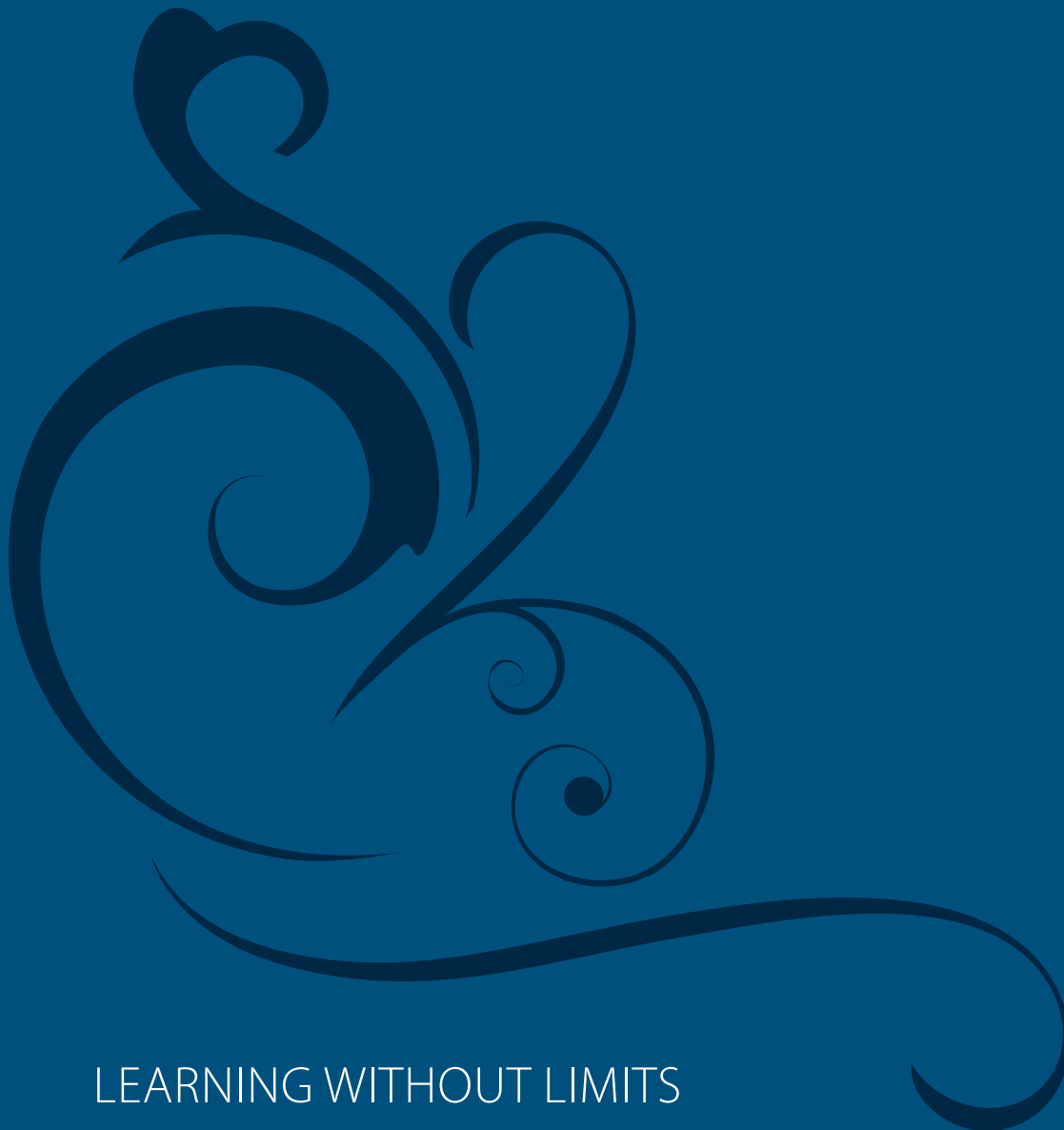




WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL



LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS



WELCOME TO WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL

IT IS MY PLEASURE, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNORS, STAFF AND STUDENTS,
TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR SCHOOL.



Whitmore High School is a mixed comprehensive school with an excellent record of achievement. Students achieve the highest standards of work and behaviour in a positive, friendly but disciplined atmosphere. Our highly-qualified staff are committed to ensuring all students reach their full potential, and we work closely with parents to achieve this.

In 2015, we were delighted that Ofsted again judged the school to be Outstanding in all areas, including the Sixth Form. The inspection team commented on the "Outstanding progress" and "exemplary behaviour"

demonstrated by our students, our "commitment to making sure that all students achieve their best" and the "exceptional" support for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which our students receive. A copy of the Ofsted report is available on our school website.

We care for our students as individuals and support them to be happy, confident and successful young people. We stretch and challenge them to achieve their very best in all aspects of school life, and we provide a wide range of pastoral and extra-curricular opportunities to enrich their personal development.

Whitmore is a popular and oversubscribed school. We have close and supportive links with our local primary schools, but also welcome students from outside this network.

