



School
Prospectus

Woodcote House



A family-run Boarding & Day School for boys aged 7-13



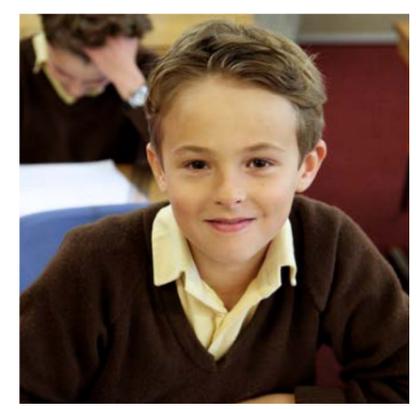
Since 1816



Welcome

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Woodcote House School for boys

Set in 30 acres of beautiful grounds, Woodcote House School has been owned and run by my family for 85 years and I am very proud to be the 4th member of the Paterson family to head the school and take it into a new era.

Born and educated at Woodcote, I returned with my own young family 24 years ago, teaching mathematics and subsequently taking on the role of Deputy Headmaster. With the benefit of that experience and commitment, I will ensure that your boys thrive in a happy, stable and nurturing environment, with particular emphasis placed on the key values of hard work, good manners, tolerance and mutual respect.

Together with a dedicated and experienced staff, a stimulating and flexible curriculum and small class sizes, we enable boys to reach their full academic potential. The boys are also afforded a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities, with particular attention paid to sport, music, drama and art.

I believe that Woodcote offers a unique education, laying the vital foundations to prepare the boys for the challenges that lie ahead, and giving them the necessary skills, confidence and enthusiasm with which to succeed.

I look forward to meeting you.



David Paterson
Headmaster



"Vive ut discas et disce ut vivas"

"Live to learn
& learn to live"



Living by our motto...

With many years' experience of nurturing, guiding and educating boys, we believe the school's traditional ethos, 'Vive ut Discas et Disce ut Vivas' – Live to Learn and Learn to Live' – is as relevant today as ever.

Our committed, enthusiastic staff are totally dedicated to the care of the boys in our charge. Each boy receives our individual care and attention and is encouraged and motivated to achieve his potential both in and out of the classroom.

Boys can join Woodcote at any age from 7 (Year 3) to 12 (Year 8) as Boarders or as Day Boys. Very small class sizes (average of 10) ensure that a broad range of subjects can be taught in depth.

At the beginning of each academic year, boys are assigned a Class Tutor to oversee their academic progress and general welfare. We are quick to identify a boy who is particularly gifted or, equally, a pupil who requires specialist help.

We know that if boys are enjoying themselves, they learn better. So we combine first class teaching with plenty of opportunities for outdoor activity throughout the day, enabling boys to be challenged both mentally and physically, with sport time-tabled everyday.

Even lunchtime is an opportunity for learning. Every day, boys and staff sit down to eat together in our dining hall, fostering good manners and the art of conversation.

One of the most valuable lessons we teach our boys is to live with different people, a skill that will benefit them throughout their future lives.





The right

school for your child

"Whatever your
son's talent,
Woodcote will
bring it out"
Former Parent

All schools can teach the 'Three Rs'. But only a select few can give boys the individual care and attention they need, channel all their physical and creative energy, develop their personalities and interests, and inspire them to achieve their full potential. Our boys' families, and the senior schools they move on to, tell us that Woodcote is such a school.

Woodcote provides a happy, secure environment where boys can live, learn and flourish as individuals. We aim to turn out boys who are honest, confident, respectful and trustworthy, with a sense of humour and a balanced perspective on life.

An important part of our job is to foster good manners, tolerance and respect for others. We demand high standards of the boys in this respect, recognising how important these qualities are, not only during their time at school, but in their future lives as well.

We believe in a healthy three-way communication between school, child and family. Parents are kept informed of their son's progress with regular meetings and written reports - as well as opportunities for informal discussion at the many school events that they can attend. In addition, boys know that they can talk to their tutor, matron or any member of staff whenever they feel the need.

"...there are new classrooms,
a new theatre and – very
Woodcote, this – a new
pig pen in the woods."

Tatler Schools Guide 2016

A 'really dangerous' school for boys!



Activities and Adventures

Woodcote is a school where boys really can be boys. With 30 acres of beautiful grounds to explore, our boys enjoy unrivalled freedom to play as hard as they work.

There's woodland, a shooting range, rope assault course, climbing ropes and camping area. They can feed the Headmaster's pigs or watch newts in the pond. The legendary Elephants' Graveyard, where branches hang down like trunks and tusks, has been a secret den for generations.

