



*Westcliff High School for Girls*



*Diversity, Excellence, Opportunity*

# Welcome to WHSG

*Blending Traditional  
Values with Preparation  
for the Future.*

## A message from the Headteacher

I am very pleased that you are interested in our school and hope to show you some of the reasons Westcliff High School for Girls (WHSG) is such a successful school.

WHSG has an enviable reputation for academic excellence and pastoral care. We are a National Teaching School and the sponsoring school in a multi-academy trust.

Students at WHSG are happy and highly successful. We have an excellent staff and our pupils tell us that this is a friendly school in which they can pursue a broad range of activities.

The need for a broad education has never been greater than it is today. In this changing world, we recognise that academic qualifications need to be coupled with problem solving skills, creativity, personal confidence and the ability to adapt. We pride ourselves on equipping our pupils for the future ahead of them.

To understand why WHSG is such a special place, you need to spend some time here. I am happy to invite you to do so.

**Dr Paul Hayman**

**Executive Headteacher,  
National Leader of Education**

*“Full of intelligence kindness and  
creativity, WHSG shines like a star  
above all other schools”*

*Year 7 Student*



## An Emphasis on *Learning*

### *Building on Tradition*

Westcliff High School for Girls is a selective Grammar School with a vibrant Sixth Form. We were founded in 1920 as a co-educational school and moved to our current site in 1931. Since then the school has continued to grow and thrive. Our academic results are consistently high and amongst the best in the country.

### *Facilities that Promote Learning*

We are committed to providing our pupils with excellent teaching, extensive resources and the best learning environment. We have been continually adding new facilities to the school over the past 30 years. We aim to maintain this focus in order to provide the pupils with the finest opportunities possible.

### *A Broad Curriculum*

We offer a broad academic curriculum which aims to help our pupils achieve excellent grades in public examinations. We also encourage them to develop emotionally, social and physically. Our curriculum is based around facilitating subjects which give our pupils the skills and learning that help them maximise their opportunities in later years.

We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities which helps to develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding. Our regular Activity Days take pupils out of school into the local and wider community, as well as overseas.

## *Diversity* & Excellent Pastoral Care

### *Diversity*

Our school reflects our view of what it means to be part of a society. Pupils from diverse faiths and cultures work amicably alongside each other whilst thinking of others, working hard and enjoying their education. We take great pleasure in our diversity and harmony and our pupils say this is one of the school's greatest strengths.

### *Pastoral Care*

Our school provides very strong pastoral care. We place great importance on the safety, happiness and well-being of all our students. We aim to help our pupils by supporting them and giving them the confidence to succeed to the best of their ability. Caring begins before the girls join the school as we run a full induction programme with pupils staying in the same form group from Year 7 to Year 11. This ensures continuity of care for each girl in a strong, supportive social group.

The school has a zero tolerance to bullying in any form. Pupils are supported by our own staff and pupils are trained to support each other. Our 'Buddy' system is well established and effective.

Pupils also belong to one of our four Houses: Bohun, Bourchier, Devereux and Mandeville. The House system is an excellent way for pupils to mix across the different year groups and provides many activities which engage every pupil. The House Championship assembly is a highlight of the school year.

*"Fabulous family environment"*

*Year 10 parent*



*“There are a vast range of clubs for all different people, whether you’re sporty or musical or whatever you enjoy”*

*Year 7 Student*



## Personal Fulfilment

### *Leadership*

Every pupil has the opportunity to develop leadership skills through roles from Form Captain to being the elected House Captain and roles as Year 10 or Year 12 Prefects. Pupils represent their views through membership of our Year and School Councils and contribute to improving the learning through our Learning Council.

### *Sport for All*

We consider it an essential element of education that every pupil participates fully in sporting activities to help nurture their personal health and well-being. The school has playing fields, floodlit netball and tennis courts, a Sports Hall as well as a Dance Studio and air-conditioned Fitness Gym. Sport is thriving. Sports teams successfully participate in borough sports and local and national leagues.

### *Music*

We have a strong musical tradition with many opportunities for pupils to sing and play in small groups, large choirs and orchestras, with a regular series of concerts. Individual tuition is given by visiting music staff and pupils are encouraged to enter for music festivals and Associated Board Examinations. The school has a strong history of producing superbly professional musicals. School productions give pupils the opportunity to help backstage and in technical production areas as well as performing.

