



Wildern School



Prospectus

2019-2020

National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE


National Association for
Able Children in Education

Challenge Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROVISION FOR
ABLE, GIFTED & TALENTED PUPILS
OCTOBER 2013



Wildern School



Dear Parent...

Wildern School is a large 11-16 school providing a high quality education.

Wildern is a special place where we all believe in the same ethos, values and principles. There is warmth at Wildern that you cannot fail to notice as you walk around, despite our large size.

Care is high on our list of priorities. To us this means respecting community values like honesty, integrity and concern for others in an ever-changing world; so at Wildern we are there to support, guide and care to help our students make the right decisions. We ensure that our students feel safe, understood and are valued as individuals.

Quality doesn't just happen. We create a culture of high expectations, high aspirations, where to succeed is the norm. Our impressive academic success ensures that our students are ready for life beyond Wildern. Whilst our excellent GCSE results may demonstrate outstanding student learning, at our heart is a focus on every student, every ability, every success be it academic, sporting or within the Arts.

Every student matters; we believe that the advice and guidance we provide will support their choices through life, encourage their love of learning and develop them as formidable citizens for the future.

Opportunity. There is a diverse range of academic, extra curricular and enrichment activities at Wildern, regardless of ability. We want to open our students' eyes to the myriad of opportunities the world has to offer outside of their own community and enable them



to want to explore beyond their doorstep. In a world which is getting smaller and smaller, we want our students to feel comfortable when they meet people from different cultures, societies and religions.

Our mission, therefore, is to ensure:

- Our students are happy and healthy; that they respect community values like honesty, integrity and concern for others in a changing world.
- Our students make progress and fulfil their potential through a clear focus on learning and quality teaching in a supportive and stimulating environment; where every student is known as an individual and challenged regardless of ability.
- New technology is utilised to ensure that learning is vibrant, exciting, challenging and

enterprising in a collaborative learning environment between students and teachers

- All students see the opportunities before them, be part of the next generation that push boundaries, make advancements and develop answers.

Our strong partnership with parents is fundamental in supporting this drive to enrich all of our students; who often develop into determined, adaptable and compassionate young people.

Care, Quality and Opportunity. This is the Wildern way.

Ceri Oakley Headteacher
Marie Louise Litton Executive Headteacher



*“Students’ outstanding behaviour makes a very positive contribution to the school and contributes strongly to a harmonious and welcoming community.”
(Ofsted 2012)*

Student Welfare

A commitment to care is high on the list of our priorities. To us this means respecting community values like honesty, integrity and concern for others in a changing world. The school has high expectations of students with regard to their behaviour and social and personal development, alongside their academic progress.

Central to these aims is regular contact with parents. This is achieved through the Student Planner which each student receives to record important information, such as self study, that parents sign every week. It also records successes and highlights concerns and can be used as a means of communication between parents and staff.

Additionally, 'Student Services' enables parents to be in contact with school effectively rather than queuing at reception or through the school switchboard.

Parent's evenings provide opportunities to discuss progress with subject staff. In addition, as part of our WINK programme, parental focus groups are held to respond to requests from parents for additional information about specific areas of their child's learning.

New Intake

We attach great importance to ensuring that the transition to Wildern is a positive experience for all students. Close links between Wildern and its link primary schools are fostered throughout the year, culminating in an induction day and

evening that enables children to visit Wildern, take part in lessons and meet their Tutor and Director of Progress and Achievement (DOPA) prior to the September start. In addition, a special evening is organised in the Autumn Term to enable parents to meet Tutors so they can receive early feedback on their child's start in their new school.

Tutor Groups

Students are placed in a Tutor Group on entry and form tutors normally stay with their group for the five years that they are at the school. In addition, the school offers the Transition leaders to students experiencing problems. This enables them to turn to a fellow student for advice and support. There is also a school councillor who provides support on a drop in and referral basis.

Student Leadership

As a UNICEF level 2 Rights Respecting school, student leadership is integral to all we do. There are a number of student focus groups including Environment, Eco, Community, Mind, Body and Soul and Student Voice (VOX), with representatives from all year groups meeting weekly to discuss key school issues. The focus groups are only one aspect of Wildern's extensive student leadership work. All departments meet with students each term to discuss the learning environment in their department. We also have Learning leaders who observe lessons of prospective

new teachers at Wildern and give feedback.

Careers

All students at Wildern School have access to careers information. This is achieved through our Moral Social Studies (MSS) programme which is taught to all year groups. Additionally, our extensive careers library hosts a range of resources aimed at supporting students in learning about a range of options open to them. Further support is also available through the support of careers advisors and careers events.