Woodcote boys can pursue a wide range of indoor and outdoor hobbies in their free time. Archery, basketball, bridge, CCF, chess, croquet, cooking, film, gymnastics, judo and turf clubs are just some of the activities on offer. Warhammer gamers even have their own dedicated dungeon!

Boys have the opportunity to camp in the grounds, cooking pizzas in our outdoor wood-fired oven and toasting marshmallows on campfires.



"..Where he could be a child and develop, not just learn"
Former Parent

Boarding at Woodcote

Life as a Boarder

If your son is likely to board in future, boarding at Woodcote is an invaluable preparation. About 75% of our pupils are boarders, and we work hard to ensure that boarding is a secure, positive and rewarding experience for each child. Boys can begin boarding at any age from 7 to 13, and prospective boarders are encouraged to spend a night or two at Woodcote before they start.

Housed in the main building, our small dormitories are cheerful and cosy. Bright sea-blue walls, primary-coloured duvets, superhero posters and striped curtains create a relaxed, home-from-home feel. Bedtimes range from 8.00pm to 9.30pm, depending on age. Our Head of Pastoral Care and her team of four Matrons look after the boys in the evenings and sleep within easy reach of the dormitories.

Boys can use a landline, a simple mobile phone and Skype in the evenings to call their parents, and they also write a proper letter home each week. With Open and Exeat weekends throughout each term, our boarders can also spend plenty of time at home with their families.

Weekends

Weekends provide a healthy balance of planned activities and free time. Our popular Friday night entertainment programme includes visiting speakers. Saturday morning school (8.20am to 12:30pm) is usually followed by matches against other schools. All parents are welcome to attend Chapel on most Saturday mornings (followed by a glass of wine and lunch) before supporting matches.

On Sundays, the boys enjoy outings such as sailing, dry-slope skiing, paintballing, climbing, cinema trips and mackerel fishing.

Dominies

All Year 8 boys spend a term living in Dominies, our house in the school grounds, to give them a taste of teenage life in a boarding house at public school. Here boys live with houseparents and are given greater responsibility for their belongings and clothes. They also enjoy special privileges including the opportunity to have barbecues, cook Sunday breakfast and watch Sky Sports.



“The boys get used to living and working with people from all over the world, and that’s a lesson for life.”

Andrew Monk, Deputy Head

From Abroad

Boarding at Woodcote - a traditional English boarding school - ensures that boys reap the full benefit of learning and socialising in an idyllic, secure setting.

Around 15% of boys who board at Woodcote live abroad, coming from Service, expatriate or overseas families. Access to the school is quick and easy: Woodcote is just 20 minutes’ drive from Heathrow Airport while Gatwick and Southampton airports are both within an hour’s drive. We have long experience of making travel arrangements for our overseas students and liaising with their UK guardian to organise holiday and exeat arrangements.

Thanks to Woodcote’s emphasis on family, tolerance and good manners, overseas boys soon settle in and make lasting friendships. They’re often invited home for Exeat weekends by their friends, giving them the opportunity to spend time with English families and creating an informal exchange programme.

Boys whose first language is not English receive extra help from our dedicated EFL (English as a Foreign Language) teacher. However, it is in the dormitory, the dining room, on the games field and during free time that they really get to grips with the language. The speed with which they integrate is truly remarkable.



Woodcote as a Day Boy

For boys living locally or in London, Woodcote House offers all the benefits of a classic private education combined with an enviable range of opportunities.

They can start aged 7 (Year 3) and leave us in Year 8, having taken their Common Entrance or Scholarship exams.

Day Boys have access to all the opportunities available to our Boarders during the week. One obvious benefit for parents is that their son’s homework, sport, music and hobbies are all factored into the school day and undertaken in a safe, supervised environment.

Boys arrive at school by 8.20am to start the day with Assembly and Registration. This is followed by Prep, which is completed in the morning, leaving evenings at home free of schoolwork. After a full day of lessons and sport, boys are picked up by 6.10pm. If they are involved in early evening activities, they will have supper at school and go home later.

On Exeat weekends (every third weekend) Day Boys finish school on Friday at midday and return first thing on Tuesday morning.

Graduating to Boarding

Woodcote operates a ‘graduated approach’ to boarding which means a Day Boy can get a taste of boarding by staying at school two or three nights a week. This option is very popular. Often, it’s boys themselves who ask to board, allowing them to take full advantage of the opportunities offered in the evenings.

Although not compulsory, the majority of Day Boys do choose full or weekly boarding in their final years as this is an excellent preparation for Senior School.





