



Walderslade Girls' School

Specialist College for the Arts



Prospectus

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to Walderslade Girls' School, a friendly and family oriented all-girls high school located in the Medway town of Chatham. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and while we understand the importance of academic qualifications we also place great emphasis on the creativity of our pupils and aim to inspire their learning across the curriculum.

We value creative subjects within our specialism including: fine art; textiles; photography; sculpture; drama; dance; music and musical theatre, alongside the extensive academic curriculum. We believe this leads to a rich nurturing environment in which our pupils can flourish.

We cater for girls of all abilities and we are a fully inclusive school where every pupil is seen as an individual, is valued and known for their own special talents and gifts. Strengths are identified early on and nurtured so that our girls blossom and develop into confident and successful young women.



I am very proud to lead such a wonderful community of pupils and dedicated highly qualified staff, many of whom are long serving to the school. There is something very special about the atmosphere that pervades the school, which strikes so many people when they come to visit us. It is hard to put it into words but we've been told it leaves people with a sense of warmth, welcome, calmness, a quiet sense of purpose and above all, togetherness.

I warmly invite you to come and visit us to experience Walderslade Girls School for yourself.

Dr F Campbell



Schools within School

Walderslade Girls' School is divided into three schools: Lower School (Year 7 & 8); Middle School (Year 9 & 10) and Upper School (Year 11 & Sixth Form). Each school is led by one of our three Assistant Head Teachers who work closely with their respective heads of year and form tutors to ensure that our girls enjoy an enriching, positive and well-disciplined experience as they progress upwards on their journey through our school.



Our Values

We pride ourselves on being a traditional school upholding traditional values. Walderslade Girls' School is a friendly, vibrant and inclusive centre of learning where all girls are encouraged to be the best they can be. Our girls form lifelong friendships at school and many continue their connection with the school long after they have left.

We operate in an environment of kindness, respect and happiness. There is a sense of togetherness that pervades the school. We value diversity, aspiration, honesty and personal integrity. We encourage motivation, self-discipline, resilience and taking responsibility for one's own actions. Our pupils are expected to show kindness to others, to be respectful of everyone and to grow into positive, confident young women. We wholeheartedly promote and celebrate the role of women in today's society.



Option Subjects

GCSE / BTEC / Level 2

During Year 9 our girls are asked to choose their options in a variety of subjects. Along with these option choices, all of our girls will also study a core curriculum of: English Language; English Literature; mathematics, science and physical education.



Every pupil then has a free choice of three different option subjects, including: philosophy & ethics; physical education; food and nutrition; business studies; health and social care; childcare; media studies; fine art; textiles; information technology; computer science; photography; music; psychology; dance and drama.

In addition to these subjects, every pupil is required to make one additional option choice from the following subjects: history; geography or French.

As an Arts college we encourage our girls to choose at least one creative subject to study for GCSE but no pathway is compulsory. We value academic and creative subjects equally at Walderslade Girls' School. We like our girls to take ownership of their learning and choose a range of subjects that they are interested in and that meet their needs and aspirations for their future working life and personal development.



From this year most pupils in Year 7 will be taught in mixed ability classes, except for those who are best served by being placed into an 'Alpha set' which will stretch and challenge them to fulfil their potential. These pupils tend to be more academically gifted and are likely to go on to achieve grades 7 to 9 in their GCSEs.

For some of our pupils who may struggle with learning we have specialist staff trained in supporting children with additional learning needs and we ensure that they are catered for so that they can achieve their greatest potential.



The teaching groups throughout the school are fluid and girls can move into a higher set if their results show they would be better served in a more challenging environment. Equally, if girls who are in the KS3 Alpha set find it too demanding and would be more comfortable in a less challenging programme we ensure that they are moved into a group where their learning and progress is more suited to their abilities.

Enrichment

Our teachers deliver lessons that are engaging, enjoyable and creative. Even the most academic subjects are taught creatively with pupils engaging in many practical activities to complement their learning and develop and apply their knowledge, skills and ability. To enrich the girls' educational experiences we offer a diverse range of co-curricular activities and all pupils are encouraged to join in at least one. There is a great sporting tradition at WGS where pupils enjoy success at regional and national level, along with clubs in many other disciplines; there is something to suit everyone's taste in this vibrant, artistic and inclusive school.

Pupils have a wide variety of activities to choose from, including: Breakfast club; Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; Choir; Art Club; Photography Club; School Theatre Production; Art Mural Club; Gymnastics; Rounders; Athletics; Netball; Badminton; Handball; Volleyball; Dance Club; Debating Society; Green Team (Environmental Warriors); Junior Dance Company; Majorettes; WGS Junior Theatre Company; Fashion Club (Textiles) and Senior Dance Company.

College of the Arts

Walderslade Girls School is proud of its status and renowned reputation as a specialist college for the Arts. The results in the creative, visual and performing arts subjects are excellent and many pupils go on to further study and to eventually enter the creative industries. We use every opportunity to showcase pupils' work in displays around the school; in exhibitions; galleries; productions; concerts and shows.