Enterprise Education

Our Enterprise Education programme is fully integrated within and across the curriculum and provides students with opportunities to engage with a range of Enterprise Education activities in a meaningful context. Students also have opportunities to engage in a dynamic range of extra curricular enterprise activities as well as cross curricular theme days.

Curriculum

Curriculum development and teaching is a major strength of the school. We are constantly looking at ways to support the individual needs of young people. This includes the introduction of a two year Key Stage Three curriculum. Students then follow a three year GCSE programme.

The aim at Wildern School is to offer a curriculum that challenges all students, irrespective of their ability, to maximise their potential. We measure and monitor student progress very carefully and strive to identify the factors which inhibit or promote success. We are continually devising strategies to enable students to enjoy even greater success.

Our aim is to enable students to become active, lifelong learners. To facilitate this we use a range of learning and teaching methods, including:

- Practical work



- Discussion
- Off-site visits
- Individual research
- Artists in residence
- Use of exceptional ICT facilities

The curriculum at Key Stage Three provides a broad and balanced education in academic, practical and creative subjects.

At Key Stage Four, students study a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, PE, and MSS (Moral Social Studies). In addition, students choose from a range of GCSE courses too.

Achievement is recognised in a variety of ways. Positive referrals are awarded to all year groups through our electronic monitoring system and students track their referrals, together with their achievement levels. The use of our electronic monitoring system also enables students to complete an individual Personal Learning Review (PLR) and to monitor their progress against their personalised target for each subject. Each summer those students who have excelled in particular subjects or within the community, are acknowledged at the end of the year through formal awards evenings.





“The quality of teaching is outstanding. Teachers are highly skilled, enthusiastic and ambitious practitioners. Lessons are packed with a range of interesting activities and no time is wasted.” (Ofsted 2012)

New Technologies

Wildern School is proud of its achievements working in partnership with students and teachers, from Wildern and other schools, to develop the role of new technologies and integrating them into the everyday learning process. These innovative teaching and learning practices both enhance student enjoyment and attainment in their learning.

From Year 9, students have the opportunity to use chromebooks to support their learning in the classroom

and at home. Teaching and learning resources are integrated into Google Classroom which is accessible by all students.

Having achieved the NAACE ICT Mark we have developed a host of learning opportunities within new technologies such as:

- Developing the use of a range of hand held technologies to promote learning.



- Support the development of Wildern broadcasting..
- Embedding the use of new technologies within the classroom.
- The development of the Wildern Genius Bar to further develop staff understanding of, and engagement with, the use of new technologies.

Student Opportunities

We believe that our students should have access to a host of opportunities which expand their learning experiences. These are numerous and constantly changing but a flavour of those on offer are:

- Transition and intervention classes in Maths, English and Science
- Participation in Master Classes at FE Colleges to support Maths, English and Science
- 'Student Leadership' groups where students have the opportunity to have active involvement in shaping and developing their school experience.
- Involvement in a Community Conference where students have the opportunity to address groups such as local government to address the issues which affect them most
- Participation in the BBC School Report and The Shakespeare Schools Festival
- Day trips and residential visits within England and overseas
- A host of extra-curricular activities



System Leadership



As an outstanding school, Wildern remains committed to supporting education as a whole and indeed we believe we have a moral responsibility to work with and support other schools. As a National Teaching School we have a wide range of expertise both within Wildern and beyond, working together in supporting School Improvement. The Executive Headteacher, Miss Litton, is a National Leader and works with the Local Authority and The Department of Education in supporting this work. Within the Teaching School Alliance there is also a wealth of expertise from Specialist Leaders of Education, Local Leaders of Education.

The school has many professional learning groups (PLG), consisting of teachers and students across the curriculum, who work together to develop and share innovative educational practices which enhance student enjoyment and attainment in their learning both within our own school and partner schools.

In September 2014, we opened our School Centred Initial Teacher



Training Centre (SCITT) where we are training the next generation to creative and innovate teachers. This programme is cross-phase ensuring we continue to support our cluster schools in recruiting the very best practitioners. In 2016 Ofsted judged the SCITT provision to be 'Outstanding'.

The support consists of a variety of methods from whole school inset, small conferences, research groups and or one to one support of individual schools. This work continues to push Wildern forward,

ensuring that we are at the forefront of innovation and development which in turn directly enhances the learning and teaching at Wildern and beyond.