I encourage you to visit us during the working day – we would be delighted to welcome you, and to organise a personal meeting. Please do contact the school to make an appointment.

Susan Hammond
Headteacher



AIMS OF OUR SCHOOL

AT WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL WE AIM TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS.

We achieve this by:

- promoting a broad and balanced curriculum in which students take an active part in their own learning
- recognising the needs of individuals, placing suitable high demands on them and stimulating them to achieve success
- encouraging students to aim for the highest standards of work and behaviour at all times
- creating an ordered and friendly community where relationships are positive and founded on courtesy, respect and shared values
- acknowledging the importance of links between home, school and the wider community
- maintaining a spirit of constructive self-criticism, regularly considering improvements to existing practice.



STUDENT SUCCESS

WHITMORE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN RECENT YEARS, AND THE SCHOOL HAS AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.

In 2016, 73% of students achieved A*– C grades in both English and Maths alongside a range of widely-respected GCSE courses. A quarter of GCSEs were graded A* or A and over 60 students gained five or more A*/A grades.

All our students typically continue in education and training beyond 16, and most gain the entry qualifications for advanced courses such as A Levels. The vast majority of our Sixth Formers go on to university.

The progress made by students at Whitmore High School is truly outstanding.

In English, Mathematics and Science, progress is regularly in the top 10% nationally for all three subjects.

Outstanding progress is made by students of all abilities at all key stages, as recognised by Ofsted in 2015.



AN OUTSTANDING LEARNING EXPERIENCE



OUR CURRICULUM LIES AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO AT WHITMORE, AND OUTSTANDING TEACHING UNDERPINS THE BREADTH AND BALANCE OF EVERY CHILD'S LEARNING.

ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENRICH THEIR CORE OF ACADEMIC SUBJECTS WITH TWO LANGUAGES, HUMANITIES, CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

The high quality of our teaching staff is recognised in our Outstanding Ofsted report, as well as our status as a Teaching School, acting as a hub of training and support for new teachers and working in partnership with other local high schools to offer support and to share our practice. In addition, we are proud to be a specialist Science College, recognised for the outstanding progress made in this area.

We have made smaller class sizes a priority. In their first two years, students are taught in classes of twenty-seven or less. GCSE classes are often smaller still.

Subject teachers regularly assess students' work to monitor progress. Any problems are quickly identified and remedied before greater difficulties set in. Reports are issued three times a year and used to track students' progress towards challenging, personalised targets, as well as providing details of attendance, punctuality and behaviour. These reports help parents, carers and staff to support all students to achieve their full potential.

Homework forms a crucial part of our curriculum: Year 7 students are expected to complete 1 hour per day. This rises to 1 ½ hours a day in Years 8 and 9 and 2 hours a day by Years 10 and 11. This is an integral part of your child's learning at Whitmore, and represents an opportunity to develop independent learning skills or to pursue an area of interest.

More able students are given appropriate, challenging work in class. Departments also run a range of enrichment activities and students have the opportunity to take part in masterclasses, local and national competitions and summer schools.

Whitmore students learn in a new, state-of-the-art school, which provides an outstanding environment in which they can develop their talents to the full and grow into mature and responsible members of society.



WORKING TOGETHER

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IN WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR STUDENTS.

We value parents' opinions and give parents frequent opportunities to feed back to us. These responses are taken extremely seriously and are used to help us plan for our future. In addition, we publish a regular newsletter and the Headteacher runs a weekly "surgery", open to all parents. Details can be found on our website.

Our committed and effective governing body takes responsibility for the overall direction of the school. Governors take an active part in overseeing finances, staffing, curriculum and premises, and in planning for the future. They work in partnership with parents and staff to share responsibility for the school's success and our excellent relations with the community.

YEARS 7 – 8

A STUDENT IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS AT WHITMORE WILL FOLLOW AN ENHANCED CURRICULUM WHICH DEVELOPS KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND UNDERSTANDING ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF VITAL AREAS.

English, Maths and Science form the core of the curriculum, and this is complemented by a wide range of creative, practical and artistic subjects. Every student participates in two lessons of PE per week.

Each week, all students also have an assembly and a PSHCE lesson, which takes place in their tutor groups.

We are committed to providing a curriculum which supports the development of the whole child, and place great value on balancing academic success with artistic, creative, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.



GCSES YEARS 9 – 11

STARTING IN YEAR 9, STUDENTS TAKE A SMALLER NUMBER OF COURSES AND CONCENTRATE ON THESE FOR THEIR GCSE EXAMINATIONS AT THE END OF YEAR 11. EXCELLENT EXAM RESULTS ARE OUR PRIORITY, PROVIDING ALL STUDENTS WITH A PLATFORM TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION.

Every child takes a compulsory core of subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double or Triple Award Science and RE.

In addition, we offer a wide selection of optional courses and encourage every child to experience a breadth of academic and creative subjects. Students typically study for 11 or 12 GCSEs in total, although this does vary according to need.

