

**WROTHAM  
SCHOOL**  
**A GREAT  
EDUCATION**

Wrotham School is proud to be a member of the Character Education Trust.

<https://www.charactereducationtrust.org/>





## Welcome to Wrotham School

Since becoming an academy in 2013, Wrotham School has become a high performing, truly comprehensive school that is focused on achieving academic excellence, high quality experiences and character development. We believe that this provides the best starting point for all of our students to be happy, successful and confident in their future lives.

Since then, following GCSE results that consistently placed Wrotham School as one of the top performing comprehensive schools in Kent, in June 2019 Ofsted judged the 'Effectiveness of Leadership and Management' and the 'Personal Development and Welfare of Students' to be Outstanding, with an overall effectiveness judgement of Good.

Our vision is to create an outstanding school where all students, regardless of ability or background, make exceptional progress, gain meaningful qualifications and therefore have access to valuable progression routes that will enable them to be well qualified to achieve success and well-being through having choices in their adult life.

## Message from the Headteacher



### **At Wrotham School we do things differently.**

We believe that our students deserve to have the highest expectations made of them in everything they do.

As a comprehensive school we are committed to ensuring the most able students are challenged and stretched to achieve the highest grades, and that those students who need more support with their learning receive this from highly skilled teachers and other professionals. We ask that preconceptions of non-selective education are left at the door. The achievement of our students speaks for itself and highlights the high quality teaching and support that our students receive.

Wrotham School offers a great education and shows that you can have success without selection. Our reputation and results have led to high demand for places at the school and we continue to grow whilst ensuring our core values are maintained. In 2020/2021 we have begun an ambitious improvement of our school building and facilities including our recently completed, brand new, 4 court sports hall complex.

As you will see from our online and printed publications, we offer a full and broad education that achieves both great academic performance and essential character development. Our staff are passionate, high quality subject specialists who teach excellence through the engagement of students' naturally inquisitive nature.

We challenge our staff and students to ensure that what goes on in each classroom is of the highest level of challenge and with great success. We are an honest and open school, we work with parents to resolve issues and improve.

We do things differently and we do not persist with outdated approaches to education or day to day business that are ineffective. We listen, evaluate and move forward with our communities' best interests at heart. Our methodology and outcomes have recently received high praise from Ofsted (June 2019) and we welcome you to visit the school, to speak with our teachers, students and parents and see their pride and support for the work that we do.

We look forward to meeting you.

**Mr M Cater**

**Headteacher**

## **What to expect from Wrotham School**

At Wrotham School we have high expectations of everything that we do and for everyone who is a part of our school community. Wrotham is a place where success is celebrated and hard work is rewarded. We want our students to be confident, hardworking and supportive of each other. We encourage everyone to make contributions to our school community and ethos. We believe young people achieve their best in an environment where they feel secure, valued and have high self-esteem.

In order to nurture and inspire the development of resilient, well rounded individuals we work hard to offer a first class range of experiences and opportunities that build character, expertise, maturity and core life skills. We encourage our students to reach beyond their comfort zones, to break through personal limitations and to experience the new and unknown. Outside of the classroom this is encouraged through a range of trip, visits, and experiences.

At Wrotham School we offer Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards and this can be started from year 7. We have now had multiple, successful cohorts at all levels and with growing numbers this has become one of our most popular and rewarding experiences. Visit [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) for more information.

As part of our balanced curriculum, visual and performing arts provides students with opportunities to express creativity, develop presentation skills and confidence with audiences. Unlike many other schools we highly value the creative subjects and see them as playing a vital role in a child's development. We welcome you to visit and see our regular performances and to see the incredibly high standard of work on display. For information on our musical and drama productions please see our school website.

At Wrotham School we have designed a curriculum that challenges every student to experience, enjoy and succeed at the highest level. This starts with us having a strong belief that a child should not be under-estimated. We have established a curriculum that accelerates learning and our students respond with vigour.

We believe strongly in the mastery of basic key skills such as literacy and numeracy and we place these at the foundation of all other learning. At KS5 we provide information, advice and guidance that not only engages students but encourages them to think beyond their own expectations and consider an open and exciting future.

We believe that engagement in sport can broaden the horizons of young people and develop skills that are vital to their futures. As well as ensuring fitness and health is held in high regard, we develop coaching, problem solving and communication skills that reach beyond the discipline studied. All are encouraged to participate in all sports regardless of gender. We strongly believe this should not place a limit on participation and engagement and have celebrated strong success with our girls and boys football and rugby teams

Careers advice and guidance is provided from year 7-13 and underpins work in all subjects. Visiting speakers from large companies such as Barclays and BAE systems provide students with a wealth of understanding that helps them form their initial plans for their futures. As well as providing a full and broad curriculum in years 7-11 we also have a thriving 6th form.

