



# Wood End Academy

*'Aim high, achieve excellence!'*





# Welcome to Wood End Academy

## Foreword: Warner Stainbank, Headteacher, says...

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school, where we are committed to achieving high standards and providing the very best opportunities for your children.

### Learning community

We are proud of the positive ethos within the school where all the children and staff feel part of a caring learning community.

### Our five values

**R...** I am a **RESPONSIBLE** pupil and I take responsibility for my actions

**E...** I show **ENTHUSIASM** in my lessons and in all my learning

**A...** I show a positive **ATTITUDE** when faced with tough situations

**C...** I am **CARING** and care for others and our environment

**H...** I am **HELPFUL** towards my peers, adults and others in the community

### Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative, and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!



### Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

### Dedicated staff

I am also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who – with support from our Governors – ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential, and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parents and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning. Strong family support such as this is fundamental to giving children a stepping stone to the future.

### Get in touch

If you have any questions about our school, please contact the office or make an appointment to come and see us. You can do this by telephoning 0208 4226175 or emailing: [admin@woodendacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodendacademy.org.uk)



Dominique Murray and her partner, Neil, live in Northolt with their daughters Mica, nine, and seven-year-old Chloe.



## In Dominique's opinion praise, encouragement and opportunity add up to a first-class education and Wood End Academy gets top marks on all counts

### Praise + reward = success

A system of praise and reward has long been a proven method of bringing out the potential in children and is something Wood End Academy practises to great effect. No-one knows this better than Dominique who has seen her daughter Mica blossom from a shy and quiet girl into a confident and high-achieving child.

"We recognised that Mica was bright even in Infant School but she lacked confidence in herself and her abilities," Dominique says. "In her two years at Wood End Academy she has grown a great deal in self-assurance and is a real all-rounder, quick to rise to any challenge and happy to try something new." "All the children at Wood End are supported in their strengths and weaknesses and the teachers really manage to bring out the best in them. I chose the school because I liked the ethos of encouragement and it has done wonders for Mica."

### Incentive to learn

A variety of incentives are offered, all of which help to engage the children with learning. Dominique was particularly impressed with the Children's University Passport initiative where pupils amass hours by attending extra-curricular clubs and activities, either at school or in the community, and have the chance to attend the 'graduation ceremony' in a local university in cap and gown. "It makes the children want to explore something new and adds to the whole learning experience. Mica achieved a Bronze medal last year and is determined to go one better next time! An element of competition makes it even more fun to learn."

### A chance for every child to shine

There is also an end-of-year awards event where pupils are rewarded not only for good marks but for effort, behaviour and improvement. "It means that every child has an opportunity to shine, whatever their abilities," explains Dominique. "Not everyone can be top of the class but at Wood End, good manners, kindness to others and team spirit are seen as equally important attributes as academic achievement."

### Bringing learning to life

When she is able, Dominique accompanies the children on educational visits as a parent helper and likes the way these trips help to bring what they are learning to life. In recent months Mica's class have been to Kew Gardens, the National History Museum – and to a rainforest in deepest, darkest Oxfordshire! "That was an amazing experience, and the children learned so much about the way of life of people who live in that environment, the flora and fauna and much more. Seeing it at first hand makes all the difference."

### Potential without pressure

When Mica started at Wood End, Dominique had worried that she would be bored by lessons that she found too easy but her fears were quickly put to rest. "Things like the Independent Learning Days and the Athletics Challenge, for example, give the children the opportunity to stretch themselves without feeling under too much pressure. Mica has always been stimulated and given the chance to reach her potential, and she loves the way the school makes learning enjoyable."





## School hours

Gates open at 8.40am, and school finishes at 3.30pm.

### Buddies

Our Buddy Scheme helps children who need friends at playtimes and our Young Leaders help organise games, to ensure that playtime is always fun!

### Breakfast Club

We are delighted to be able to provide a fantastic, supervised Breakfast Club. A healthy breakfast and fun with friends gives children a perfect start to their school day.

### Pegasus Club

The Pegasus After School Club provides a safe and stimulating environment for children in a caring, relaxed atmosphere. It is open to all children who attend Wood End Infant and Wood End Academy. Children are provided with a light snack, and can enjoy a range of activities, including board games and puzzles, dressing up, reading, adventure playground fun, outdoor games and much more.

## Uniform

We believe that it is important for children to come to school in uniform and to look smart, and we ask for parents to support us in this matter. Children throughout the school wear a maroon sweatshirt or cardigan, and grey trousers or skirts. Please contact the school office or check the parent handbook for a full list of uniform items, including PE kit.