### *Art*

The work produced in Art is of the highest standard and ranges from traditional disciplines such as oil painting and sculpture to contemporary experiments in animation and conceptual art. Girls excel in this area and each year a significant number leave to study at the best Art Colleges. We proudly display pupils' work each year and there is an annual exhibition to which parents and the community are invited.

### *Dance*

Dance is also very popular. We have a purpose built dance studio and there are regular Dance Shows. Dance is regularly incorporated into annual school productions.

### *Drama*

Drama has its own specialist teaching area and is very popular throughout the school. Drama clubs are part of our extended curriculum and there are many opportunities for pupils to attend productions at local and London theatres.

### *Service*

The school encourages all pupils on how they can make a personal impact on the life of the school and the wider community. Our Charity Weeks are an important and vibrant part of school life and pupils decide which charities they will support each year.

## Challenge & Opportunity

### *Curriculum*

When your daughter joins in Year 7 she will undertake a two year Key Stage 3 course, allowing her to begin her GCSE studies at the start of Year 9. This means that girls have three years to complete their GCSEs with the best possible grades, while still maintaining their involvement in the wider life of the school. There is a focus on developing students' ability to learn and all pupils are supported to 'grow' their Learning Habits. Teachers meet regularly to review and improve the quality of their teaching so that effective learning can take place.

### *Duke of Edinburgh*

A key part of our school ethos is that we are a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme centre. We have been running the scheme for 25 years and currently deliver Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. All girls who join the school are expected to take part in this scheme which is part of the taught curriculum in Year 9. We know this scheme helps to develop and recognise leadership, self-reliance, team work and citizenship skills – attributes we want all our pupils to show, as well as providing the opportunity for friendship and fun.

### *Beyond the Curriculum*

We believe that school life is about much more than academic achievement. We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities and encourage girls to develop new interests and skills through participation in school societies, visits, drama, music and a wide variety of sports. There are regular trips to Italy (Art), Foreign Exchanges, Music Tours and an annual skiing trip. Since 1995 the school has invited World Challenge Expeditions to organise expeditions to short haul and long haul destinations. These offer students the opportunity to undertake exciting personal challenges, to support local projects and to experience cultures very different from our own.

## *A Partnership working together*

### *A Partnership working together*

We believe that successful education is a partnership between the parents and the school. We establish good communications with the home through text messaging, e-mailing, the school website and the school's social media. Parents who are concerned about any aspect of their daughter's life in school are warmly invited to contact us.

Parents receive three Reports on their daughter's progress each year and we hold regular parents' evenings.

### *Working with the Community*

The school is proud to be part of its local community. WHSG founded and is part of the South East Essex Academy Trust along with a number of other local schools. All the schools work together to improve the opportunities for pupils. WHSG also leads the South Essex Teaching School Alliance and is the main teaching school in the area with over 50 member schools.

### *Parent Teacher Association*

The school PTA is active, organising a wide range of events and activities. Parents are encouraged to become engaged in helping with a range of school activities and to form part of our parental voice.



*“Learning, sharing and caring makes WHSG special”*

*Year 7 Student*

## Preparation *for Life*

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### *Careers Education and Guidance*

Preparation for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life is provided across the whole curriculum from the start of Year 7. This co-ordinated approach is supported by a more intensive programme in Year 8 when pupils are prepared in some detail for the choices ahead.

In Year 10, every pupil has the opportunity to spend two weeks gaining direct experience of an area of employment of her own choosing. Teaching staff visit pupils at their place of work and help them to evaluate the experience they have gained.

At the start of Year 11 pupils are offered interviews with staff from Connexions and with a senior member of staff to discuss their Advanced Level choices and associated career opportunities.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant and growing part of the school. We welcome many new students from other schools to create a co-educational Sixth Form

Hylands is our unique Sixth Form house with common rooms, study and ICT rooms and even its own Sixth Form coffee shop. No teaching takes place in Hylands; it is solely for the use of the Sixth Form students.

Students are prepared for university entrance, apprenticeship and employment. Visits to Oxford and Cambridge and the 'UCAS Super Fair' are offered to support the programme.