In year 12 and 13 our sixth form gives students the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects at level 3 including A levels and the International Baccalaureate. We offer support and encouragement that inspires our students to think about their future career choices from apprenticeships to degree courses at Russell group and other top universities.

We believe in equality of opportunity and have a strong pastoral programme that encourages tolerance, honesty and fairness. We proudly support the development of all students through passionately ensuring that we promote conversation and education on gender equality, LGBTQ+ issues and the histories of people of colour. It will come as no surprise that the girls at Wrotham School regularly out perform students at local comprehensive, single sex girls schools in GCSE and A level studies. We proudly dispel the myth that girls don't perform as well at mixed gender schools.

We look to recognise and develop character strengths in our students and staff. It is character that we believe creates interesting and successful people and that alongside academic success is the most important factor in achieving potential. We aim to develop confident young people who are successful learners and contribute positively to society.

Students are rewarded for their personal development, character growth and contribution to the school and local community. This is celebrated annually in our graduation ceremony where students graduate at Bronze, Silver and Gold level based on their work towards our Character Points system, and their academic progress.

**Wrotham School is built around a strong belief in care, guidance and support for all students, from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. We have a strong and proactive pastoral team to support your child's progress academically, socially and emotionally as they develop into independent, confident and productive members of our school community. We work hard to ensure that parents are kept up to date on all of our work and on the progress of your child. As well as meeting regularly we also strive to keep you informed through our online presence and email contact. This means that whatever your concern or query we are able to respond quickly and effectively. We want parents to join the celebration of success and to join us and the student on this journey.**

## **ACADEMIC RESULTS/ OFSTED**

Wrotham School consistently achieves some of the highest results of comprehensive schools in Kent. We are incredibly proud of our academic record and this is recognised in our recent Ofsted Reports where leadership of the school was judged as "outstanding".

School Performance - <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/139542/wrotham-school/secondary>

Ofsted Reports- <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/139542>

**RESPECT** INTEGRITY **CONFIDENCE**  
OPEN-MINDEDNESS **MOTIVATION**  
**COMMUNICATION** TEAMWORK  
CREATIVITY **RESILIENCE** COMPASSION

## **A CHARACTER FOCUS**

*The Delloite Millennials Study 2020 reports that Gen Z feel that leaders across the world are failing to make a positive impact in the world and its communities, and that multi-national companies are failing in their responsibility to help solve the world's largest challenges including climate change and inequality. Young people want to make a difference, but don't always know how. Character Education gives young people the tools to make a difference, to take action, and to do what is right.*

At Wrotham School we have seen that developing Character Education provides a powerful framework and language to help young people develop an understanding and appreciation of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural world around them, as well enrich school culture with kindness, generosity and compassion.

Each year group will be focusing on three particular character strengths, with 'respect' at the core of what we do, so that as they progress through the school, they can build their character and take part in learning opportunities that will enable them to evidence these particular character strengths:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Character Strength Priorities</b>
7	<b>Respect</b> Creativity Compassion Integrity
8	<b>Respect</b> Creativity Confidence Teamwork
9	<b>Respect</b> Open-Mindedness Compassion Communication
10	<b>Respect</b> Integrity Motivation Communication
11	<b>Respect</b> Resilience Confidence Motivation
Post 16	<b>All character strengths alongside the IB student profile</b>

## **BEHAVIOUR RULES AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **Language and Tolerance**

Every student has the right to feel safe and happy in school and this is part of our core values and ethos. We have the highest expectations of students and staff and will not accept any form of intolerant language or behaviour. Through assemblies, progress time activities, classroom activities and displays around the school your child will be made aware of what is considered intolerant language and behaviour. This will cover ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality and religion. We have worked with Stonewall Charity to ensure our LGBT+ understanding and support is clear.

### **Behaviour Expectations**

For students to have the opportunity to make excellent progress it is vital that our high expectations of behaviour for learning, uniform, and respect for each other are supported by parents and carers.

We ask all parents, students and staff to read this policy carefully and sign the document to confirm understanding and support for this agreement.

### **Parent rights:**

- To be kept informed about their child's progress, including issues relating to their behaviour.
- To be given a minimum of 24 hours' notice if the school wishes to place their child in detention after school. (Only less if parents agree to this)
- To expect their children to be safe, secure and respected.