## School meals and snacks

### School dinners

We are very proud of our in-house healthy catering service. Delicious, two-course lunches are cooked in our own kitchen using fresh, healthy ingredients. Daily salad choices, fresh fruit, yummy puddings, vegetarian meals, and roast dinners are available – all served by happy, friendly staff. Healthy, nutritious meals can be purchased on a weekly, half-termly or termly basis, with payment through SIMS Agora.

Children are also welcome to bring in a packed lunch if this is preferred.

### Break-time and drinks

Our school operates a healthy eating policy and children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack at break-time such as fruit, vegetables or cereal bars. Alternatively, they can visit our Tuck Shop and purchase a piece of fruit, for just 10p. The class that buys the most fruit at the end of the week gets a bounce on the bouncy castle as a reward! Chocolate, cakes, biscuits and fizzy drinks are not permitted in school. Fresh water is always available.



**“For parents who have a child with autism, Wood End Academy will provide the stepping stones that child needs for the future.” Lara is proud that her son is one of their pupils.**

### The greatest possible level of support

Zayd was diagnosed with autism whilst at Nursery School and Lara was advised by Educational Psychologists to enrol him into a special school, or a mainstream school with a unit for children with additional needs. Wood End Academy falls into neither of these categories. However, Lara believes he may not have made the progress he has, or received a greater level of overall support and care, had he gone elsewhere.

### Skill and sensitivity

“Without any specific designation as a setting for children with special educational needs, Wood End has made such a difference to Zayd,” Lara begins. “He has been given everything he could need in terms of academic and pastoral care, as well as a high level of individual attention, which has enabled him to integrate into the classroom environment. Although initially he missed his former Infant School teacher, the skill and sensitivity of his new teacher and Teaching Assistant at Wood End has motivated and engaged him. Whereas homework used to be a battle, now he actually wants to do it and to please his teachers!”

### Major steps forward

Zayd has received speech and language therapy at school and this has improved his communication skills and his confidence to the extent that he now rarely has to spend time outside the classroom. As a younger child, he tended to isolate himself and avoid contact with other people but now finds social interaction much easier. “It took several months for him to settle but when he started to form a good relationship with his new teachers things started moving forward. He has made some major steps

in his education and in his behaviour, and he feels emotionally safe and cared-for.”

### Positive response

Lara has seen how Zayd’s progress owes much to the way the school treats every child as an individual and approaches each one as a person in their own right. “They all know Zayd well, know how to deal with his needs and are prepared to make sure he is able to make the most of his time there,” she says. “They have seen how positively he responds to rewards, and to interventions such as the after-school art and craft sessions they allow him, where he can have a bit of down-time after lessons. When I first approached the school with a view to enrolling Zayd there, I felt that the comfortable, welcoming and accepting atmosphere would be right for Zayd – and it has been.”

### Relieving the pressure

As a single parent, Lara has sometimes felt the pressure of having to make decisions for her children’s education and wellbeing alone. For that reason she has welcomed the chance to take part in the courses Wood End offers for parents in similar situations to her own. “The courses I’ve been able to attend have been both helpful and reassuring, by giving me ideas and suggestions for helping Zayd and by putting me in touch with other parents who have similar issues. By sharing our experiences, we have been able to support each other and I was pleased when my offer to contribute was accepted. I now take part in a buddying system where I can help other parents – talking and listening to people who have questions and worries like your own can make a huge difference and I am glad to be able to be a part of that.”





The curriculum is divided into 4 year groups (Key Stage 2: from ages 7 -11).



Key Stage 2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- PSHCE

Sport

At Wood End Academy we have a large playground and a field for outdoor sports. Year 4 children have swimming lessons. As well as following the Physical Education programme set out in the National Curriculum, we provide numerous extra-curricular sports clubs, including different ones such as gymnastics and Gaelic football. Our sports premium means that we are able to provide transport to additional sporting fixtures and the majority of our teams reach the top four in competitions.



Sally has found nothing but all-round excellence at Wood End Academy

All good things come to an end

There are various reasons why Sally chose Wood End Academy for her children, not least that she went there herself as a child, and although the building is new, the friendly and welcoming atmosphere remains as she remembers it. “I’d been happy at Wood End and my boys did well there so I had no hesitation in sending Nicole there, too,” she says. “Without a doubt it was the right decision as Nicole has done incredibly well there, in every way. I’m going to be very sad when she has to leave at the end of Year 6.”

