

Wycombe High School



Prospectus for 2012 Entry

Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter

Welcome

At Wycombe High School, we have a long tradition of providing a high quality education for girls. We are proud of the excellent teaching, care and guidance that we offer our students, together with first class facilities and a wide range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. We have a spacious campus with extensive grounds and a state-of-the-art Learning Centre.

Year on year, our students attain at the very highest levels and we retain our position as one of the top state schools nationally. Our examination results are outstanding. In 2011 an impressive 43% of A Level results were A*/A grades; 16% of all grades were A*s and 73% were A* - B. 73% of all GCSE grades were A*/A; 61% of students achieved at least 8 A*/A grades. Please note that these results are still subject to confirmation following appeals and re-mark requests for some candidates. The significant majority of our students go on to university. They are successful in gaining places at the universities of their first choice; these universities are also ranked among the best in the United Kingdom, indeed internationally.

We have a strong commitment to the performing and visual arts, and sport. We organise concerts, festivals, musical productions, school plays, dance and gymnastics shows, art and technology exhibitions and offer leadership programmes for students. We have a specialist artist-in-residence programme to support and underpin school provision. We offer first class sporting facilities, with a gym, sports hall and fitness studio complemented by extensive playing fields. We have reached national and regional finals in a range of sports this year (including cross country, hockey, netball and athletics). With approximately 100 clubs and societies to choose from every term, our students are supported to develop culturally and physically, as well as academically. We offer an extensive range of educational visits in the United Kingdom and abroad. We have international links with schools in Ethiopia, Peru and Sri Lanka. Our students are encouraged to support a range of charities at home and abroad. In 2010-2011, almost £20,000 was raised for this purpose. In summary, each of our students leaves us academically extremely well qualified, culturally and globally aware, and a good friend, a good neighbour, and a good citizen.

We are a school that does not like to stand still; we are not complacent. We have ambitious plans and the capacity to move forward at pace. In recent years we have, for example:

- constructed a new Learning Centre;
- refurbished our Dining Hall. 'The Forum' is wireless networked and offers all day catering from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm;
- commenced a rolling programme of Science Laboratory upgrades; two laboratories have been completely refurbished; a new science preparation area and a student data logging suite have been built. Further laboratory upgrades are planned over the next two years;
- invested significantly in ICT. The majority of our classrooms have digital projectors and interactive whiteboards. All teaching staff have laptops to enable them to fully incorporate ICT within lessons. All classrooms have fixed computers. The school site is wireless networked and we are introducing an infrastructure to allow older students the facility to connect their own laptops to the school network. Specialist ICT equipment has been purchased for many curriculum areas and we have five specialist ICT suites. We offer home / school IT access for staff and students;
- been awarded the NACE Challenge Award for Gifted, Talented and Able provision. We are the first grammar school in Buckinghamshire to achieve this and only the third nationally;
- launched plans to build, within the next few years, a new Music Block, upgrade the School Hall and improve teaching facilities in our Sixth Form Block.

You can read more about the school in this prospectus or you can visit our website at www.whs.bucks.sch.uk, where you will find news and information about the school, our students and our staff. You are also most welcome to come and see for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you to Wycombe High School.



Mrs S N Cromie
Headteacher

Our Aims

Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter (Courageously, Faithfully, Joyfully)

Our school motto summarises our ethos and sense of community. All those who study, work at, or send their children to our school are part of this community and are role models for our ethos. We provide an environment in which each member of our community can live and learn.

Courageously

Each student is encouraged to embrace our core values of honesty, respect and hard work. She is encouraged to speak out against injustice, supported to take risks, and is not afraid of failure. She learns new subjects and skills. She pushes herself to her personal limits and beyond. She is encouraged to listen to the opinions of others, as well as to voice her own. She accepts responsibility for herself and other students. She leads the school in partnership with staff and the governing body. She is independent and innovative in thought and action.

Faithfully

Every student is expected to uphold our school rules and traditions. She acts with integrity and is truthful and honest in all she does. She keeps promises and is reliable. She works hard to achieve her full potential. Above all she is a good friend, a good neighbour and a good citizen. She contributes positively to school life and society.

Joyfully

All our students contribute to making our school the happy and joyful place it is. Each student demonstrates mutual respect and empathy for all and is proud of her own achievements and those of others. She shows commitment to a fair and peaceful community and embraces diversity. Our students are happy and positive in approach, and support others to be the same.



General Information

Founded:	1901
Motto:	Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter <i>Courageously, Faithfully, Joyfully</i>
Number on roll:	1319 (expected September 2011)
Headteacher:	Mrs S N Cromie
Chair of Governors:	Mr David Letheren
Classification:	Academy Status (May 2011)
Admission number for 2011-12	180
External admissions into Sixth Form:	Minimum of 20
Current number of Sixth Form students:	410 (as at September 2011)
Times of school sessions: (excluding lunchtime):	8.50 am – 1.35 pm and 2.40 pm – 3.40 pm
Lesson time:	Total of 25 hours each week in lessons
Assemblies:	Year group / House assemblies take place on a weekly basis.

