



# WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Foundation Business & Enterprise  
School for Boys

## Prospectus





# Welcome to Wirral Grammar School for Boys

Wirral Grammar School was founded in 1931. We are a selective Grammar School serving a wide geographical area. Our immediate community includes Bebington and Bromborough. Over half of our students join us from all over the Wirral and from Cheshire.

Parents, students and staff of the school believe that we have a fine school with an outstanding record of developing the talent of our pupils to the full. We set very high standards encouraging all our boys to maximise their potential both academically and through an extensive range of enrichment opportunities. At Wirral Grammar School, our boys work hard and play hard.

The move from primary school to secondary school is a crucial step and paves the way to future personal development, intellectual growth and career success. At Wirral Grammar School, parents are treated as close partners in their son's education.

Our accompanying 'Parents' Handbook' contains detailed information about all aspects of life at Wirral Grammar School. Our school website ([www.wirralgrammarboys.com](http://www.wirralgrammarboys.com)), provides up-to-date information on achievements and developments. Any literature, however, cannot provide a complete picture of school life. The best way of finding out about our school and its ethos is to come and see us at work. We hold Open Evenings in the Autumn Term and we are always willing to make arrangements to see parents and prospective pupils and show them around.

Yours sincerely

David Hazeldine (Headteacher)

"Right from his first encounter with Wirral Grammar School for Boys at the Open Day my son has wanted to join this school; he has had a wonderful time over the last five years." (Year 11 Parent)

# Choosing a School



"Wirral Grammar is an excellent school, the boys are not only given an excellent academic grounding, but they gain independence and responsibility."

Year 11 Parent

"Wirral Grammar School for Boys is a forward looking school that provides an outstanding education for its students.

Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school and provided many comments on how well the school has prepared their child to succeed and flourish in adult life." Ofsted

We believe that all parents have three key priorities for their child's education: for them to be happy in school, well cared for and successful. A boy who is settled, happy and supported is most likely to flourish academically. Our pupils enjoy coming to school and with the support and encouragement of well-qualified and specialist staff, they succeed at the highest levels.

While academic achievement is our core purpose, we place an equal emphasis on providing high quality enrichment opportunities. Our extensive range of extra-curricular activities ensures that every boy has the opportunity to succeed in his own, individual way. Wirral Grammar School for Boys is a very special place where boys are able to enjoy their childhood and grow

intellectually and socially into confident young adults equipped to lead and manage in a wide range of employment contexts. Our boys are well prepared to face a rapidly changing technological world with confidence.

"Boys speak very highly of the relationship they have with teachers. 'They really care about us', one said, 'if you need help, teachers will give up hours of their spare time to help you.'" Ofsted

"My son has settled in quickly, he is very happy." (Year 7 Parent)

# Wirral Grammar School: A Foundation School



"Excellent care, guidance and support ensure that students achieve well. All necessary procedures for child protection and health and safety are firmly in place." Ofsted

Our school is a Foundation School; this means that we operate with a higher degree of independence than many other state schools and along the lines of an Academy. All staff are employed by the school. We make our own decisions on key matters relating to finance, staffing, curriculum provision and admissions. Like all schools, with the exception of private institutions, we are subject to the usual scrutiny in terms of

standards of education; in this we excel. An example of how we are able to make our own decisions in the best interests of our pupils, is our recent decision to sell some surplus land to generate in excess of half a million pounds to invest in new resources. We feel that as a Foundation School we can tailor our provision to meet the needs and interests of our school community.

"My son joined Wirral Grammar part way through Year 9; he has enjoyed school and we are very proud of his achievements."  
(Year 9 Parent)

"Students are very well motivated, keen to achieve well and take pride in their work." Ofsted

"My son loves school." (Year 7 Parent)

# Proud to be specialist

Most secondary schools in the country now have a specialist focus of some kind: Sport, Arts, Humanities, Technology etc. Our choice of specialism is 'Business and Enterprise'. This is perfect for our school. Our boys typically go on to pursue successful careers in leading and shaping both public and private organisations. During his school career, your son will be able to participate in a wide range of activities of an enterprising nature: small business organisation, charity fund-raising, commercial web-site design and a host of team-building and problem-solving activities, some of which take place in a unique out-door context. Our boys are encouraged to 'take a lead' in all aspects of school life. Pupils run and manage their own School Council; they have raised funds for their own radio station, 'Livewire Radio', which they manage daily; they lead on charity fund raising, peer support and whole host of sporting activities.

