

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS 2024

# We would love to see you at Woodlands



ALLESTREE  
WOODLANDS  
SCHOOL

Courage | Optimism | Regard | Endeavour

**“The thing I love about being in Woodlands Sixth Form? The subject teachers are always willing to help with any struggles and are really supportive.”**

Martha – Year 13 student

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# Welcome

I am delighted that you are considering joining the Sixth Form at Woodlands. During Year 11 you will have to make very important decisions about your future. There is a great variety of courses and institutions available to you, but I believe that the Sixth Form at Woodlands is amongst the best.

**Part of our success depends upon ensuring you are on the right course before you start. The information contained within this brochure is the first stage of that process.**

The Sixth Form at Woodlands will offer you an adult environment where you will be continually encouraged and supported to realise your potential. We will have high expectations of you. You will have responsibilities and you will be helped to develop your personal skills and qualities. If you are not yet a member of the school, we would be delighted to welcome you to become part of our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success for the future.



Gemma Penny  
Headteacher

**'The conduct of students in the Sixth Form is outstanding. They are excellent ambassadors for the school. They value their learning and feel well supported in their ambitions for the future.'**

Ofsted

We are justifiably extremely proud of our Sixth Formers at Woodlands and if you choose to join us, we are sure you will see why!

Our Sixth Form is a happy, vibrant and thriving environment where every student is supported to achieve their goals. We believe passionately that Sixth Form should be exciting, interesting and rewarding, and at Woodlands we value your academic as much as your personal achievements. To this end we promise excellence in all that we do, with dedicated teaching and pastoral staff, a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and fantastic new facilities.

**We have no doubt that you will enjoy being a part of Woodlands Sixth Form. If you think that this may be the place for you, then we would love to receive your application.**

We look forward to seeing you here!



Catherine Mills  
Head of Sixth Form

# Results

Our aim is to ensure every student achieves their goal – whether this be Oxbridge or other universities an apprenticeship or employment with training.

Our students' A level results in Summer 2023 demonstrated high levels of achievement across the full range of subject areas; we are proud to ensure that students reach or exceed their own personal potential.

But this is only part of the story. Last year 64% of our students gained places at university, with 16% moving on to study at Russell Group universities (the top 24 research led universities in the country, including Oxford and Cambridge).

6% of students have embarked on apprenticeships; indeed, our students are very successful in securing highly sought-after apprenticeships.