At Whitmore, we take GCSE option choices extremely seriously, and organise a very full programme to inform parents and students about the process, and to discuss students' progress. Every student receives a guidance interview before choices are finalised – which parents are very welcome to attend.



AN OUTSTANDING SIXTH FORM

WHITMORE'S SIXTH FORM IS EXTREMELY POPULAR AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, WITH STUDENTS ACHIEVING VERY HIGH STANDARDS.

Along with the rest of the school, our Sixth Form was judged Outstanding by Ofsted in its 2015 inspection. In 2016, 62% of A Levels were awarded A*-B grades and students' progress was in the top 10% nationally.

We offer a wide range of courses – over 30 A Levels are available, as well as Level 3 BTEC awards in Sport and Health & Social Care. The breadth of the courses we offer is greatly enhanced by our membership of the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate: we work in partnership with local high schools and colleges to ensure that all our sixth formers can follow their desired pathway.

Our school's ethos of high expectations and individual care and support continues into Sixth Form. In addition to outstanding teaching and learning, our Sixth Formers enjoy a wide range of trips and activities and are expected to carry out leadership roles in the school and local community. This is reinforced by a rigorous pastoral programme, developing further the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which students receive all the way through their time at Whitmore High School.

A separate prospectus for the Sixth Form is available from school reception; alternatively, please visit our website.



PASTORAL CARE

AT WHITMORE, EVERY CHILD IS KNOWN AND CARED FOR AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our care for all students, which begins before they have even arrived! We recognise that the move from primary school to high school is an important step for every child, and we work closely with local primary schools to support all students in this important transition.

A team of form tutors, led by a Head of Year and their Deputy, looks after each year group. This team provides constant personal, social and academic care and guidance, ensuring that every child feels secure to learn

and thrive in our school community. The year team moves up the school with the students, and so gets to know them very well during their time at Whitmore.

Additional extensive mentoring and support is offered to provide further care for students as they prepare for public examinations.

Students need to attend school regularly to achieve their full potential. We monitor attendance closely, and we expect every student to achieve at least 98% attendance.



REWARDS & DISCIPLINE

AT EVERY STAGE, WE PRAISE STUDENTS AND REWARD THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

Whether through the whole school system of credits and certificates, by a word of praise or thanks, recognition in assemblies, awards meals, or our annual Achievement Evenings. We also recognise great work in displays around the school and in our monthly newsletter.

Good school discipline goes hand-in-hand with our outstanding pastoral care. Excellent behaviour is founded on self-respect, motivation, courtesy, consideration for others and an understanding that we all have rights

and responsibilities. We expect the highest standards of behaviour, which are a key part of the positive and friendly atmosphere of our school.

Students and parents are asked to sign a Home-School Agreement to commit to supporting these high standards of behaviour, attendance, work ethic, uniform and general attitude. A clear Code of Conduct ensures all students are aware of these standards.

GUIDANCE & CAREERS

OUR PROGRAMME OF PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION HELPS OUR YOUNG PEOPLE PREPARE FOR ADULT LIFE, AND THIS STARTS AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE AT WHITMORE.

Students and their parents may consult our specialist careers staff at any time, or to use our extensive careers library. Specific help and advice is given to students in Years 10 and 11, and in the Sixth Form, about how best to proceed to the next stage of education, training or employment.

In Year 10, all students undertake work experience. This includes practice interviews with staff from local businesses, a wide variety of placements and a debriefing session on their return. We use our many contacts in the business world to assist us with this programme and call on them again in our annual "Preparing for Opportunities" conference in Year 11. This event introduces students to the job opportunities and entry requirements for a wide range of careers.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WHITMORE STUDENTS PERFORM TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN THE ARTS AND SPORT – ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH ARE COMPLEMENTED BY THE BROAD RANGE OF INTERPERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS WHICH THEY DEVELOP.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE A VITAL PART OF WHAT MAKES OUR STUDENTS BECOME CONFIDENT, CARING YOUNG ADULTS.

VISITS

There are many opportunities for taking part in visits both at home and abroad. The Languages Department arranges annual study visits to France and Germany. Activity trips are organised in many other departments, including adventure training in Devon, Geography field trips to Spain, the History trip to the war graves at Ypres and excursions for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Music students participate in workshops, technology students compete in engineering challenges and a wide range of musical and theatre groups visit Whitmore to perform for our students.

Mathematics, Science, English and Languages students and our Debating Team take part in local and national competitions. Students also organise enterprise events which cover a range of activities – everything from talent shows to Dragon's Den!

CLUBS

A wide range of fantastic clubs and activities takes place before and after school, and at lunchtimes. These include sport, art, music, drama, film, enterprise, debating, language and faith groups. The programme of clubs is published in our monthly newsletter.

Whitmore also runs a range of coursework support and revision classes for students preparing for exams.

Our breakfast club offers a range of healthy breakfast foods, together with activities such as table tennis and board games.



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