As with all specialist schools, pupils study a broad and balanced curriculum; boys can specialise in the Arts, Sciences, Languages, Humanities according to his own particular interests and strengths. Our Community Programme involves boys working with primary school children on small-scale enterprise projects as well as with our business community. We have an expanding adult education programme, engaging adults in our extended learning community. Wirral Grammar School for Boys is already one of the most successful Business and Enterprise Schools in the country and we have established a lead role in our chosen specialism in the North West of England.

"I can't speak more highly of the quality of support and guidance that my son has received." (Year 13 Parent)

"Students feel safe, secure and valued. Consequently, they develop in confidence, maturity and self-esteem. They are well integrated with consultative processes that evaluate provision and contribute to the school's decision making."  
Ofsted

"The business and enterprise specialism flows through all aspects of school life. Management of the specialism is innovative and visionary." Ofsted



# Our School Aims

At the heart of Wirral Grammar School for Boys are the following core aims:

- To enable each student to gain the highest possible standard of academic achievement.

We develop in students the ability to learn in the self-disciplined, independent and flexible manner today's world demands. High expectations and excellent teaching by well qualified, specialist staff, enable them to develop lively, enquiring and creative minds.

- To develop each individual's potential to the full.

School life has to be about more than high academic achievement. A rich and varied extra-curricular programme complements the formal curriculum so as to enable each boy to develop breadth of interests.

- To provide a happy, safe and caring environment.

Staff and students are all members of our school community and conduct themselves with courtesy and consideration. We set very high standards of behaviour and appearance. The school has a caring and supportive ethos to which all are expected to contribute.

- To provide an education that is broad and balanced and relevant to the demands of an ever-changing technological society.

Our choice of specialist status as a Business and Enterprise school underlines our commitment to provide each boy with the skills and aptitude required in today's professional work place. Society is ever changing and our students will be at the forefront of managing and leading change in all walks of life.

- To provide an effective and purposeful partnership between the school, parents and the community.

Our sense of community is our strength. All members, students, parents, staff and governors have a combined role to play in supporting achievement.

"Students' entrepreneurial flair, demonstrable leadership qualities and team working skills bode well for their future economic well-being." Ofsted



"The governing body has been vigorous in supporting initiatives to raise additional funding for the outstanding new learning and social facilities. This has had a major impact on the quality of students' experience at the school." Ofsted



## Meeting Individual Needs

Our care, guidance and support are recognised as 'outstanding'. Our school is the optimum size for a secondary school: large enough to provide a superb range of academic courses and extra-curricular activities and yet small enough for each boy to be known as an individual. Support is tailored to the needs of each boy. Our able pupils are challenged through the provision of specialist

enrichment opportunities and a wide range of additional courses. Pupils with special educational needs are provided with specialist support and may receive in-class assistance for some lessons.

"The school climate is one of harmony and fellowship. Relationships and attitudes are characterised by mutual respect and sensitivity." Ofsted

"Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities make good progress because of the excellent support they receive." Ofsted

## Innovation and Development

Our facilities are excellent and are continually being developed and improved. New teaching facilities have been added in recent years, ensuring that there is specialist provision in every curriculum area. A £4.8 million pounds building programme has transformed our school facilities providing new science laboratories, ICT rooms, specialist Music rooms, classrooms for Mathematics and Business Studies teaching, a new Learning Resource Centre, provision for the teaching of Food & Cookery and Art Studios. ICT provision extends to every area of the school with digital projectors and computers available for individual classrooms. Our Sixth Form students have their own study areas equipped with ICT resources for independent study. WiFi areas around the school allow pupils to use wireless net

books and lap tops. All boys have their own email account and increasing use is being made of 'on-line' resources. Emerging new technology is providing new and exciting ways in which to provide challenge and enrichment.