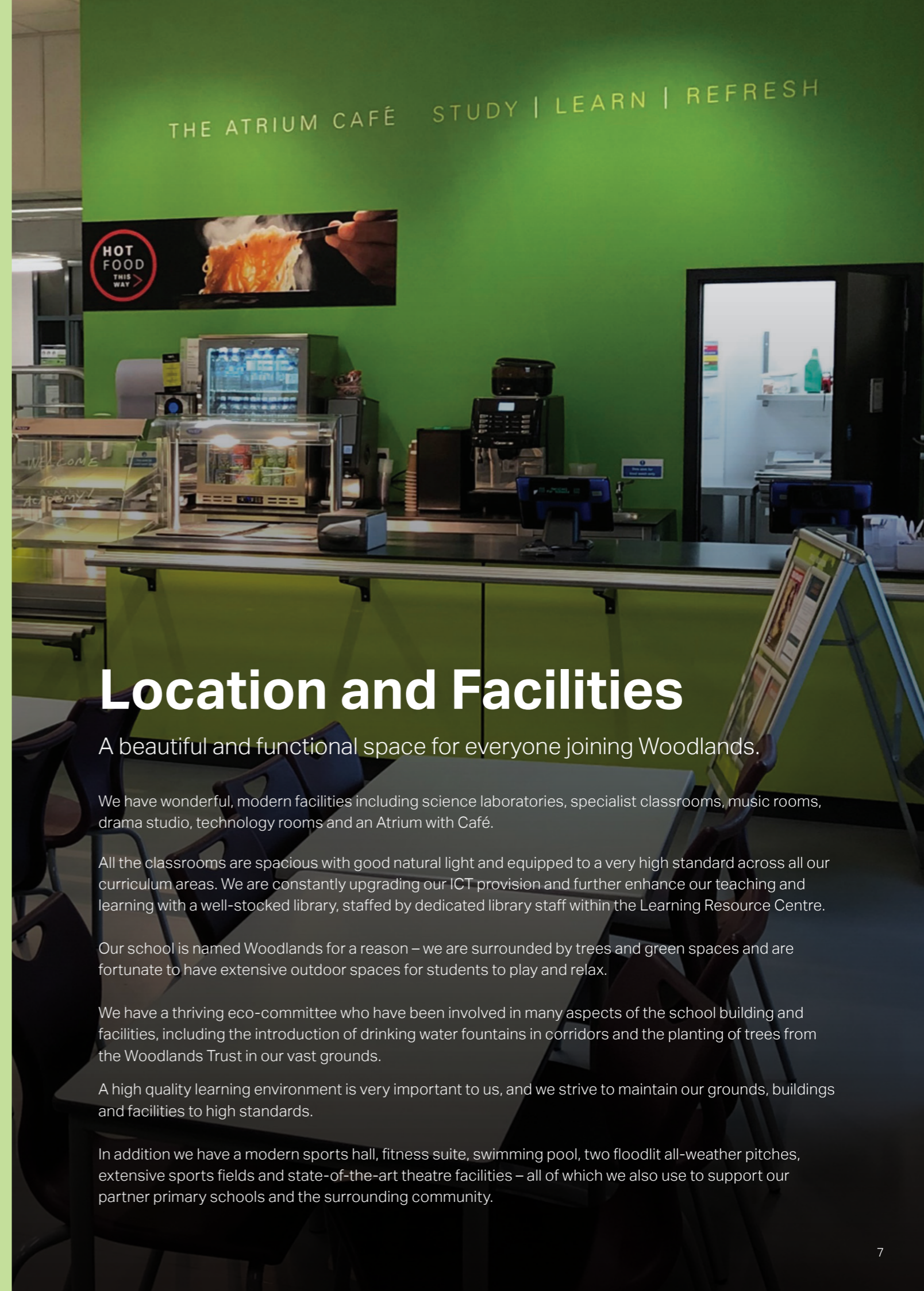
Our students also go on to further education, employment, and purposeful gap years.

We are committed to fully supporting as they prepare to leave school, providing each one with high quality, bespoke advice and guidance.

The average A Level grade achieved at Allestree Woodlands Sixth Form continues to improve.



**“ The thing I love about being in Woodlands Sixth Form? It's such a positive learning environment and the teachers are really supportive.”**



## Location and Facilities

A beautiful and functional space for everyone joining Woodlands.

We have wonderful, modern facilities including science laboratories, specialist classrooms, music rooms, drama studio, technology rooms and an Atrium with Café.

All the classrooms are spacious with good natural light and equipped to a very high standard across all our curriculum areas. We are constantly upgrading our ICT provision and further enhance our teaching and learning with a well-stocked library, staffed by dedicated library staff within the Learning Resource Centre.

Our school is named Woodlands for a reason – we are surrounded by trees and green spaces and are fortunate to have extensive outdoor spaces for students to play and relax.

We have a thriving eco-committee who have been involved in many aspects of the school building and facilities, including the introduction of drinking water fountains in corridors and the planting of trees from the Woodlands Trust in our vast grounds.

A high quality learning environment is very important to us, and we strive to maintain our grounds, buildings and facilities to high standards.

In addition we have a modern sports hall, fitness suite, swimming pool, two floodlit all-weather pitches, extensive sports fields and state-of-the-art theatre facilities – all of which we also use to support our partner primary schools and the surrounding community.

# Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement for those wishing to join our Sixth Form is a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including English and Maths.

The following factors are used when assessing whether the above criteria have been met:

- Evidence of a sustained and committed approach to study throughout Key Stage 4.
- Predicted GCSE results.
- Pastoral and academic staff recommendations.
- Attendance/Punctuality record.
- Performance at interview.
- Students' personal achievements outside of school.
- Each student's application will be considered on an individual basis and contextual information will be considered, including barriers to learning overcome during years 7-11.