School term and holiday dates for the academic year 2011-12

	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term 2011	Wednesday 7 September Monday 31 October	Friday 21 October Friday 16 December
Spring Term 2012	Wednesday 4 January Monday 20 February	Friday 10 February Friday 30 March
Summer Term 2012	Monday 16 April Monday 11 June	Friday 1 June Friday 20 July
May Bank Holiday 2012	Monday 7 May	
Spring Bank Holiday 2012	Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 June	

Absences 2010-11

These are reported on a termly basis. Below are the statistics for the Spring term 2011

Total number of students of compulsory school age on roll	909
Percentage of sessions missed through authorised absence:	5.12
Percentage of sessions missed through unauthorised absence:	0.21%

Safeguarding

Wycombe High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All staff are required, before taking up post, to undertake a criminal record check through the Criminal Records Bureau.

Our Curriculum

At Wycombe High School we always remember that the girls we teach today are the women who will shape tomorrow. Our curriculum is broad, flexible and responsive to the needs of these future citizens.

Your daughter will be welcomed into a friendly place of learning where she will grow in knowledge and confidence and be encouraged in her efforts and praised for her achievements. In the classroom she will experience a variety of teaching strategies intended to inspire and challenge.

We aim to foster a love of learning as your daughter moves through the school and to provide her with both the motivation and the skills for independent and lifelong learning. So, for example, she will learn how to research, how to work individually and with others, and how to use various forms of media.

Learning takes place as much outside as inside the classroom. Subjects extend into the community - through fieldwork and visits in the UK and abroad, theatre and film, expert-led workshops, outdoor education and competitions. We provide a wide range of enrichment opportunities to nurture intellectual, social and physical development, irrespective of ability or level of skill.

Students are encouraged to take part in music, dance, drama, debate, sport, community events and, as they grow older, to take on roles in which they lead younger members of our community in such activities. We encourage all students to take advantage of this wider curriculum with its opportunities for adventurous learning and active citizenship.

In the pages that follow, we give details of the current curriculum throughout the school, and describe the subjects which your daughter will encounter in her first years at Wycombe High School. Our staff and students will be delighted to tell you more when you visit.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The school runs a two-week timetable, with five teaching periods of one hour each day. In addition, students have a form period of twenty minutes per day which may be spent in assembly, or engaged in tutorial activities with their form tutor.

Students joining the school in Year 7 follow a two-year curriculum during which they will complete the National Curriculum programmes of study for Key Stage 3. In Year 9 they begin Key Stage 4.

In 2011-12, the curriculum for students in Years 7 and 8 is as follows.

Subject	Hours per fortnight	
	Year 7	Year 8
English	6	6
Maths	6	6
Science	6	6
ICT	3	2
French	4	4
Second language (German, Latin or Spanish)		4
Classics	2	
Religious Studies	2	3
Technology	3	3
History	3	3
Geography	3	3
Art	3	2
Music	3	2
Drama	2	2
PE	4	4

Please note that this information is correct for the school year 2011-12. Changes are made every year to the curriculum. If your daughter enters the school in 2012-13, the subjects and options offered during her time at the school may differ from those shown here.

Our Curriculum

Art

Key Stage 3 Art at Wycombe High School is designed to be fun, exciting and most of all, creative. Exploration of the fundamental principles of drawing is combined with giving students the experience of working with a variety of mediums including painting, ceramics, photography and 3D sculpture. Projects are based around a theme and students have the opportunity to study the work of other artists and cultures, both traditional and contemporary. Recent project titles have included 'Organic Banners' and 'Oaxaca Turtles'. Our Art studios provide fantastic spaces within which to work.

Outside lessons we offer a rich programme of extra-curricular activities, including lunchtime clubs, the opportunity to enter competitions, both locally and nationally, and visits from local artists giving talks on their work / leading workshops.

Classics

Where would we be without the Ancient Greeks and Romans?

Cogito We look at the greatest Empire the world has known, through the customs and language of the people who ruled it. We examine the daily life and beliefs of the men, women, children and slaves who made up that society

Ergo An important component of the course is an introduction to the Latin language, which has influenced so many of the languages of Europe. Students will gain a greater appreciation of the richness of our language, through a study of grammar and vocabulary.

Sum As well as providing a basis for learning other languages, Latin also enriches our appreciation of Europe. The study of Latin calls for clear thinking and helps develop discipline and skills that can improve performance in other subjects.

Design Technology

The emphasis is on acquiring knowledge of materials, equipment and processes in order to design and make high quality products.

In Key Stage 3 students work with wood, metal, plastic, textiles, food and graphics materials. Computers are used frequently for enhancing design work, planning manufacture, CAD/CAM and presentation. Students are taught in smaller groups by specialist teachers throughout Key Stage 3 in purpose-built, well-equipped rooms.

Drama

"Drama is hard work but it's fun!" according to most Wycombe High School students. In Key Stage 3, students learn to create plays, present performances and appreciate theatre. The emphasis is on team work, the acquisition of physical skills and technical expertise, knowledge of contemporary drama and the history of theatre.

We have excellent facilities, including a fully equipped Drama Studio. Students also have many opportunities to act, work backstage and visit the theatre, either as part of their studies or in extra-curricular activities. These include Drama clubs and festivals, the school play and musical productions.