Making the most of potential

Academically, Nicole is achieving above national expectations and consistently at the top of her class in all subjects. Whilst she is a bright child in her own right, Sally is certain that the support of her teachers and the quality of the education has made the most of Nicole’s talents. “The teachers are enthusiastic and approachable and make time for all the pupils, not just those who are less able than others. I believe that they go to great efforts to bring out the best in all the children, whatever their abilities, and it has certainly worked for Nicole.”

Actively encouraging activity

It is not just in the classroom where Nicole excels, however, but on the sports fields, too. At Wood End, children are actively encouraged to take part in a wide variety of sports and physical activities: “I’ve been amazed at all the different things that Nicole has taken part in and thanks to the keenness of the teachers she’s enjoyed everything,” Sally explains. “They make sure that every child has the chance to try anything that interests them but also promote any particular skills they might demonstrate. Amongst other things Nicole has done gymnastics,

athletics, netball, cricket and even Gaelic football! The school makes the most of individual teachers’ interests and knowledge and these teachers give their time freely and willingly.”

A positive and welcoming environment

There is nothing Sally can think of that she does not like about Wood End. The large diversity of cultures and ethnic backgrounds represented by the student population is a learning experience in itself and something which Sally believes is a very positive aspect of the school. She also likes innovations such as the Independent Learning Days where the children choose a topic to study, research and present to the rest of the class. “There is always something going on and that makes the school such a wonderful environment. The overall atmosphere is welcoming and accepting and Nicole would rather be at school than almost anywhere else! She has certainly had a great deal of opportunities, and has made the most of them all.”

Parents matter, too

The friendliness of the teaching and support staff is another thing which Sally values, and whenever she has the chance she will attend the regular coffee mornings with the Headteacher where parents can get together for an informal chat, discuss any concerns or put forward ideas to help in the running of the school. “It’s all very relaxed and a very good way to get to know the teachers and each other better,” she says. “I really like the way the school welcomes parental input and involvement and I would recommend it without hesitation.”



# Extended curriculum: trips and visits

## Learning experiences

We provide an exciting programme of extra-curricular activities, including lunchtime and after-school clubs, concerts, residential visits, concerts, discos, and extra tuition booster classes.

## Children's University

Children's University is an international organisation that recognises and rewards children's involvement in out-of-school activities. Its core aims are to raise aspirations and encourage a lifelong love of learning. Members are rewarded for participation in school clubs and for time spent at Learning Destinations such as The Natural History Museum. Children can graduate at the annual graduation ceremony at Brunel University upon successful collection of hours in their Passport to Learning. Research has shown that membership of Children's University improves attendance and attainment.

Wood End Academy is proud to lead the local Children's University – West London Children's University – supporting local member schools and providing a wide range of activities and clubs for pupils to attend.

## Visits

As part of our education programme we take the children on interesting educational visits. Examples include:

- Science Museum
- London Zoo
- Ace Adventures
- British Museum
- Cinema visits
- Overnight stay for Year 5
- Week's residential visit for Year 6



Zineb Farah lives in Northwood. Her three children are Adam, 13, Safaa, 11 and Radwa, who is seven.



## Even though she is unable to speak, Zineb's daughter now has a voice of her own through the care and dedication of Wood End Academy

### A safe haven for a disabled child

When Radwa was two years old she contracted the rare and incurable Moyamoya disease. The series of strokes she suffered as a result left her with physical disabilities and unable to speak, although she has retained a lively mind and happy disposition. When the time came for Radwa to start school, Zineb was anxious to find a suitable setting for her and, as her two older children were happily settled at Wood End Academy, applied for a place there for Radwa.

"It was a relief when Wood End agreed to take Radwa as I could not find anywhere else I liked," Zineb explains. "The school has done so much to accommodate her needs and even though she struggled at first because of her physical and communication difficulties, within a few months she had settled well and enjoyed being there. She always had someone with her, in the classroom and outside at break-times, so I knew she was safe and well looked-after."

### The power of communication

One of the first measures put into place by the school was to introduce Makaton signing. At home, Radwa is able to make herself understood by Zineb and her brother and sister but her teachers felt a more structured communication method would greatly benefit Radwa's school experience. To that end, a member of the teaching staff undertook a course in Makaton specifically to support Radwa and since then has started a Makaton Club in order to help other children similarly affected. "Introducing sign language has been a very positive initiative," believes the Learning Support Assistant at Wood End. "As an additional means of communication it has benefits

for many others, and is a skill well worth having for any child or adult. As far as Radwa is concerned, it has given her a voice of her own and enabled her to make the most she possibly can out of her life at school."