Educational Visits & Trips

Each faculty plans and leads educational trips and visits including both day trips and longer residential trips, to a wide range of places in the UK and internationally. Walderslade Girls' School pupils have recently visited Iceland on a geography trip and regularly visit art galleries, activity centres, museums, and exhibitions, places of historical interest, competitions, Pineapple Dance Studios and West End theatre productions.

We are able to offer subsidised financial support where necessary to ensure that no pupil misses out.

Houses

Our House system is one of the traditions we value the most and it brings a friendly and competitive spirit to school life. Girls are affiliated with one of our six Houses as soon as they join the school and they remain as members of that House family throughout their time at Walderslade Girls' School. A number of House competitions run throughout the year and every pupil can contribute to the success of their House by earning points for things such as: good attendance; credits for good work; effort; acts of kindness and generally helping out.

Ten golden credits can be awarded by the Headteacher for exceptional work or performance. Each House has a mascot and a House motto. At the end of term all pupils spend time in their Houses enjoying activities and celebrations. The academic year always ends with a memorable Activities Week during which the Houses organise trips and visits to a wide variety of places including: theme parks; wildlife parks; the seaside; leisure centres; cinema; bowling; ice skating and many more. Finally nothing is more competitive – or fun – than the annual WGS Sports Day!



Pastoral Care

We place great emphasis on traditional values of good manners, politeness, respect, caring for others in our school community and contributing positively to the school. This is expected of everyone. Pupils are placed into a tutor group and looked after by a form tutor with whom the girls will be together with until the end of Year 11 and GCSE preparation. Another specialist tutor team then takes over in the 6th Form. Each year group belongs to one of our six Houses.

Walderslade Girls' School is committed to ensuring that all of our girls are safe and will enjoy their experience at the school. We want them to feel cared for and valued. A team of pastoral staff work together to address any issues that the girls may face and the work of the school's safeguarding team has been recognised and praised by Ofsted. Growing up into young adulthood can be a very challenging time and expert staff are always available to help and support our girls and their parents.

We work closely with external agencies and draw on their support and resources when required. A school counsellor is employed for two days a week to help girls resolve any mental health or emotional difficulties. All pupils are expected to achieve a minimum of 96% attendance and rewards are given to those who meet this requirement. Rewards play an important part in WGS school life. Every pupil is rewarded for their efforts and achievements whatever they are and for representing our school in events, matches and competitions.



Sixth Form

We are immensely proud of our Sixth Form and pupils are encouraged to remain with us into the upper school following their GCSEs. In partnership with our neighbouring school, the all boys Greenacre Academy, we are able to offer a wider range of courses than most other schools, encompassing both academic and vocational disciplines.

Pupils are taught in small groups by staff who are expert in delivering advanced level courses and many girls progress to university, professional training or employment. Sixth Form pupils play a full and active part in the life of the school and are seen as role models for younger pupils. They enjoy many privileges and follow a busy calendar of social events, trips and visits which are all offered jointly with Greenacre Academy.

This brings a new dimension to the Sixth Form and is appreciated by the girls. Pastoral care and academic welfare are looked after by the Head and Deputy Head of Sixth Form, supported by a team of specialist and experienced tutors. The PGW (Partnership of Greenacre and Walderslade) Sixth Form is a safe and happy place for our pupils to finish their education. We are always so proud (and sad!) to wave them off to their future successful adult lives.

Skills For Life

'Skills for Life' is at the heart of all we do within Greenacre Academy Trust, both in the curriculum and in extracurricular activities.

We encourage our young students to reach their full potential in both their academic and personal progress throughout their time at Walderslade Girls' School.

We are so committed to our Skills for Life mission that we have invested in our own Skills for Life Manager who will ensure this is driven forward and embedded into daily school life.

We understand the need and importance of connecting education with the business world which will ensure our young people develop the personal and business skills that will fully equip them for the world of work or further education. We want all of our students to have the essential skills for their future, whatever they decide to do:

- To be equipped with 'soft skills' including self-confidence, good communication, problem solving, being team players, a strong work ethic and a positive attitude
- Equipped with life skills so that they can be independent and valuable members of society
- To understand their role in the community and wider society
- Primary children to be fully equipped and ready to get the best out of their secondary education
- Secondary students to be the first choice for employers
- To be aware of the world and different cultures
- Have a good knowledge of the workplace and how to behave
- To encourage aspirational goals



Greenacre Academy Trust

The Greenacre Academy Trust was founded following approval from the Department of Education in January 2014. The Chair of the multi-academy trust is Nikki King OBE, Honorary Chairman of Isuzu Truck (UK) Limited and the CEO is Andy Reese, formerly the Headteacher of Greenacre Academy.

The Trust vision is for Skills for Life to underpin our curriculum and extra curricular activities. Our Trust facilitates the sharing of good practice across all our academies so that the impact of the best strategies is felt by all.

Nikki King OBE
Chairman
Greenacre Academy Trust

Andy Reese
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 #waldersladeGS