The Arts at Wildern

The Arts are a special area of strength at Wildern School. We believe that the Arts are an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum. They provide important skills and creativity for students, which also allow them to contribute beyond the curriculum. At Wildern we believe in the power of the Arts to promote personal development, self-reliance, creativity and independence of thought, promoting confidence and responsibility, with students making the most of their abilities.

Our aim is to provide an Arts experience that is of benefit to all of our students and the local community and be of such quality that it benefits them for the rest of their lives. The quality of this experience has been recognised nationally via our Artsmark Platinum award. To this end, we are very proud of our thriving art, dance, drama and music departments, all of which offer modern, relevant and engaging programmes of study as well as unique extra-curricular opportunities for students which include numerous theatre trips and gallery visits every year.

Wildern School is a partner with The Berry Theatre, Hedge End's thriving professional 300-seat theatre. Our students are lucky enough to have opportunities throughout the year to perform in the venue, in showcases, celebration evenings, concerts and our annual major school production.

Our performing arts team regularly offers Arts-based activities to our feeder primary schools and supports Wildern's extensive community arts programme.

As well as extensive involvement in local arts programmes, Wildern has also achieved outstanding success at National Arts platforms, including Rock Challenge, The Shakespeare School's Festival and National Theatre Connections.

In addition to our significant success in public examinations, talented students at Wildern are offered the opportunity to achieve additional awards including Grade 5 Theory in music, LAMDA Speech and Drama examinations

and qualifications from the Arts Council's Arts Award programme.

Students at Wildern are offered a diverse range of additional enrichment opportunities, often supported by visiting professional practitioners. Strong links also exist with our Higher Education partners, both at Sixth Form and University levels.



The Wildern Music Academy



The Wildern Music Academy offers both in-school and twilight instrumental

lesson to students at Key Stage Two, within our cluster primary schools, and also throughout Key Stage Three and Four at Wildern. All instrumental lessons are supported by our excellent team of peripatetic music teachers. Details are available on request.





Beyond the Classroom

Sports Teams

Regular teams and individual success provides evidence of excellent sporting provision which aims to develop skills and enthusiasm through teams and clubs available to students.

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Boxercise
- Cricket
- Cross Country Running
- Fitness
- Football (Girls and Boys)
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rounders
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Trampolineing
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Water Polo

A focus on participation in clubs and activities is reflected in extensive student involvement. The school has an excellent reputation for success at local, regional and national level



in a number of sports and students are encouraged to develop a love of physical activity.

School Trips

The commitment of departments to our students is further evidenced by the extensive number of trips offered to students of all ages. These have included foreign trips in recent years to destinations such as America, Austria, China, France, Germany, Russia and Spain. These are often amongst the most memorable learning opportunities for the students as well as enhancing their knowledge of the curriculum.

Students also have the opportunity to visit places of worship, take part in field study, and be involved in visits to Europe and Foreign exchanges. Musicians perform to groups within

the community and have also performed in the Royal Albert Hall. Additionally, students are active in working with younger students in Dance in our local Primary Schools.

Rock Challenge

The Wildern School Dance Department have now been involved in Rock Challenge for over ten years. Each year there are over 100 students taking part in preparing and performing in as many as three different teams that compete in heats in Southampton, Portsmouth and also at an international level in Dresden, Germany.



Subject Clinics

Extensive programmes of after school clinics are run by departments to support the learning of our students.



Community

Wildern School has a commitment in its strategic plan to be at the heart of the local community and is a designated community school. It is a thriving centre with outstanding sports facilities including a learner pool, swimming pool, Multi-Use Hall, Health and Fitness Suite as well as outdoor Tennis and Netball Courts, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and an all weather Cricket Pitch.

An extensive range of Arts based activities are offered to the community as well as adult learning classes and a Film Society in our 'state of the art' Wildern Audio-Visual Environment (WAVE) building. We are also fortunate to have within our community provision The Berry Theatre, a 300 seat professional theatre with additional cinema capacity. The theatre works in partnership with our wider community provision.

Members of the community are regularly welcomed in to school and students meet business and community members regularly through assemblies and lessons.



Travel Plan

Wildern School has a fully developed travel plan which helps to manage travel to and from the school site for families, staff and our community users. As part of our travel strategy Wildern is keen to promote the use of public transport and bicycles. Buses come into the school grounds at the end of the day to provide safe student collection.

For bicycles we have the extensive covered bicycle storage areas which are locked for the majority of the school day. Additionally, we work with our partners to develop safe pedestrian and cycle paths to the school site as well as our Park and Stride scheme at B&Q and the Pavillion on Turnpike Way.





Wildern School

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Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

