students begins before they join the school with our comprehensive transition programme.

This includes visits to primary schools and an action packed induction day when new girls meet their tutors and new classmates, take tours around the school, enjoy lunch in the canteen, have taster lessons and experience a snapshot of life in secondary school. That evening we hold a 'welcome on board' meeting for parents to welcome them formally to Waldegrave School.

Students who start at Waldegrave School at any time after the start of Year 7 have their own induction programme to help them settle quickly and happily into school life. This is a stepped programme beginning with a meeting and later a full day in school to meet 'buddies' from their new tutor group, their tutor and other key members of staff. All new students are assigned an adult mentor and parents have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any support that may be needed. A week after induction day the student formally begins school.

On joining school all students are assigned to one of four houses named after strong female role models: Rosalind Franklin, George Eliot, Mary Seacole and Emmeline Pankhurst. Directors of each Key Stage work with the Heads of Year and a team of form tutors to ensure the progress, wellbeing and happiness of students. Student leaders also play a significant role within houses, particularly as they encourage other students to get involved and enjoy some healthy competition. The house system

fosters a sense of community and each student is valued for their contribution. This may take the form of earning house points, achieving at a sporting event, undertaking charity work or participating in a fun house event.

Our caring Student Services Team is always on hand to support students who feel unwell, lose their bus pass or perhaps need to call home. The team tracks attendance in every lesson and work closely with families if a student is unable to attend school.

Waldegrave works in partnership with parents to support students through their teenage years and on to the next step. Each year parents receive two progress reports, attend an academic progress meeting and can access further information through our online system. Parents also receive a weekly school newsletter and can receive news via Twitter during the school day. Parents and families are encouraged to attend special parent workshops, held in school. Past sessions have included advice on mentoring and coaching, how to revise and how to cope with new technology. We have a very active and supportive parent-teacher association, which hosts social events and raises significant sums of money for school improvement, such as the resurfacing of the netball courts and the refurbishment of the Performing Arts Building.





Rewards and Sanctions

We believe that rewarding achievement is the best way to reinforce success and create a positive ethos in the school. As well as praising students regularly we have a well developed reward system. Students who produce work of a high standard, improve on past achievements or demonstrate consistent effort are awarded house points.

Helpfulness and services to the school and others are also rewarded. Assemblies are used throughout the year to recognise students' achievements and we hold a final celebration event at the end of the school year.

Good Behaviour

Students enjoy learning at Waldegrave, students and staff have excellent relationships and behaviour is usually very good. We promote a strong sense of community and house leaders and tutors know their students well. Should issues arise then we have an effective behaviour policy in place and this is available to read on our school website.

To restore relationships our staff are trained in "restorative justice" approaches. For issues between students we have highly trained students who work as peer mediators. For those who are experiencing friendship difficulties they give sensible advice and encourage all parties to meet one another on neutral territory to find a resolution.



“Teachers are so caring
and understanding.
They helped me to
settle in, especially my
form tutor.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT



EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

We firmly believe that our most successful students are those who throw themselves into the life of the school.

Enrichment

Outside formal lessons there is a rich variety of opportunities for students to develop skills and talents. We have a diverse extra curricular programme including: orchestras, choirs, drama, art, maths, science, creative writing, technology, chess, bridge and a huge range of sports clubs including rugby, basketball and trampolining. The house system is often the focus for a number of fun activities and our older students take the lead on organising events and competitions.

The vast majority of students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award during Year 9 and a significant number go on to attain the Silver Award in Year 10. Some determined sixth form students also go on to complete the Gold Award.

We encourage enterprise and raise awareness of the skills required in the workplace. All students participate in enterprise days and competitions, they take part in careers events and in Year 10 they all undertake two weeks' work experience.

Charities

All students actively engage in charity work within their houses or the whole school. Each house has their own charity and we also support national campaigns. Fundraising takes place throughout the year involving fun activities. As well as raising money the students take an interest in the activities of the charities they support, and provide support locally to elderly people through harvest boxes, visits and other seasonal projects.

Student Leadership

We have an active and committed team of students from all year groups, who represent the views of the student body through the School Parliament. Students are empowered and develop leadership skills through this process. Students set their own agenda and work with school leaders to affect change on issues such as climate change and home learning. Staff also seek parliament's feedback on a wide range of issues to ensure that students voice is considered as part of the decision making process. A group of members also attend appropriate meetings of the Governing Body to represent the views of all students. Some members of parliament go

forward to represent the school at the Richmond School Student Council. This group discusses borough wide issues that affect young people.

During Year 10 students are invited to apply to be prefects and the majority take up a position of responsibility. Those appointed have an important leadership role in the school and undertake a range of duties which include: supporting house leaders; helping younger students; assisting curriculum leaders; organising charity events and welcoming visitors.

Exam Success

We are extremely proud of the outstanding examination results achieved year after year by our students. For six consecutive years The Sunday Times Schools Guide awarded Waldegrave the top state school [without a sixth form] in the country and in 2016 we won Comprehensive School of the Year following the addition of our sixth form. We have also received a congratulatory letter from the DFE stating that Waldegrave is one of the top 100 schools in the country. Please see the enclosed information with details of exam results.

SIXTH FORM

The Waldegrave co-educational sixth form offers students a friendly, exciting and stimulating environment for learning which prepares all who attend to achieve their future ambitions.

We offer a broad range of subjects allowing students to progress to university, further training and employment. Teaching at Waldegrave is recognised as outstanding. In the sixth form students benefit from their teachers' extensive experience and deep subject knowledge. Teachers inspire them in the specialist subjects that they have chosen, ignite their imagination, fuel their spirit of enquiry, and create an atmosphere of discovery in the classroom.

Our vision is to educate the leaders of the future and students are encouraged to make a difference while they study with us. Our enrichment programme offers them the chance to mature and develop beyond the constraints of their subject choices. They are able to become involved in a broad range of leadership roles within the school, widen their knowledge of the arts and cultural events, involve themselves in competitive sports or exercise for fun, attend clubs and societies, engage in community projects and fundraising activities, and build a repertoire of skills and experiences that will give them the confidence to lead others.

Our students are supported by a team of expert teachers and advisors who make sure that they have all the information and experience they need to be successful in their next steps. All our students take part in university visits, work experience and are given interview practice support.

The brand new sixth form has seminar rooms, science laboratories, a study base, café and a range of IT facilities.

Please see full details online on our website.





“Waldegrave treats each student as an individual, bringing out strengths and potential in many different ways. Our daughter has had some fantastic and unexpected opportunities which will stay with her for life. The academic results speak for themselves, but the school’s supportive and enriching environment is just as outstanding.”

YEAR 11 PARENT

ATTRACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The school and grounds provide a well equipped, spacious and attractive learning environment, cared for by staff, students and parents.

We have a beautiful 14.5-acre site with fields and sports courts, outside play areas, quiet gardens, a sensory garden and an outdoor theatre space. Most teaching takes place within the main building and students do not need outdoor shoes or coats between lessons.

Specialist facilities include a purpose-built library and resource centre, a large assembly hall, two drama studios, a theatre, a dance studio, a fitness suite, eight science laboratories, music teaching and practice rooms, design technology workshops, five networked IT rooms and over 40 classrooms with interactive whiteboards.

Waldegrave has expanded opening a new sixth form block, dining area and sports hall. The new sports facility is large enough to accommodate four badminton courts and includes cricket net facilities and four changing areas. The new building also includes beautiful dining facilities with inside and outside eating areas.





Waldegrave
School