At Wirral Grammar School, while times change; our values do not. Core values of respect, cooperation, courtesy, fairness, honesty, kindness and compassion, have long been a hallmark of our school.

"Students are happy, reach high standards and make good progress." Ofsted

# High Expectations and Outstanding Achievement



"Students' personal development is outstanding. Students have a passion for learning; their behaviour is exemplary and their attendance, already well above national averages, continues to rise." Ofsted

Standards of achievement are very high. From the day he starts with us each boy is set challenging, but realistic targets. These 'Challenge Targets' are shared with parents and we monitor progress against them.

In recent years, all boys attending our school have gained at least five GCSEs at grades A\* to C. Typically over half of all exam entries are at the highest grades, A\* / A. Most of our boys choose to stay on into our Sixth Form

and are joined by students from other institutions. The vast majority, in excess of 85% of students, gain their first choice of University and course.

"By the end of Key Stage 4 students achieve well and reach exceptionally high standards." Ofsted

"Classroom relationships are excellent because teachers have high expectations of what students can do and students respect teachers' expert subject knowledge." Ofsted

# Outstanding Enrichment Opportunities

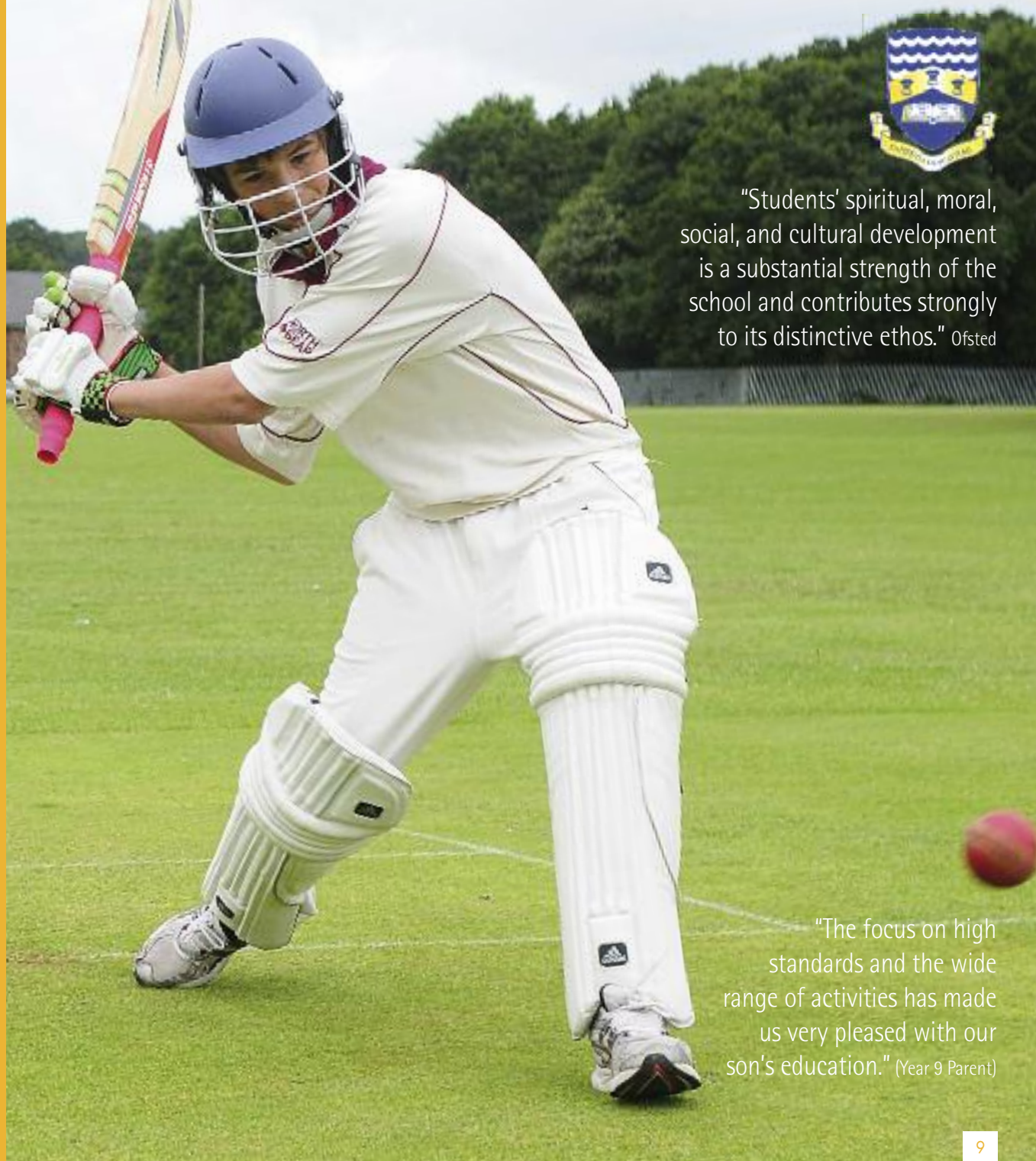
An outstanding feature of our school is the provision we make for sport, music and an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities. There are orchestras, choirs, ensembles, concerts, musicals and plays. Our annual School Production involves many boys both on stage and behind the scenes; the standards are superb. Over one third of our boys are involved in music tuition; an impressive number by any standard. We employ the services of 20 peripatetic music teachers, providing lessons throughout the school day, including lunchtimes and after school. In sport there are regular fixtures at local and national level against other schools for all age groups in the major team and individual sports (rugby, cricket, hockey, athletics, cross country, orienteering). Other sports played to a high standard include basketball, golf, volleyball and handball. We have a thriving Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme involving large number of boys taking part at both Bronze and Silver levels; expeditions take place in North Wales.