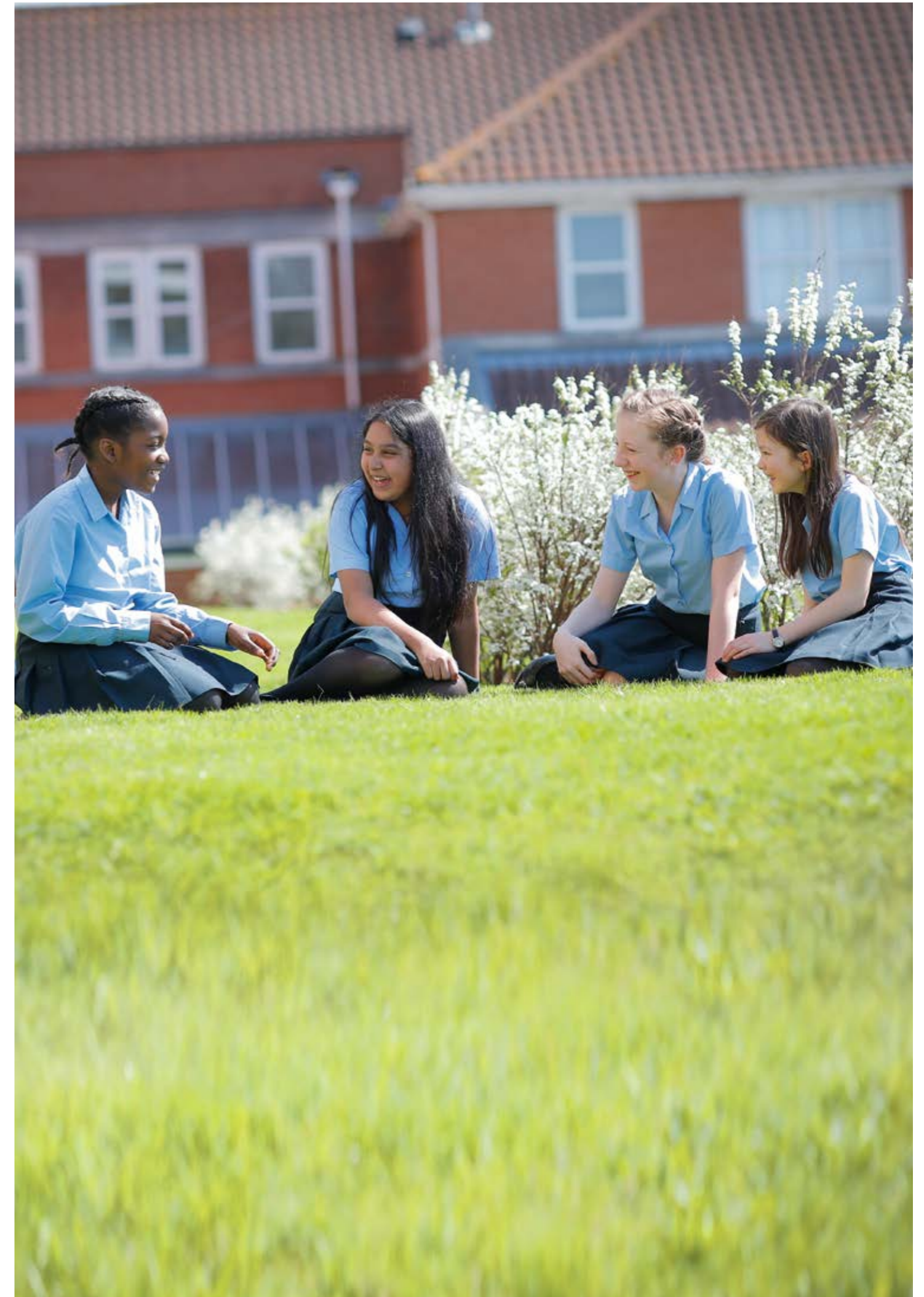
## WHSG *Values*

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We aim to be an outstanding school with high moral values and a national standing for its scholarship, producing citizens who are leaders and thinkers, imbued with initiative, enterprise and a passion for life-long learning.

### *Key Aims*

- To foster enthusiasm for life-long learning and the pursuit of excellence
- To develop in each student the skills, knowledge and qualities needed to play an active part in a changing world
- To give students the confidence to apply knowledge, experiment and embrace change
- To provide opportunities for personal reflection and to encourage a deeper awareness of spiritual, cultural, ethical and social issues
- To establish a community where students, staff, parents and governors work as partners with mutual respect and shared responsibility





## *Westcliff High School for Girls*

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