English

Where else can desks become an escape to other worlds, to other cultures and traditions, to fantastic lands peopled by extraordinary characters?

Where else can home learning be a chance to free the mind, to explore the thoughts and feelings of any character alive, dead or imaginary?

Where else can students speak out, argue and listen? Where else can they discover the possibilities of language and communication? Where can they see the world from another perspective?

In English – that's where!

Geography

We aim to open students' eyes to our world, its landscapes, its people and to some of the important environmental issues that affect it.

We introduce the colourful and informative world of maps, which we use to explore and explain the patterns and processes of the Earth's surface. Students develop the skills to use a host of other resources - from photographs, the Internet, and graphs to statistics, satellite images and information they collect for themselves. We encourage students to be inquisitive and to ask questions about landscapes, people and places; we help them to seek answers and explanations.

In Year 7 we start our investigations in the more familiar environment of the UK. We then broaden our studies into Europe and the wider world. We study towns and cities, rivers and rainforests, earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, development and many other themes, places and landscapes.

History

Our history course is a voyage through time, from the Battle of Hastings to the Battle of Britain. A range of experiences awaits students - from being a medieval peasant, to exploring Henry VIII's kitchens and toilets. In the nineteenth century is it rags or riches for them? Will they be a successful entrepreneur or a factory pauper?

Further excitement awaits students in the twentieth century as they witness the Battle of the Somme, experience the Blitz, and fight for their country and for their rights. At the end of this journey they will also have learned how to be an historian!

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Computers, mobile phones, internet, text messaging and e-mails are all part of everyday life in our society. It is vital that students become confident users of ICT and understand how it is used in the world of work, entertainment and the home.

All students will have access to up-to-date technology and learn how to use a wide range of software that will help them in all their subjects and everyday life.

Languages

Currently, all students study French through Key Stage 3, and are able to study a second language (Spanish or Latin) after Year 7.

French is an important world language in the fields of business, scientific research, transport and tourism. It is the first or second language in more than 52 countries and is spoken by 150 million people around the world. It is one of the main official languages of the European Union, as well as being one of the official working languages of many important international organisations.

We cover a range of topics based on students' daily lives and tourist situations at Key Stages 3 and 4. Students learn to speak, write, listen and read, and undertake individual research. Opportunities to participate in homestays, visits and exchanges are also offered.

Mathematics

Mathematics at Wycombe High School is an inspiring subject with many interesting activities designed to help students really enjoy and understand the work. Students will meet new ideas that will help them to think logically and clearly, and they will apply their new knowledge through Number and Algebra, Geometry and Data-handling work.

Students will also learn how to use their mathematical knowledge to guide them with investigations into exciting areas of Mathematics. They might look into the Golden Ratio, find out what pineapples have to do with the sequence 1,1,2,3,5,8,13 or even look at how Escher designed his tessellating fish.

Music

In Key Stage 3, Music is taught with a strong emphasis on the development of practical, creative and aural skills. Lessons take place in a purpose-built Music block where the two main teaching rooms are equipped with a wide selection of classroom percussion instruments, keyboards and computers. The curriculum covers traditional styles, contemporary and world music.

Our Curriculum

In addition to class lessons, students may wish to take individual lessons from one of the sixteen peripatetic staff. Most orchestral instruments, piano, classical guitar and voice are taught and students attend these lessons on a rota basis. Our extra-curricular activities include four choirs, two orchestras, (Senior and Lower School), a Concert Band, Lower School Wind Band, Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble and numerous chamber groups.

A number of students play in the County Youth Orchestra, the National Children's Orchestra, the National Youth Wind Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra and the National Guitar Ensemble. For many years we have organised annual European concert tours, involving a large number of students across all years. These have been very successful and enjoyable for all concerned, as have our in-house productions of 'Oklahoma!', 'The Sound of Music', 'Oliver!', 'Carousel' and 'The King and I'.

PE

Physical Education is an important part of school life. A range of sports and activities including netball, hockey, dance, gymnastics, fitness, football, tag rugby, tennis, athletics and rounders are enjoyed through Years 7 and 8.

We have an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities. Teams are run in netball, hockey, rugby, football, cross country, badminton, tennis, athletics, rounders and gymnastics with practices at lunchtimes and after school. Clubs are open to all abilities, with teams regularly involved in Regional and National Finals.

Dance is a popular and successful area of the curriculum. Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to join Junior Dance Club and Dance Performance Group and perform at school and community events, including 'Highlights', the school's bi-annual dance and gymnastics production.

Religious Studies

In Religious Studies we investigate the beliefs and values of the six main world religions. Students are encouraged to think logically and to analyse philosophical questions, such as 'Who am I? Why is there a Universe? Is there a God?'

To develop skills and attitudes in Religious Studies, lessons involve role play, artwork, discussion, debate and the use of ICT. Students are offered the opportunity to meet members of the various faith communities in Buckinghamshire through speakers in their RS lessons and visits to various places of worship.