- To have any complaint they make about their child being bullied taken seriously by the school and investigated/resolved as necessary.
- To appeal to the Headteacher / Governing Body if they believe the school has exercised its disciplinary authority unreasonably.
- To request a review of the Headteacher's decision to exclude their child, first to the Governing Body of the school and then, in cases of permanent exclusion, to an Independent Panel.
- To be treated respectfully by staff at the school and treated fairly.
- To expect regular, reasonable and timely communication from the school in regards to their child.

#### **Parent responsibilities:**

- To respect the school's approach to ensuring positive behaviour for learning and the disciplinary authority of the staff at Wrotham School.
- To help ensure their child follows reasonable instructions from staff.
- To ensure their child has attendance of at least 98%.
- To send their child to school each day punctually, fed, rested, and equipped and ready to learn.
- To ensure their child attends school in full uniform.
- To follow and support the Home-School Agreement.
- To ensure school staff are aware of any SEN-related or other personal factors which may result in their child displaying behaviours outside the norm.
- To be prepared to work with the school to support their child's positive behaviour.
- To support the school in the use of detentions after school at all times.
- To support the school in the use of Internal Exclusion, this may extend beyond the normal school day.
- To attend meetings with the Headteacher or other school staff, if requested, to discuss their child's behaviour.
- If their child is excluded from the school, to ensure the child is not found in a public place during school hours in the first five days of exclusion and to attend a reintegration interview with the Head of Year or member of the Leadership Team at the end of a fixed term exclusion.
- To monitor their child's behaviour and progress via the Parent Portal.
- To treat all members of the school community including staff at the school with respect, politeness and in a fair way that supports the work of the school.
- To follow all policies relating to the school and to uphold the values and ethos of the school

#### **Wrotham School's Rights:**

- To make clear the school's statutory power to discipline students and that students and parents will need to respect this.
- To enforce the school's approach to ensuring positive behaviour for learning including rules and disciplinary measures.
- To enforce the school's approach to strive for attendance of at least 98%.
- To expect students' and parents' cooperation in maintaining an orderly climate for learning.
- To expect students to respect the rights of other students and adults in the school.



- Not to tolerate violence, threatening behaviour or abuse by students or parents. If a parent does not conduct himself/herself properly, the Headteacher may ban them from the school premises and, if the parent continues to cause nuisance or disturbance, they may be liable to prosecution.
- To take firm action against students who harass or disrespect teachers or other school staff on or off premises – engaging external support services, including the police, as appropriate.
- Authorised staff have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item.
- Authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules.
- To expect students' and parents' co-operation in striving for attendance of at least 98%.

### **Wrotham School's responsibilities:**

- To establish and communicate clearly measures to ensure good order, respect and discipline.
- To ensure staff are clear about the extent of their disciplinary authority and receive necessary professional development on behaviour strategies.
- To support, praise and, as appropriate, reward students' good behaviour.
- To apply sanctions fairly, consistently, proportionately and reasonably.
- To follow and support the Home-School Agreement.
- To take all reasonable measures to protect the safety and well-being of staff and students, including prevention of all forms of bullying and dealing effectively with reports and complaints about bullying.
- To ensure staff model good behaviour and never disrespect students, parents or colleagues.
- To promote positive behaviour through active development of students' social, emotional and behavioural skills.
- To keep parents informed of their child's behaviour, good as well as bad, use appropriate methods of engaging them and, where necessary, support them in meeting their parental responsibilities.
- To ensure the school's approach to ensuring positive behaviour for learning does not discriminate against any student on, e.g. grounds of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation, and that it promotes good relations between different communities.
- To cooperate and agree appropriate protocols with other schools and academies in the local school partnership for behaviour and persistent absence.
- To make alternative provision from day six for fixed-term excluded students and arrange reintegration interviews for parents at the end of a fixed term exclusion.
- To work with other agencies to promote community cohesion and safety.

### **Student Rights:**

- To be taught in environments that are safe, conducive to learning and free from disruption.
- To be treated in a respectful and appropriate manner by all members of the school community.
- To have access to all school facilities and to enjoy and utilise its resources.

- To have access to a clean and comfortable environment in which to learn and socialise.
- To enjoy school and to be able to engage in conversation with other students and staff in a calm and respectful atmosphere.
- To expect support and encouragement from staff.
- To be challenged to reach their full potential within a culture of high expectations.
- To expect appropriate action from the school to tackle any incidents of bullying, violence, threatening behaviour, abuse, discrimination or harassment.
- To contribute to student voice and the student council.
- To have their views considered when developing school policy and making important decisions.