# Commitment

**Within the 'Sixth Form Student and School Agreement', we at Woodlands offer a number of commitments and aims. In turn, all students have a role to play in the development of the partnership so that Sixth Form opportunities can be seized and enjoyed as part of our drive for high expectations, challenge and support.**

## School's Commitment

At Woodlands, we are committed to:

- Promoting the highest possible standards of achievement and excellence for all students – we maintain high quality educational provision within a challenging but caring and supportive environment
- Providing a purposeful and conducive working environment
- Supporting individual progress and the achievement of a high success rate for students in terms of qualifications achieved and opportunities created
- Providing individual care, support and guidance by an experienced team of personal tutors and subject staff
- Creating a secure transition for students to move successfully from GCSE to Level 3 study

## Students' Commitment

In turn, we expect you to:

- Be committed to your own academic study; working hard, meeting deadlines and ensuring an effective working relationship with your subject teachers
- Make use of the study facilities when not timetabled for lessons, balancing study with leisure time
- Achieve excellent attendance and punctuality and follow the school dress code
- Be a role model for all students attending Allestree Woodlands School and make a contribution to the school and wider community

**"The thing I love about being in Woodlands Sixth Form? Lots of guidance is given for next steps, form tutors are experienced and help with the whole process from deciding what to do to applying."**

Esther – Year 13

# Curriculum

Students at Woodlands Sixth Form have the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects and we try to ensure that there is a pathway for all students who wish to join us. Students will usually take 3 Level 3 subjects (A Level or BTEC), which will be assessed at the end of two years. Students are also able to study Further Maths at A-Level, in some cases as a 4th A-Level. For those who wish to stretch themselves there will also be an option to study the Extended Project Qualification, which is looked upon extremely favourably by universities and develops the independent work and skills needed to study in Higher Education.

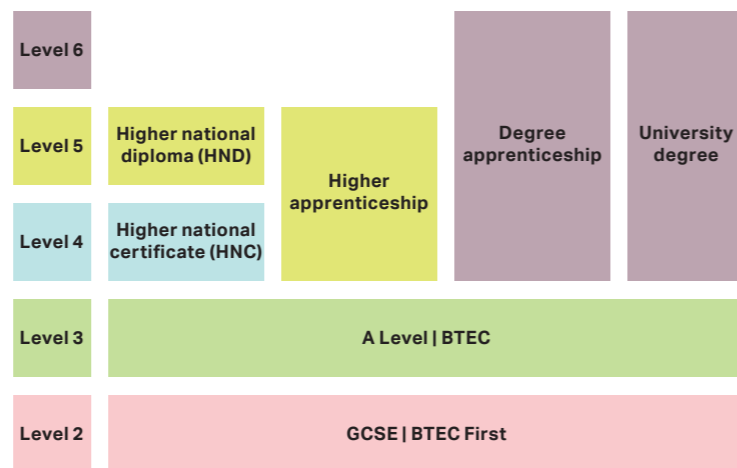
A high priority is also placed on offering students many opportunities to enhance and enrich their education. As well as taking part in A Level courses, students participate in a core programme of lessons, which encourage personal and social development and forge links with our local community. These experiences are particularly important for students as they make their applications for university, apprenticeships or employment.

Sixth Form students will usually undertake the following programme of study:

**Year 12:** 3 or 4 Level 3 courses  
+ PSHE + PE + EPQ (optional)

**Year 13:** 3 or 4 Level 3 courses  
+ PSHE + PE

**When selecting courses, students should take into account the career that they wish to follow, the subjects which they enjoy and are most confident in and, of course, the subjects in which they are most successful. The programme of study that each student chooses will become the foundation upon which they will build their post-18 plans and future career ambitions.**



# Programme of Study

## Tutor Period:

Our tutor period takes place every Tuesday and focuses on CEIAG (Careers Education Information and Guidance) and personal, social, health and emotional education (PSHE). Topics include "next steps" and higher education courses and apprenticeships research and applications, A-Level transition, study skills, risk and personal safety, healthy lifestyles and preparing for independent living. In addition to this dedicated CEIAG and PSHE period, students engage in a variety of activities during daily registration.

## Teaching:

Each student receives 5 hours of teaching per week, per subject. To build on the learning undertaken during timetabled lessons, students are expected to engage in at least one hour's independent and home study for every hour of teaching received. To support our Sixth Form students with this, they have access to a variety of study spaces, including our well-stocked Learning Resource Centre and spacious Atrium, in addition to attendance at compulsory supervised study periods in our designated study room. Students also have access to a dedicated Social Study room.