Science

Key Stage 3 Science gives students the opportunity to explore and discover more about the world around us, through practical work and experiments and discussion and analysis of the results. Building on students' primary school experience we will be extending their understanding of a wide range of science ideas. All lessons will take place in one of our thirteen labs; students will use fascinating equipment to carry out all sorts of interesting scientific experiments.

As part of their Science course, students will also do activities to help them think more effectively in a scientific and technological manner.

Personal Development & Thinking Skills

Students will experience a number of Focus Days and events where the normal timetable of lessons is replaced by a themed approach. Elements of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) are covered in this way, together with the development of Thinking Skills. In Year 8, there is an increasing emphasis on self-reflection in relation to pathways to future careers and higher education.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

In Key Stage 4 we meet all the **National Curriculum requirements**, and then enrich them with additional opportunities. All students in Key Stage 4 currently take the following subjects to GCSE level:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Citizenship (GCSE short course)
- Mathematics (and possibly Additional Mathematics)
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry

Students also choose **four other subjects** to study to GCSE, taking two of these in Years 9 - 10 and two of these in Years 10 - 11. One option must be a language (ancient or modern). In 2011-12, the available subjects include:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Classical Civilisation
- Drama
- French*
- Geography
- Graphics Products
- History
- ICT
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish*
- Textiles

*A modern foreign language is recommended for some universities.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, PE, Careers and work-related learning are important elements of our curriculum at all Key Stages and broaden the girls' skills, experience and understanding at all levels.

All students have two hours per week of Physical Education (non-examined). PSHEE is taught through a series of Focus Days. Work-related experience and opportunities are available during Key Stage 4 and / or 5.

Please note that this information is correct for the school year 2011-12. Changes are made every year to the curriculum. If your daughter enters the school in 2012-13, the subjects and options offered during her time at the school may differ from those shown here.

The Sixth Form Curriculum

Choosing A Levels at Wycombe High School

At the moment, A Levels are still the preferred qualifications for admission to most Higher Education establishments. At Wycombe High School we currently offer over thirty subjects at AS / A Level. Most of these are subjects studied at GCSE, although there are several 'new' subjects.

We invite all Year 12 students to study four AS subjects and one additional 'Enrichment' or 'Extension' subject. In Year 13, we ask students to select three of their AS subjects to take on to A Level. The final decision on which subject to drop is made in January of Year 12. However, we pride ourselves on being flexible. For example, gifted students may, if possible, take all four AS subjects on to A2, while musicians who play at county or national level are exempted from the Enrichment or Extension subject.

The **AS options** on offer for 2011 are as follows:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computing*
- Dance**
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Economics
- English Literature
- Fine Art
- French
- Geography
- German*
- Government & Politics
- History – Early Modern
- History – Modern
- ICT
- Latin
- Mathematics – Statistics
- Mathematics – Mechanics
- Music
- Music Technology*
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Product Design: Graphics with Materials Technology
- Product Design: Textiles
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

These subjects are studied at neighbouring schools (John Hampden Grammar School and Sir William Borlase Grammar School**).

The **Enrichment and Extension subjects** on offer for 2011 are:

- Community Sports Leadership Award
- Critical Thinking AS
- Film Studies AS
- Further Mathematics A Level (a two-year course)
- Geology AS
- Italian GCSE
- Photography AS
- Spanish GCSE
- Young Enterprise

In addition, Year 13 students are offered the opportunity to take:

- Classical Greek GCSE
- Latin GCSE
- Level 3 Extended Project Qualification
- Advanced Extension Award in Mathematics
- Creative iMedia Certificate
- Food Enrichment Programme

Please note that this information is correct for the school year 2011-12. Changes are made every year to the curriculum. If your daughter enters the school in 2012-13, the subjects and options offered during her time at the school may differ from those shown here.

Supporting students' learning

We support learning in many ways, helping our students to make the most of themselves and their abilities and all that the school has to offer.

We provide:

- a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum suited to the needs, interests and abilities of our students;
- a forward-thinking and coherent Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme, with expert guest speakers, delivered through a series of Focus Days;
- a wide-ranging programme of Educational Visits;
- extensive extra-curricular and enrichment programmes;
- exciting opportunities for leadership and teamwork development;
- community-based activities;
- personal guidance – and a Student Planner - to help your daughter manage her time and work effectively.

We organise:

- personal tutoring to celebrate successes and achievements and set targets for improvement;
- student and parent conferences;
- activities to provide additional challenge and enrichment for our most able students;
- intervention and mentoring programmes for students experiencing difficulties;
- individual and group sessions for students with specific learning difficulties.

We have a wide range of people who share responsibility for supporting your daughter's learning.

- Your daughter will have daily contact with her **Form Tutor**. She will have a **Head of House** who has overall responsibility for her academic progress and well-being.
- She will be taught by well-qualified, specialist **Subject Teachers**, working in departments led by **Subject Leaders** who are responsible for the quality of learning and teaching.