### Working towards independence

Radwa's dedicated Teaching Assistant describes working with Radwa as a joy. "I am so proud of the progress Radwa has made and how she responds to everything so positively. I really enjoy helping her to achieve a measure of independence, whether with her classwork, her fine motor skills or her ability to use cutlery and dress herself. These are things other children take for granted but are challenging for Radwa and we work closely with her mum so we can all help each other to help Radwa."

### Trust and support

Zineb greatly appreciates the care that Wood End shows towards her children but is especially grateful to be able to trust the staff to keep Radwa safe and happy. "I know that at some point Radwa may have to transfer to a specialist school but at the moment she is doing really well and enjoys herself at Wood End," she says. "Her teachers always keep me in touch and have been very supportive, and as long as Radwa is happy, then so am I."

### A legacy to be proud of

Radwa's legacy to Wood End Academy may well be the understanding and compassion her condition has instilled into many of her peers. "The other children are teaching each other signing so they can play with and talk to Radwa," says her TA. "It's so lovely that she has brought just as much to the school as she has been given."





## Special educational needs

It is estimated that about 20% of all children will experience learning difficulties at some stage of their education. In most cases the class teacher can help, but extra support is sometimes needed. Children with special needs are identified by teacher assessments, observation and regular tests.

Children who need help with basic literacy are given extra help once or twice a week in class or in a small group. Support staff can also provide one-to-one support. If we think that a child has special needs, we will let parents know and keep them informed of progress. Parents are fully involved at all stages and encouraged to play an active part in supporting their child's development.

## Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons and sporting activities that are appropriate to their needs.

## Katarzyna's son had struggled to find his feet – but Wood End Academy has put him on his toes on and off the pitch!

### No limits

It is hard to believe that when Oscar first started at Wood End Academy he found it hard to settle in because of his limited English. Being unable to understand what was being said or to make himself understood, he struggled to find his feet; however, with a reading age now more than a year above expectation for his age, he loves school and is doing very well indeed.

"Oscar went to Wood End because it was where most of his friends from Nursery and Infant school were going but he found it difficult at first," says Katarzyna. "Not speaking the language very well was upsetting and confusing for him but it wasn't long before he started to settle and fit in. Now he has a great circle of friends and is very happy at school, and that is all I want for him."

### Dedication

Katarzyna believes that it is largely through the dedication of his teachers that Oscar has adapted so well. In a school of great diversity in terms of spoken language, the staff are skilled in helping the children to become confident and proficient in English so that they can take full advantage of their general education. "Oscar has come on really well and both he and I have been supported in many ways," she says. "I have been to meetings and coffee mornings where I have the chance to talk to the teachers and to other parents and where we can chat informally about the things that really matter to us, and about how we can help our children at home."

### Encourage, engage and enjoy

Although it took Oscar a little while to catch up with some aspects of his classwork he has done so, and relishes a challenge. His teachers are impressed

with the effort he puts in and have seen the improvement. "He is enthusiastic and always willing to give something a go, and he seems to actively enjoy his work. That is what we try to encourage – engagement and enjoyment, and it has certainly worked with Oscar."

### Tune in to talent

Wood End Academy is also attuned to each child's individuality and, in Oscar's case, has helped to nurture a particular talent. Oscar has been 'spotted' by Queens Park Rangers Football Club, with which the school has a close association, and his PE teacher is extremely pleased that he has the chance to make a name for himself. "It would be a real shame if Oscar couldn't make the most of his excellent skills but of course, it is very important that his training does not interfere with his school work. We make every effort to ensure that we plan his training sessions around his other work and because we have a good relationship with QPR they understand and are happy to work with us. We believe that if a child has a genuine passion it should be accommodated."

### Every child has something to offer

Oscar's special skill on the football field has been a major factor in boosting his overall confidence, something he had initially lacked. His PE teacher explains the importance of handling the situation appropriately: "Oscar's aptitude for football has been the means of helping him to make great friendships and he's a very popular member of the school because he is not arrogant about his talent. If he had been conceited we would not have offered him so much encouragement and that is how we approach every child's needs. All our pupils are important, and we look for every opportunity to help them achieve in their own particular way."





## Chess, Brass and Rugby!

We are very proud of our lunchtime and after-school clubs and the hard work that goes into organising and running them. Our clubs are free, although when we bring in an outside provider a charge is required. Here are some examples of our clubs:

- Chess
- French
- Art
- Choir
- Brass band
- Athletics
- Football
- Reading
- Rugby
- Dance



Monika and Emil Ghanem live in Greenford with their three daughters. Olivia is 10 and twins Anna and Sophia are nine.