We make a wide range of visits available to our pupils. Every subject area offers enrichment activities of some kind. Day visits are arranged to support specific curriculum activities. Our boys take part and succeed in a wide range of competitions at local, regional and national levels. We provide a rich variety of residential opportunities. All boys have the opportunity to take part in outdoor activity courses involving whole year groups in Years 8 and 9. Sports and music tours take place overseas each year. Boys are able to take part in ski trips and language visits.

Charity fund-raising is a strength of our school. Pupils select a School Charity each year and they engage in a variety of enterprising schemes to raise funds to support it. They typically raise well in excess of £8,000 each year.

If academic success is the heart of a school, extra-curricular enrichment is its soul. We encourage all boys to become actively engaged in the wider life of the school as this helps to build confidence and broaden horizons.

"The extra-curricular activities are the jewel in the school's crown: they contribute enormously to students' personal development and well-being." Ofsted



"Students' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development is a substantial strength of the school and contributes strongly to its distinctive ethos." Ofsted

"The focus on high standards and the wide range of activities has made us very pleased with our son's education." (Year 9 Parent)

# Parents and Partnership



"The school ensures that students' personal development is outstanding and the quality of pastoral care and support for careers and higher education is excellent." Ofsted

A distinctive feature of Wirral Grammar School is the strength of partnership that exists between school and home. Parents expect not only to be fully informed about the progress their son is making, but also involved as supportive partners in their son's education. Along with the termly progress reports, annual written report and annual parents' evening, all parents are provided with a Curriculum Guide; this provides parents

with information about each subject detailing topics taught, how pupils are assessed, the type of homework that they are likely to receive and how parents can provide support. All parents are provided with clear information relating to their son's progress against expected targets. Parents are welcome to contact us at any time if they have any concerns.

We have a flourishing Parents' Association. Funds raised are invaluable in providing extra resources and opportunities for our boys. Mini-buses, ICT equipment, music resources and recreational resources are just some of the ways in which PA funds have been utilised. The PA is also a valuable forum for parents and teachers to meet informally.

"My son has been able to take part in so many activities, he loves school." (Year 8 Parent)

We aim to keep our school literature up-to-date. Opportunities available to the pupils are constantly developing and the information contained here was accurate at the time that it was published. Our brochure is up-dated every two years and our Parent Handbook every year. The quotations that feature here have been taken from the school's most recent Ofsted report and Parent Surveys.





# WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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