- The **Headteacher**, with the **Leadership Group**, has overall responsibility for all aspects of school life.
- Our **Student Support Services Centre** provides support for students on a day-to-day basis and has strong links with outside agencies. The team comprises:
 - a Student Welfare Manager, who works closely with Form Tutors and Heads of House on attendance, medical and pastoral matters;
 - four Student Managers, who deal with all kinds of pastoral and organisational queries and concerns.
- Our **Student Development Leader** coordinates the wider learning opportunities within the school.
- Our **Individual Needs Leader** oversees provision for students requiring additional support and those with specific learning difficulties.
- Our **Gifted and Talented Lead Teacher** oversees provision for gifted and talented students.
- We have a knowledgeable and supportive **Governing Body** fully involved with all aspects of school life, and an enthusiastic and active **Parents and Friends Association**.
- As a **parent** you have a key role in supporting the school to help your daughter to achieve her potential.

Summer 2011 GCSE Results

Number of students in Year 11: 180

SUBJECT	Students entered	Grades achieved								
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	56	20	10	22	3	1				
Astronomy	4	2		1	1					
Biology	154	58	54	35	7					
Business Studies	66	6	37	16	6	1				
Chemistry	154	77	50	21	6					
Classical Civilisation	12	4	3	5						
D&T: Food Technology	12	5	5	2						
D&T: Product Design	25	17	5	2	1					
D&T: Textiles	25	18	5	2						
Drama	37	2	4	18	12	1				
Dutch	1	1								
English Language	180	44	117	19						
English Literature	180	50	90	36	4					
French	120	31	44	31	10	4				
Geography	89	14	36	22	12	5				
German	24	5	10	6	3					
Greek	6	1	2	2	1					
History	99	36	37	20	4	1	1			
Human Physiology	4		2		1	1				
ICT	179	25	105	43	6					
Italian	12	6	5	1						
Latin	19	10	6	3						
Mathematics	180	38	109	31	2					
Music	20	4	10	6						
Physics	154	52	60	35	7					
Polish	1	1								
P.E.	27	2	7	10	2	4	2			
Psychology	19	8	8	2	1					
Religious Studies	45	31	14							
Science	26		7	17	2					
Additional Science	26		9	15	2					
Spanish	34	15	15	3	1					
Turkish	1	1								
TOTAL	1991	584	866	426	94	18	3			
GCSE Short Course										
Citizenship	180	68	76	28	8					
TOTAL	2171	652	942	454	102	18	3	0	0	0

Please note that these results are still subject to confirmation following appeals and re-mark requests for some candidates.

For information about our results in previous years, please go to our website www.whs.bucks.sch.uk

Summer 2011 A Level Results

Number of students in Year 13: 189

SUBJECT	Students entered	Grades achieved						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art	22	7	5	6	3	1		
Biology	50	7	9	13	14	5	2	
Business Studies	24	1	4	9	8	2		
Chemistry	34	3	9	12	6	1	3	
Classical Civilisation	12		4	3	3	2		
Critical Thinking	1			1				
D&T Food Technology	5	3	2					
D&T Product Design	9		4	2	3			
D&T Textiles	13	1	4	3	4	1		
Drama	8			6	2			
Economics	18	1	3	10	2	1	1	
English Literature	46	4	25	10	5	2		
Extended Project	18	13	3	1	1			
French	9	2	2	4	1			
Geography	30	2	12	10	4	2		
History	38	5	17	9	5	2		
Information Technology	11	1	4	2	2	2		
Latin	8	2	2	4				
Mathematics	63	10	12	21	13	5	1	1
Mathematics Further	8	2	3	3				
Music	3		2			1		
Physics	7	2	3	2				
Politics	21	7	9	2		3		
Psychology	61	5	11	21	19	5		
Religious Studies	15	3	3	4	3	2		
Sociology	12	3	2	3	2	2		
Spanish	4	2	1		1			
Sport/PE Studies	6	2	2	1		1		
TOTAL	556	88	157	162	101	40	7	1

Please note that these results are still subject to confirmation following appeals and re-mark requests for some candidates.

For information about our results in previous years, please go to our website www.whs.bucks.sch.uk.

Uniform Policy

Our uniform policy and dress codes have been drawn up in consultation with students, parents, staff and members of the local community, including faith groups.

Aims

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of, and from, all students. Through our uniform policy and dress codes we aim to:

- encourage pride in the school
- encourage a sense of equality and cohesion
- protect students from social pressures to dress in a particular way
- ensure that girls of different social, religious and ethnic groups feel welcome
- support teaching and learning
- provide a safe and secure environment in which students learn how to dress appropriately.

In these ways, the uniform and dress codes support the overall aims of the school.

Uniform - Years 7 - 11

Regulation items of uniform must be purchased from the school uniform supplier. The current list is as follows.

- **Regulation** blue, revere collared short or long sleeved blouse.
- **Regulation**, v neck jumper with embroidered school badge, blue for Years 7, 8 and 9 and burgundy for Years 10 and 11 (other jumpers may not be worn).
- **Regulation** black skirt, worn close to the knee.
- **Regulation** black hipster trousers.
- Plain black socks or black / flesh coloured tights.
- Dark coloured flat / low-heeled shoes suitable for wearing during the day and to and from school.
- Plain, dark-coloured coat (denim, leather and suede jackets are not permitted).
- Plain, dark coloured scarf and / or hat.
- Outdoor clothing, including coats, hats and scarves, must be removed on arrival at school.
- Hair should be worn away from the face or tied up and back (for students in Years 7 to 9) using a scrunchie, hairband, clip or ribbon.

