



# Woodkirk Academy

& The Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy

*Shaping Young Lives*

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## Welcome to Woodkirk Academy

On behalf of Governors, staff and our students, it is my privilege to welcome you to Woodkirk Academy. We are a well-established and fully comprehensive 11-18 Academy with very strong links to our partner schools, both locally and further afield. Most notably, we work in partnership with East Ardsley, Hill Top and Westerton Primary Academies as Leodis Academies Trust which has added further depth and strength to our work.

We pride ourselves on being a caring community with a positive ethos and a strong sense of purpose, order and control.

We have an enviable reputation for being a happy, well ordered community offering a wide variety of educational experiences for all students. Supportive and warm relationships, underpinned by outstanding discipline, enhance the positive atmosphere within the Academy.

At the heart of our success is the high quality of classroom teaching. Our students are well motivated, with established, positive work habits. We have high expectations in all aspects of their work and behaviour. Woodkirk Academy has a strong team approach in all its endeavours, with a tremendously hardworking and dedicated staff whose energies are devoted to providing the best opportunities for all students in the school. As such, examination performance continues to show that, year-on-year, we are one of the best schools in Leeds at both GCSE and A Level. We are the only school in Morley to continue to offer a school-based Sixth Form meaning your child can start here in Year 7 and continue their education through to 18 with us.

Woodkirk Academy is committed to developing the 'whole' person and this has been externally recognised over the years by a number of other bodies such as the Sportsmark Award, Advanced Healthy Schools Status, Investors in People (Gold) and the Stephen Lawrence Award. We believe that a first class education begins with an assurance of exemplary safety and security and we work very hard to maintain this. Under behaviour and safety, our most recent Ofsted inspection noted that 'The quality of pastoral care and welfare arrangements is outstanding. Students indicate that they always feel safe in the school.'

The successes of our musical and drama productions are well known, as is our reputation for exceptional sporting achievements, fair play and the sheer joy of physical activity and games. The school has an excellent record of achieving a balance between academic and non-academic activities.

Woodkirk Academy is an exciting place to be educated and we welcome your interest in our school. We do hope you choose to become part of our thriving community and that you start a long and productive partnership with us as your child enters secondary education. I hope that the information we have provided in our prospectus is both informative and useful in assisting you to make your decision.

**J Barton**  
Principal





## High standards

### *Our aims*

Woodkirk Academy offers a high quality education with a well qualified, experienced and enthusiastic staff who are supported by an excellent Governing Board and generous parental involvement. It is our aim to enrich and serve the learning needs of the community, to provide life-long access to educational opportunities and to maximise the potential of all who learn here.

### *Valuing each student*

- To encourage a positive and caring environment where opportunities for learning are opened up for students and staff of all ages, backgrounds and cultures.
- To promote understanding and respect for others.
- To help all members of the school community develop an understanding of what it means to be trusted, valued, trusting and caring.

- To promote the principle of equal value.
- To develop confidence, competence and social responsibility in all students by:
  - placing the individual at the centre of all learning activities;
  - providing access for all to a full range of opportunities;
  - providing for continuity and progression in all learning experiences;
  - creating a clean, safe, secure and stimulating learning environment;
  - encouraging students, staff, parents and members of the community to work together to maximise achievement;
  - delivering a broad and balanced curriculum that fulfils and extends the National Curriculum; and
  - developing links between the curriculum and the community.



## Our vision for learning

### *Woodkirk Academy provides a thriving learning environment*

We believe our team of specialist and experienced teachers and support staff generates an enthusiasm for learning and an educational experience of the highest quality. We expect our students to be active partners in sustaining this ethos, and to develop the skills and abilities to achieve their full potential. We firmly believe that a high-quality, challenging, enjoyable and engaging learning experience is the root of our students' success and will sustain them in their learning and careers after school.

Woodkirk Academy believes in promoting positive attitudes to learning by getting to know students' individual needs. Students are taught in mixed ability groups for some subjects with setting from Year 7 in English, Mathematics, followed by Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Science in Year 8. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 follow an individual timetable based on their core subjects and their option

choices. The core consists of lessons in English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, PE and PSHRE. The option choices available include GCSEs and vocational equivalents.

### *Student Leadership Group*

Listening to students is critical in facilitating the rights of the child, letting them take the lead and giving power to their voice, which can make a real difference. At Woodkirk Academy, each Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 form group has a Form Representative who listens to their form's views on ways to improve the Academy even further. Each year group has two Student Year Leaders who represent their year on the Student Leadership Group (SLG). A Junior Head Boy and Girl are selected to lead the SLG during the academic year. They discuss the outcomes of SLG meetings with the Principal and the possibility of implementing some of their ideas on behalf of their year group.





## Care, Support and Guidance

### *Transition*

Transfer between Primary School and Woodkirk Academy is an important step. We have an experienced team who works very closely with Primary Schools to ease the transfer for students moving up from Year 6 to Year 7. Our teachers visit each primary school to get to know staff and students and ensure that transition is as smooth as possible. There is an induction programme for students and parents to help with this process and introduce you to the Woodkirk Academy community.