Curriculum



A real Preparatory School

Academics

The curriculum at Woodcote includes Art, CDT, English, French, Geography, History, ICT, Latin, Maths, Music, RE, Science, Spanish and Sport. Spanish begins in Year 5 whilst Latin is taught from Year 7. Our staff take a holistic approach to learning, linking topics to subject areas - so talk of battlefields in History will link to their locations in Geography and relevant poetry in English.

The Woodcote academic week runs from Monday morning through to Saturday afternoon, allowing boys ample time for lessons, Prep, extra-curricular activities and free time with their friends.

Art

"Earth without Art is just 'Eh'" says a sign on the Art room wall. Our Art Department is very popular, with all boys having at least two lessons per week, and plenty of opportunity for extra curricular sessions.

Music & Drama

Music plays an important part in our boys' lives and over 75% of the boys learn at least one instrument, with daily practice scheduled into their day. Each year we prepare a number of outstanding musicians for scholarships to senior schools.

There are three major theatre productions each year, often written by staff and involving as many boys as possible in acting, set design and stage management. There are also reviews and recitations throughout the year, and visits to local and London theatres.



Springboard to the future

When your son joins Woodcote you can be sure that you are giving him the perfect head start in his education. Woodcote House has a 100% success rate preparing boys for Common Entrance to Public School. We also successfully prepare many boys for sports, arts and academic scholarships.

Selecting the right senior school for your son will be one of the most important decisions you will have to make during his time at Woodcote, and we pride ourselves on the advice given to parents in this respect.

Boys are prepared thoroughly for pre-testing at their chosen Senior School, with regular interview practice given by external professionals who then provide feedback and advice in the form of a written report to parents.

Preparing for Public School

In their last two years at Woodcote, senior boys are encouraged to take on roles of responsibility. These positions carry privileges and give the boys a sense of independence, as well as teaching them their importance as role models.

This all-round education enables Woodcote boys to flourish at their Senior Schools, and many of them go on to become Heads of House or School Prefects.

In recent years, Woodcote boys have won scholarships to the following public schools:

- Ampleforth
- Blundell's
- Bradfield
- Canford
- Charterhouse
- Cheltenham College
- Clifton
- Dauntsey's
- Eton
- Harrow
- Haileybury
- King Edward's School, Whitley
- Malvern
- Marlborough
- Millfield
- Milton Abbey
- Monkton Combe
- Pangbourne
- Radley
- RGS Guildford
- Rugby
- St George's, Weybridge
- St Peter's, York
- Sherborne
- Shiplake
- Stowe
- Tonbridge
- Wellington College
- Wells Cathedral
- Westminster
- Winchester



Sport

Woodcote's 30 acres of stunning grounds include numerous sports pitches, an indoor swimming pool, four tennis courts, two astro turf pitches, a 9-hole golf course and a shooting range.

The benefit of a small school is that every boy has the opportunity to participate in and represent the school in team sport. Sport is played daily, with fixtures against other schools on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

Woodcote fields successful teams at all levels with several senior boys winning sports scholarships to their future schools. County representation is encouraged, and the school has close links with local professional and amateur clubs.

The following sports are available at Woodcote:

- Archery
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Judo
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Trampolining



"...Education, continuity, stability, a home-from-home. It was clear Woodcote ticked all the boxes"

Former Parent



Scholarships & Headmaster's Awards



See for yourselves



I am delighted to offer a number of discretionary awards to boys who show promise in a particular academic subject, music or in sport. These awards can be worth between 10% and 40% of the basic boarding or day fee and enable the school to support and reward boys' efforts in a direct and practical way.

If you would like to discuss the awards process and your son's potential in a particular area, then do please contact me. If you would like to apply for an award, please contact the school office for a registration form.

The only way to truly appreciate the unique educational opportunity your son would have here is to visit Woodcote House for yourself. Explore the grounds, meet the boys and staff, experience the relaxed yet stable family atmosphere, and join us for lunch.

We are pleased to welcome prospective families throughout the year by appointment. Please contact our Registrar, Wendy Edgerley, who will be pleased to guide you through the applications process and arrange a visit to the school as soon as possible.



Bus from London

We operate our own daily bus service from Tippet's Corner, just off the A3, close to Wandsworth and Wimbledon. 'Bus Boys' depart at 7.30am and are returned at 6.30pm with all homework complete – Woodcote parents find this particularly helpful.

If you require any further information about our school, do please call or write to:

Wendy Edgerley, Registrar
Woodcote House School,
Snow's Ride, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6PF

Tel: +44 (0)1276 472115

email: admissions@woodcotehouseschool.co.uk

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