- Hair accessories for all year groups must be plain blue, black or in a colour that naturally blends with the hair.
- Unnatural hair colouring is not permitted; the interpretation of 'unnatural' is as follows:
 - a colour that is not found within the natural hair colour spectrum, ie a bright, extreme or vivid colour;
 - a combination of colours that is easily visible or stark in contrast.
- If hair extensions are worn, no beading is permitted. Extensions must also be in a colour that naturally blends with the hair.
- Jewellery is not permitted; however, a lightweight gold or silver chain with a small religious symbol is permissible.
- One small, single, plain gold or silver stud in each ear is permitted; the stud must be worn in the lower part of the earlobe and should be removed for PE and dance lessons. Students wearing studs in their ears, other than their lobes will be expected to remove them.
- Other body piercings or tattoos / body paintings are not permitted.
- Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted.
- Fingernails must be short and nail extensions of any kind may not be worn.
- Garments covering the face or whole body are not permitted.
- Muslim students who wish to wear hijabs may do so provided that the fabric is plain, lightweight and dark blue or black.
- A plain, dark-coloured, medium size rucksack should be used to, from and within school.

Our supplier is:

Sportcrest Swan House 1 White Hart Street
High Wycombe HP11 2HL

Tel: 01494 534741

Fax: 01494 462425

Opening hours are Monday - Saturday 9.00 am - 5.30 pm and Sunday 10.30 am - 4.00 pm. Please note that although uniform is for sale on Sundays, there is no professional fitting service available. This service is available Monday through to Saturday only.

Sixth Form Dress Code

There is no uniform in the Sixth Form; however, Sixth Form students are required to fully comply with the following dress code and to be dressed in a way that is neat, tidy and appropriate to the school environment.

The following are requirements:

- no excessive exposure of flesh;
 - no spaghetti or shoelace straps to tops or dresses;
 - no strapless tops or dresses;
 - no plunging necklines;
 - no bare midriffs;
- leggings may not be worn as an alternative to trousers;
- mid-length **smart** skirts, shorts and dresses may be worn;
- t-shirts which have inappropriate comments / logos on them are not permitted;
- coats may not be worn in and around the school;
- visible piercings, other than in the ear lobes, and tattoos / body paintings are not permitted;
- unnatural hair colouring is not permitted; the interpretation of 'unnatural' is as follows:
 - a colour that is not found within the natural hair colour spectrum, ie a bright, extreme or vivid colour;
 - a combination of colours that is easily visible or stark in contrast;
- if hair extensions are worn, no beading is permitted. Extensions must also be in a colour that naturally blends with the hair;
- garments covering the face or whole body are not permitted;
- Muslim students who wish to wear hijabs may do so.

On formal occasions, for example, when guiding or assisting departments on Open Evening and welcoming visitors to school events, sixth formers are expected to wear black trousers / skirts and white shirts.

Cost of uniform

We want to ensure that the cost of uniform does not deter any girl from applying to the school, nor leads to students feeling socially excluded or unable to afford other necessities.

Parents who are unable to provide their daughter with the required items of school uniform should contact Student Support Services. Such approaches will be handled with discretion and sensitivity.

Enforcement of the Uniform Policy / Sixth Form Dress Code

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their daughter comes to school in the correct uniform (see the Home School Agreement). Form tutors are responsible for monitoring uniform / dress code: all staff have a responsibility for ensuring that students are correctly dressed in lessons and elsewhere on the school site.

A student wearing non-uniform / inappropriate clothing will be sent to Student Support Services / Head of Sixth Form to change. In the event of repeated uniform / dress code infringements parents will be contacted and the student will risk being sent home or other sanctions being applied, according to the school's behaviour management policy. In the case of jewellery and other accessories, the student will be asked to remove the item, which may be confiscated.

The Headteacher is the final arbiter in all matters of uniform and dress.

Issues arising from the policy

Parents should raise any issues relating to school uniform, Sixth Form Dress Code or other aspects of appearance with the Headteacher. Requests to vary the uniform requirements for particular reasons, such as medical needs, will be carefully considered.

Students should raise issues with their form tutor and Head of House; they may also request that uniform matters, including proposals for change, be put on to the agenda of Year and School Council meetings.

Policy reviews

Our uniform regulations are reviewed annually; the review includes consideration of uniform items, supply, cost and value for money. Parents, students and staff are consulted regularly and no less frequently than every three years.

Admissions Policy

For entry from September 2012

General Principles

Wycombe High School is a single sex girls' selective state academy school with 1300 students on roll, of whom nearly 400 are in the Sixth Form. The school has educated girls of High Wycombe for over a hundred years and is very highly regarded in the local and wider community. There is a strong and shared sense of community and collective pride, built on core values. We are a Mathematics and Computing Specialist School.

The main principle of admission to Wycombe High School is to provide high quality, inclusive education to girls aged 11 to 18 who live within the catchment area and who have the aptitude and ability for a grammar school education. However, there is no guarantee of a place for girls living in the catchment area. The school will endeavour to provide places for girls who live outside the catchment area whose parents wish them to attend Wycombe High School, provided they can be accommodated within the admission limits and subject to our oversubscription criteria.