### **Student responsibilities:**

- To treat all members of the school community with respect and politeness.
- To respect the school's property and environment, and the property of others.
- To do their best to reach their full potential and take full advantage of the opportunities the school offers.
- To follow all reasonable requests and instructions by staff, to follow school rules and to accept sanctions in an appropriate way.
- To arrive in full uniform and wear it correctly as well as coming to school fully equipped and ready to learn.
- To achieve an annual attendance of at least 98%.
- To act as positive ambassadors for the school both in school time and outside of school.
- To participate in events and competitions and to encourage and praise fellow students who participate.
- Not bring inappropriate or unlawful items to school.
- To cooperate with, and abide by, the Behaviour Policy and any arrangements put in place to support their behaviour, such as behaviour Contracts, Pastoral Support Programmes or meetings with parents and external support agencies.
- To avoid any engagement in anti-social behaviour.

### **Behaviour Online – Advice and Guidance**

With an increasing amount of communication being conducted online it is important that students are safe and conduct themselves to the same high standards expected in other areas of their lives.

### **We highly recommend that:**

- Parents take an active role in monitoring their child’s interactions online including mobile phones, social networking and internet sites visited.
- Both parents and teachers have a responsibility to understand the world our children live in and learn what they are doing and why.
- Students are encouraged to speak openly about their online experiences and report anything that they feel uncomfortable about.
- Parents ask the school for help in managing their child’s online behaviour.
- Parents make clear what is “unacceptable” online behaviour.
- Parents inform and work with the school when online behaviour risks impacting on school life.
- Access to the internet, gaming and social networking are monitored and reasonably limited.

**We will not tolerate or accept:**

- Any bullying or intimidating behaviour whether face to face or online.
- Racist, Sexist, transphobic, bi-phobic, or homophobic messages, statuses or comments made online or in any context.
- Material or comments that may unfairly bring the school into disrepute.
- Public discussion about school matters or incidents that involve others.
- Any behaviour online that is considered slanderous, illegal or would not be accepted in school.

**We actively work to improve students’ online safety by:**

- Running assemblies and progress time activities on online safety.
- Working with the Police to educate and support students
- Keeping up to date with trends and technology that students use to access online entertainment, interaction and information.
- Training staff on internet safety and responsibility.
- Providing suitable sanctions for unacceptable online behaviour.
- Ensuring that all devices in school are monitored and restricted appropriately.

**Student agreement for the use of computers and the internet at Wrotham School**

**SAFETY**

- I know that I must use the computers safely.
- I will use only my own login and password, which I will keep secret.
- I know that the school can remotely monitor what I do on the computers.

- I will be aware of my personal safety when I am communicating online, and will not share personal information about myself or others.
- I will tell a teacher immediately about any unpleasant or inappropriate material or messages on the computer

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

- I know that I must use the computers responsibly
- I understand that the computers are here for school work, and I will only play games or use them for personal use if I have permission.
- I will only upload or download pictures or videos from inside the school if I have permission.
- I understand that the school's security and Internet filter is there to protect me, and I will not try to bypass it. If I need access to a blocked website, I will ask my teacher.
- I understand that I must not download or display inappropriate pictures or other material from the Internet.
- I know that I must help look after the computers
- If I have a problem with my computer, I will tell a teacher immediately so that the problem can be fixed – I won't leave it broken for the next person.
- I will only use programs that are already on the school computer. If I need a new program, I will ask my teacher - I won't try to install it myself.
- I will not try to connect my own computer or mobile phone to the network.
- I will only change settings on the computer if I am allowed to do so
- I know that food and drink is not allowed in the computer rooms

## **RESPECT**

- I know that I must respect others when using the computers
- I will always treat others the same way I would want them to treat me
- I will not use the computers to harass or bully anyone.
- I will be polite online and I will not use strong, aggressive, or inappropriate language.
- I will not take or distribute pictures or videos of anyone without their permission.

The school monitors the use of the computer systems, including the monitoring of websites, the interception of E-mail and messages. We will delete inappropriate material in circumstances where it believes unauthorised use of the school's computer system is or may be taking place, or the system is or may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing text or imagery which is unauthorised or unlawful.

## **SCHOOL WEBSITE AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

[www.wrothamschool.com](http://www.wrothamschool.com)

[www.facebook.com/wrothamschool](https://www.facebook.com/wrothamschool)