All students enjoy one hour of Physical Education per week as part of our focus on promoting healthy living and wellbeing within the Sixth Form. They have the chance to use the fitness suite, play sports or undertake dance activities

## Extra-Curricular Enrichment:

Sixth Form students frequently have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular educational visits and trips to enhance their learning within subjects; for example, A-Level Geography students are able to visit Iceland as part of their course, Physics students visit Alton Towers to study forces in action and Government and Politics students undertake a visit to the Houses of Parliament. In addition to extra-curricular visits, our students are also invited to enter national competitions, including CANSAT (in conjunction with the European Space Agency) and the Science Olympiads, one of the premier national science competitions. Our Student Leadership Team is made up of elected sixth formers and some key roles appointed following interview. It plays a key role in school life.



**"The curriculum in the sixth form allows students to study courses that meet their interests and aspirations. Teachers have good subject knowledge and provide supportive and timely feedback. Students enjoy positive relationships with their teachers."**

**"Students receive effective pastoral support during tutor time and personal development sessions. A carefully planned tutor programme is effective in developing students' understanding about themes including personal safety, healthy relationships and how they can stay healthy."**

Ofsted March 2022

## Dress Code

The Sixth Form dress code is part of the school's ethos and culture. It demonstrates high standards, responsibility and pride in being leading ambassadors within our school community.

To this end, the Sixth Form dress code is as follows:

Blazer/Suit jacket

- Formal shirt or blouse
- Ties may be worn with a collared shirt
- Trousers or tailored skirt of an appropriate length (not lycra)
- Fine knit "round" or "v neck" jumper during winter months
- Smart outdoor coat (no denim or leather)
- Formal shoes (no training shoes or boots)
- No visual body piercing except for 2 earrings (studs)
- No extreme hairstyles or colours

This is a sensible, smart dress code devised in consultation with students.

The Head of Sixth Form will make the final decision about what is appropriate.





# Application Process

Should you wish to apply for Sixth Form education at Woodlands please complete an application form and return it to us at [sixthform@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

You will be contacted regarding your application as soon as the applications have all been processed and considered. Applicants who have met the Sixth Form entry criteria will be invited for an admissions interview in the Spring term. At this interview applicants will be asked to consider what they can offer the school, as well as what their intentions are once they leave Woodlands.

Offers of a place will be made before the end of the Spring term.

Successful applicants will be invited to an induction day at the end of Year 11 after their GCSE examinations.

Students will be required to formally enrol upon confirmation of their GCSE grades in August.

We look forward to receiving your application. If you would like to visit the school or require further support with your application please do not hesitate to contact us at [sixthform@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

Headteacher:  
Mrs G Penny

Deputy Headteachers:  
Mrs R Middleton-Lee  
Mr S Roe

Business Manager:  
Mr A Greaves

Assistant Headteachers:  
Mr G Duffy (KS3)  
Miss L Berridge (KS4)  
Mrs R Brailsford (Safeguarding)  
Mr T Barker (SENCo)  
Miss C Mills (Sixth Form)

Assistant Head of Sixth form:  
Mr A Forsyth

Sixth Form Administrator:  
Mrs C Sellars

Heads of Year 2023  
Mr D Hammond (Year 7)  
Miss H Smith (Year 8)  
Mrs H Curr (Year 9)  
Mrs E Pitter (Year 10)  
Miss L Colley (Year 11)

The information given in this brochure is as accurate as possible at the time of publication. Any changes will be reported to parents/carers in the school's newsletter and published on our website. It should not however be assumed that there will not be any changes before, during or after the school year 2024– 2025.

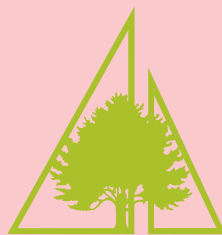
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**“The thing I love about being in Woodlands Sixth Form? The facilities are great! There are many places to study and it’s a calm environment.”**

Maddie – Year 13 student



**Be part of the Woodlands community**

**Go to the school’s website at [www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.derby.sch.uk) for information about the school,  
or for daily updates you can follow us on Twitter [@woodlands\\_derby](https://twitter.com/woodlands_derby)**

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