Ordinary Year 7 Admissions

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11+ if they meet the required standard in tests currently used by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) for 11+ selection (details of which can be found on the BCC web site at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/schools/admissions/admission.page>). Admission of qualifying pupils will be up to the admission number in Year 7 for September 2012 which will be 180. Criteria to be used in the event of oversubscription are set out below.

For entry into Years 7 to 11 the school participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all deadlines within that scheme should be adhered to by all applicants. Applications should be made via the Local Authority.

In-Year Admissions (Years 7 to 11 only)

Applications for a school place after the normal time of admissions (In-Year Admissions) to Year 7 will be processed as set out in BCC's Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for secondary schools.

The application process will be managed by BCC, as part of its In-Year Admissions procedure (http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/schools/admissions/immediate_admissions.page?) and therefore applications should be made in writing via Buckinghamshire County Council.

Admission to Years 7 to 11 will be subject to the availability of a place and dependent on the results of testing. For in-year admission to Years 7, 8 and Year 9 up to the point where the school begins KS4 courses of study, BCC's test process will be used, as set out in the Co-ordinated Admission Scheme. If a girl is tested and qualifies, the qualification will be valid until the school commences its Key Stage 4 curriculum.

For admission at Key Stage 4 (Years 9 to 11) the school will administer separate subject-based tests applicable to each year group. Success in the school's test is not linked to the availability of places.

Sixth Form Admissions

All students of Year 11 will be encouraged to apply for the Sixth Form. We also accept applications from students wishing to transfer from another school.

200 places for girls will be offered for the Sixth Form from which a minimum of 20 external candidates will be admitted if they meet our entry requirements and course places remain available after allocation to qualifying internal candidates. If more than 20 external candidates successfully meet our entry requirements, use of the Sixth Form oversubscription criteria set out below will determine which applicants are allocated the number of external places available after qualifying internal candidates are allocated their places.

Applications from external candidates should be made in writing direct to the school, within the timescales set out in the school's Sixth Form Prospectus.

Sixth Form Entry Requirements

Entry requirements are that:

- the course(s) required is / are on offer;
- a girl will have achieved a minimum of 360 points in her eight best full GCSEs, two of which will include Mathematics and English Language at grades A* - C;
- a girl will meet the entry requirements for the subjects being studied as detailed in the prospectus.

Please note:

- group sizes must be viable. In the event that a subject or course does not attract sufficient applicants, either at AS or A2 level, it may not run;
- students who do not achieve a D grade at AS at the end of Year 12 will not be permitted to continue this subject to A2. In order to qualify for Year 13 a student must have D grades in at least two subjects at AS level and 90% attendance/punctuality.

Oversubscription

Girls who have statements of Special Educational Needs naming the school will be admitted prior to the application of these admission rules.

Years 7 - 11

Where eligible applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below to decide which student who meets the required standard to admit:

- (a) girls in Public Care;
- (b) girls living in the catchment area;
- (c) younger sisters of current students in Years 7 to 12 at the point of allocation and who will be on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission;
- (d) once the rules above have been applied, any further places will be offered in distance order, using the distance between the family's normal home address and the school's nearest entrance gate, as defined above.

Tiebreaker

Where the school can take some, though not all, of the girls who qualify under one of these criteria, priority will be given to girls by taking account of the next criteria in the numbered list to decide who has priority for places.

Multiple Births

In the case where there is one place left and the next girl due to be admitted is one of a twin, triplet or other multiple birth group, both twins (if girls) will be admitted or all female siblings in the case of multiple births, even if this goes above the admission number for the school.

Sixth Form

Where eligible applications for courses exceed the number of places available, places will be offered first to girls in Public Care, provided they meet the Sixth Form entry requirements, then to students obtaining the highest average point score from their top eight GCSE (full course) results. If there is more than one student with the same score, home to school distance as defined above will be the final determinant.

Definitions and Details regarding all Categories of Admission above

Catchment Area

The catchment area for Wycombe High School covers High Wycombe and a number of the surrounding towns and villages, including Marlow. A map of the catchment area is available at:
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/schools/ed_catch_map_Wycombe_High.pdf.

Parents wishing to know their entitlement to free home to school transport should contact the BCC Admissions Team.

Sibling

By sibling we mean sisters of whole or half blood, or any other girl (including an adopted child) who permanently resides at the same address and for whom the parent also has parental responsibility.

Parent

The application form should be completed by a person who is the girl's parent. The definition of a parent is as defined in the Education Act 1996.

Normal Home Address

'Normal home address' is where the girl and the girl's parent live. This must be a residential property that is the girl's only or main residence, not an address at which the girl may sometimes stay or sleep due to the parent's domestic arrangements, and must be all of the following:

- owned, leased or rented by the girl's parent(s) or person with parental responsibility;
- where the pupil spends the majority of her school week nights (Sunday-Thursday inclusive);
- the registered address to which Child Benefit for the pupil is currently being paid.

Home to school distance

The shortest route will be measured by BCC's Geographical Information System as described in the Buckinghamshire admissions booklet.