## Language is no barrier to an excellent education at Wood End Academy

### Language support

Situated in a culturally diverse area of London, it is not surprising that Wood End Academy has a higher than average pupil population with English as a second or even third language. For this reason alone, it is remarkable that students such as Olivia, Anna and Sophia are so proficient in English, and that they are performing so well academically.

Whilst the family's main language is Polish, Emil is Lebanese and speaks Arabic and both Monika and Emil are keen for their children to retain their knowledge of both, alongside English. "The girls attend Saturday classes in Polish to make sure they learn the proper grammar, but since starting school their principal language is English and that, of course, is crucial. It is important to us that they don't forget how to communicate effectively in mine and Emil's mother tongues, but thankfully they have had all the support they need at Wood End to make sure this does not compromise their ability to learn proper English."

### Access all areas

All three girls are gifted creative writers but unsurprisingly, given their background, sometimes struggle with unfamiliar spellings. Although none of them needs a great deal of extra help, their teachers make sure that they have access to all available resources including the Numeracy and Literacy Clubs, and as a result, the girls have few difficulties in producing a high standard of work. "I am very happy with the support the girls receive and although I had no worries about the school when they first started there, I have seen it improving still further," says Monika. "It's a nice environment, the teachers are helpful and approachable, and they listen to what the parents have to say."

### Every child an individual

Perhaps of even greater importance, Monika knows that the children are confident in talking to their teachers if there is anything that worries them, and are happy at school with a good circle of friends. "I like the way that they are treated as individuals, especially in terms of Anna and Sophia who were put into different classes to help them each make a separate social circle. Sometimes twins are treated as a single entity but at Wood End they are seen as people in their own right."

### Courage and confidence

All three girls have, believes Monika, improved in confidence and this may be due to their teachers encouraging them to move outside their comfort zone. Olivia's teacher is impressed by how positively she responded to this approach. "Olivia was a little shy but we found ways to discover her interests and use these to bring her out. She found the courage to take part in the Voice in a Million competition and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and through things like this she has gained in proficiency and maturity and, like her siblings, can look forward to a very bright future."

### A caring, nurturing environment

Wood End Academy aims to nurture its students in the way most appropriate to each of them, by providing opportunities, a safe and caring environment and an effective, enjoyable school experience. "Overall, behaviour is very good and the after-school clubs are fun and educational," Monika says. "Wood End was recommended to me by relatives who had children there and I would recommend it to others in turn."







## Admissions

If you are considering Wood End Academy for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show you around our school. You can do this by emailing [admin@woodendacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@woodendacademy.org.uk) or telephoning 020 8422 6175.

## Applications

Admission to Wood End Academy is handled by the In-Year Admissions Team at Ealing Council. To begin the application process you will need to obtain a Primary School In-Year Common Application Form, or you can apply online. The contact details for the admissions team are:

- Telephone: 020 8825 5511 (9am-12pm)
- Email: [mainroundadmissions@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:mainroundadmissions@ealing.gov.uk)
- Website: [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)



## Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Wood End Academy doesn't currently have an active Parent Teacher Association, but we are always looking for parent support! Please contact us if you can offer time and support to the school and would like to get involved.

## Voluntary helpers

The Academy is a welcoming and accessible place that is an important part of family life, so we encourage parents and community members to visit the school, help in the classroom or with extra-curricular activities or to come along and enjoy our fundraising and social events. If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please talk to your child's class teacher or ask at the school office.

## Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes Parent Governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. Our governors work closely with the Headteacher and the senior leadership team to raise standards and ensure that the school has high expectations of all its pupils.

Governors are at the heart of how Wood End Academy operates. If you want to contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Derek Goss, or any other governor, please contact the school office.

### Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office. Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.





## AIM HIGH, ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE!

Wood End Academy aims to be a school of quality in which all children can develop their full potential, gain a sense of self-worth and prepare for adult life in a happy, secure and caring environment.

### We shall achieve this by:

- helping the children develop lively, enquiring minds with which they can acquire the knowledge and skills needed throughout their adult lives
- providing access to education and equal opportunities for all our children
- providing a wide range of cultural and sporting activities
- developing the self-discipline and acceptable behaviour needed to become an active, contributing member of the community
- helping the children to understand their responsibilities as citizens in a rapidly changing world
- promoting understanding and respect for the religions and ways of life of others
- having a well-qualified, experienced, happy and caring staff who work together as a team to achieve our aims

We are proud to be part of your children's future.



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