### *Individual care*

We are proud of our safe, happy and secure learning environment and our student support team is closely involved with monitoring student progress. Each student belongs to a Form Tutor Group and a Personal Tutor Group. Each year is overseen by a Vice Principal, Behaviour and Safety, supported by Year Tutors and Assistant Year Tutors. Our students are able to develop a strong sense of identity through our student support arrangements. Form Tutors have regular contact with their students and provide them with learning support, recognition of achievements and advice throughout their time at Woodkirk Academy. Parents may contact the relevant Year team whenever they have a concern. Personal Tutor Groups are smaller than Form Groups, vertical (including students from Years 7 to 13) and so provide the highest level of support in terms of individual student progress and target setting. The aim of Form and Personal Tutor time is to promote resilience and independence amongst our students so that they can make a positive contribution to modern-day Britain.

### *Equality & Diversity*

As a multicultural school, in a mainly monocultural community, we are fiercely proud of the huge steps we have taken to raise awareness and celebrate our diverse community. We celebrate Black History Month, The Universal Declaration of our human rights, Fair Trade and Refugee Awareness, which allows our students to understand how important it is being a global citizen. We are extremely pleased to be contributing to UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools Award which is based on the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non discrimination and participation. The Rights Respecting Schools Award seeks to embed within a school's ethos the UN Declaration of the Rights of Children, which is already at the heart of everything we do.





## Beyond the classroom

Education is not limited to the classroom. Extra-curricular activities play a vital role in building confidence and rounding personalities. This broad approach to learning ensures that we develop individuals to their highest potential, equipping them with the skills to engage confidently in the modern world.

There is an annual programme providing a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and trips which have included:

- Art visits to galleries and local places of interest.
- Design Technology trip to the Clothes Show Live, Cadbury's World and Bologna.
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- Geography field trips to destinations including Blackpool, the East Coast, Sorrento, and Sicily.
- Government and Politics trip to the USA: Washington & New York.
- Law students visit to Leeds Crown Court.
- Mathematics trip to Paris.
- MFL language cultural experiences.
- Music Residential to a variety of European countries.
- Ski trips to the USA and Canada.
- Year 7 Residential to Derbyshire.
- Year 8 Adventure Residential.

Woodkirk Academy is also involved in a wide variety of competitions both locally and nationally, including science, mathematics, DT and music competitions: Golden Bunsen, UK Maths Challenge, Rotary Tournaments for Design Technology and the National Languages Spelling Bee.

Outside the classroom we enjoy a splendid reputation for PE and sport. We have a large team of specialist PE staff and, along with other qualified staff, they coach over 25 sports teams.

Members of our PE staff are committed to working with many of our local primary schools to enhance the relationship, provide support, facilitate staff development and promote competition and sporting opportunities for primary children. This enables them to experience a high quality physical education and sporting experience.

Woodkirk Academy also offers students every opportunity to discover and extend their creative talents in a variety of areas including music, drama, dance and art. Our many music groups perform on a regular basis with numerous concerts in school, the local community and in other countries including Italy, Austria, France, Belgium and Germany. Students are offered the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition in a wide variety of musical instruments. Drama also plays a central role in the life of our school. Our ambitious, popular and extremely successful school productions give students the chance to experience the excitement of live theatre and our musicals are the high point of the school year.







# The Sixth Form

## Your Aspirations, Our Inspiration

Based in the recently refurbished Sixth Form Centre, students in Years 12 and 13 can expect high standards of teaching and learning leading to academic success. Our Sixth Form is a very well established community of 400 students. Many students come directly from our Year 11, though we also attract and welcome students from other local schools. We have the staffing, facilities and resources to provide a large number of excellent courses. We advise our students to take programmes of study that will aid their personal development and enable them to proceed to Higher or Further Education, or their chosen careers.

There is a separate prospectus for the Sixth Form @ Woodkirk Academy, which is available on request. We manage admissions to the Sixth Form and full details of the Admission Policy can be found in our Sixth Form Prospectus.

# Achieving full potential

## Promoting partnership

Positive relationships create successful communities. We strive to develop strong, open partnerships between students, staff, parents, businesses and the local community. We believe that students will achieve most and be happiest at school when there is a good partnership between home and school. This means developing a sound understanding of each other's aims and wishes and providing good communication between parents and school staff. Our job in helping students to learn well and develop as responsible members of the community is made much easier when we have the backing of parents over routine matters and any problems which can sometimes arise. If parents and the school work together in a genuine partnership, then students are more likely to achieve their full potential. Throughout the year we host a number of events, both social and educational, where parents are invited to attend school. We hope to see many of you joining us at these events and look forward to seeing you there.

## At the heart of the community

Students at Woodkirk Academy are encouraged to become active citizens both in their school and wider community. Throughout the year the Sixth Form Senior Council and Subject Ambassadors meet and many fundraising activities take place. The Academy hosts an annual Charity Christmas Carol Service at St Paul's Church. There is an ambitious senior citizens' reception hosted by the Sixth Form, together with other fundraising and community events. Student ambassadors from all age groups visit local primary schools through Sixth Form enrichment, sports leaders, reading partners, the annual show and as part of transition. Our artwork is regularly offered and displayed in the Morley area and school facilities are used by a number of community groups.



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