Waiting List

Girls who have qualified and have not been allocated a place will have their name placed on the waiting list. The waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the school's over-subscription criteria as detailed above. Waiting lists will be maintained throughout each of the current Years 7-11 and a girl's name will automatically be removed at the end of Year 7 unless her parent applies in writing to the School for her name to be transferred to the Year 8 list prior to her starting Year 8. This procedure will subsequently apply to each subsequent year whilst the pupil remains on roll.

Appeals

If your daughter is not offered a place at Wycombe High School you have the right to appeal to an independent panel. The appeal process is managed on the school's behalf by BCC, which should be contacted in the event that you wish to appeal.

Policy Review

This Admissions Policy is subject to annual review. Comments relating to this policy should be emailed to office@whs.bucks.sch.uk with the header 'Admissions feedback'.

Fair Access Protocol

The school complies with the Buckinghamshire In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

Sixth Form Entry 2012

Unless there are any extenuating circumstances, students who wish to study AS levels at Wycombe High School must:

- Gain a minimum of 360 points in her eight best full GCSEs**, two of which will include Mathematics and English Language at grades A* - C.

Full GCSE		Short GCSE	
A*	58	A*	29
A	52	A	26
B	46	B	23
C	40	C	20
D	34	D	17
E	28	E	14
F	22	F	11
G	16	G	8

- And meet Departmental entry requirements in four AS subjects.**

A student wishing to continue a GCSE subject to AS must have gained at least a B grade in that subject at GCSE. Maths is an exception: a student wishing to do Maths A Level must have gained at least an A grade in Maths GCSE.

We also offer seven new subjects at AS that we do not teach at GCSE level. In these cases the following entry requirements pertain:

- Computing B grades in Maths and ICT GCSEs
- Economics B grades in English Language and Maths GCSEs
- Government & Politics B grades in English Language and / or History GCSEs
- RS (Philosophy & Ethics) B grades in Religious Studies and / or Citizenship GCSEs*
- Physical Education B grade in PE and / or BB in GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science
- Psychology B grade in English Language and B in Maths GCSEs
- Sociology B grade in English Language and/or a humanity GCSE

* Applications from external candidates whose schools do not offer these subjects as GCSEs will also be considered.

Sixth Form Entry 2012

Eight departments permit a student to do their subject at AS where the student has not done that subject at GCSE, as long as other criteria are met:

- Business Studies B grades in Maths & English Language GCSEs
- Classical Civilisation B grade in English Literature GCSE
- Food Technology B grade in another Technology GCSE
- Product Design (Textiles) B grades in Art and / or another Technology GCSE
- Geography B grades in Maths and BB in Science GCSEs
- History B grades in English Language and in English Lit GCSEs
- Music Grade 6 Practical and Grade 5 Theory and active participation in ensembles in school.
- Product Design (Graphics) B grades in Art and / or another Technology GCSE

Those opting for GCSE Italian or GCSE Spanish need to be good linguists, measured by the fact that they gained at *least* an A grade in one Modern Foreign Language GCSE.

Please note:

- group sizes must be viable. In the event that a subject or course does not attract sufficient applicants, either at AS or A2 level, it may not run;
- students who do not achieve a D grade at AS at the end of Year 12 will not be permitted to continue this subject to A2. In order to qualify for Year 13 a student must have D grades in at least two subjects at AS level and 90% attendance/punctuality.

Year 13

Unless there are extenuating circumstances (like serious illness), a student wishing to progress on to Year 13 must have:

- D grades in at least two subjects at AS
- a 90% attendance rate in registrations and lessons
- a 90% punctuality rate in registrations and lessons

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Internal Applicants

Internal applicants should complete the school's application form and return it to the Head of Sixth Form by Tuesday 13 December 2011. Applications received after this date will be given every consideration but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate AS choices. All internal applicants are invited to have a short informal discussion about their choices with a senior member of staff.

External Applicants

We are delighted to receive applications from students who are not currently at Wycombe High School. At present we reserve a minimum of 20 places a year for such external applicants. If more than 20 external candidates successfully meet our entry requirements - something we can only know on GCSE Results Day itself - those with the highest average GCSE point scores from their eight best full GCSEs will be admitted, subject to the number of places being available. Usually, 30 - 35 external students gain places.

External applicants are requested to complete the application form available from the school and return it to the Head of Sixth Form by **Friday 27 January 2012.**

Applications received after this date will be given every consideration but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate AS choices.

Students will be able to obtain from their current school their UCI number (Unique Examination Number) and UPN (Unique Pupil Number). These numbers are very important and must be included on the application form.

We would also ask students to include with their application form:

- a letter outlining their reasons for wanting to study their chosen AS subjects and making it clear what it is about these subjects that interests them. They should also give details of how they have contributed to their school community whilst studying for GCSEs and outline what they feel they could contribute to the Sixth Form at Wycombe High School;
- A copy of their latest report or Record of Achievement.

All external applicants are invited to the school on Friday 16 March 2012 for an External Applicant Open Morning to visit the school and have the opportunity to ask questions about the application process.



Wycombe High School

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