



W R E K I N

TOGETHER WE ALL ADD UP TO ONE

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TOGETHER WE ALL
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Wrekin grows confident, capable individuals,
ready to make a success of the future.



ACADEMIC

At Wrekin we are proud of our academic rigour for all pupils, whatever their level. We strive to provide each with a stimulating, intellectual programme of study. This, coupled with a strong support network, is what gives our young people the confidence to know their best and achieve their best.

However, we want to do more than simply carry out excellent teaching. We want to show our pupils how to learn and ignite in them a love of learning. The reformation of GCSE and A level exams, with far fewer marks available for regurgitation, means that pupils have to know how to answer questions.

Our classes are small and our teachers are experts in their specialism. Our tutoring system means every pupil has individual academic support. Each pupil has three people to look after and challenge them: Houseparent, Tutor, Head of School. Our enrichment programme stretches our more able pupils and our Support for Learning staff help those with additional needs.

“The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.”

Sir John Lubbock

CURRICULUM

We offer a wide range of GCSE, A level and BTEC qualifications, taught by subject specialists in a modern environment with superb facilities. Our staff guide pupils in choosing subjects that suit their interests, abilities and ambitions. There are no 'right' subjects to study: there are right ones for you.

APPROACH

Academic subjects are, essentially, the world divided up into its constituent parts and each part demands our respect, or else arrogance creeps in.

We want all of our pupils to grow and develop the qualities possessed by good learners and employees. We call this approach to education '**R Mentality**'. This flows on from Lancaster Learning done in younger years. Assemblies throughout the year, given by pupils and teachers, focus on the 'Rs', keeping them fresh and in focus.

Pupils are taught and encouraged to:

- take calculated **risks**, getting out of their comfort zone
- apply **reasoning**
- show **resilience**
- be **reflective**
- take **responsibility** for their learning and behaviour
- be **resourceful**
- have **respect**: for others and themselves and for the world.

CHALLENGE GRADE REVIEW

Each individual's best is different, be it in a classroom, in a choir, or on a pitch. Whether it be As or Bs, all results are celebrated equally at Wrekin if they are the best that an individual can strive for and achieve. This is what the Challenge Grade Review enshrines.

Challenge Grades are based on the underlying intellectual ability of a pupil. They are what teachers believe is a pupil's 'personal best' in a subject if they work hard. They are deliberately aspirational.

Once a Challenge Grade has been set, subject teachers review progress monthly to help pupils and parents ascertain whether the pupil is working at the level necessary to achieve their best. More importantly, at these times, pupils are told specifically what to work on over the following month. Every pupil at Wrekin knows what his or her best can be, is given the tools to achieve it and the course of action to take.

"Every pupil at Wrekin knows what his or her best can be"



A young boy with curly hair, wearing a school uniform consisting of a grey blazer, white shirt, and a yellow and black striped tie, is sitting at a desk in a library. He is smiling broadly at the camera. In the background, there are bookshelves filled with books. Another student is partially visible behind him.

LANCASTER LEARNING

Our pioneering Lancaster Learning programme means that during First and Second Form (Years 7 and 8) we do not cram in two extra years on the GCSE curriculum, assuming this will improve grades later on. Instead, we spend two years showing our young charges how to learn as historians, biologists and so on, inspire in them a desire for knowledge and teach them how to learn for themselves. We believe they then enter the GCSE curriculum in Third Form with a strong foundation for achievement that will ensure they meet their own personal best through GCSE, A level or BTEC and beyond school.

Employers seek flexible, multi-tasking people who know how to learn and think for themselves and our curriculum, co-curriculum and approach in all aspects of school life matches this.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

While examination results are not the be all and end all of education, and nor should they be, they are inevitably important in this competitive world. We are proud of our academic results for all of our pupils. 2020 saw Wrekin achieve record-breaking GCSE and A level results. Wrekin has a non-negotiable, strong academic core around which all other events operate. Universities and employers want to see good exam results, and they want to meet the good, able people who got them. Wrekin provides both.

BURSARIES

Wrekin seeks to bring children here in order to achieve their full life potential, but whose parents may find fees a struggle. A broad range of gifts, talents and personalities only enriches our community and financial background should be no barrier to this. We want to play a part in the lives of those who will go on to shape the world in the future. We are proud to run a Foundation that provides bursaries so that all have the opportunity to apply to our diverse school.

We offer a range of scholarships for those interested in a particular area or areas, and means-tested bursaries for cases of financial hardship. Ask our Admissions Department for more information.

CO-CURRICULAR

The range and quality of Wrekin's co-curricular offering is outstanding. It ensures our pupils are well-rounded individuals. We teach the art of multi-tasking and time management as well as participation. We believe in stretching and challenging our pupils. The quiet ones need bringing out and the loud ones need to learn to reflect. Getting in and out your comfort zone, and doing that cheerfully, will make you a good employee, employer and runner of house and home. Being in teams and running them is vital for a pupil's future. Of course, we compete and we win but, in the end, that is not what the co-curricular is all about.

CONFIDENT

DRAMA

Our purpose-built theatre plays host to exceptional drama productions involving pupils of all ages. Every year there are major school productions for which pupils of any age can volunteer, whether that be for the limelight or backstage glory.

All pupils in First Form and Third Form take part in House Drama competitions organised by members of the Sixth Form. This ensures everyone gets their chance to shine on the stage, and for some discover not only a new talent, but also a new side to his or her personality. LAMDA lessons are available for keen performers but also for those who want to develop more confidence.

The drama productions provide great collaboration between departments with art, design, music and dance all contributing to the fantastic end result. We all work together and we all 'have a go'.

"We all work
together and we
all have a go"





SPORT

Wrekin punches well above its weight in the school sporting world, competing at the top level against schools regardless of size. We have a busy fixture list in all our sports, whether in those sports where we have traditionally excelled such as rugby, netball, cricket, hockey and athletics, or those in our 'options' programme which range from fives to fencing, basketball to badminton.

Netball is particularly strong with Wrekin regularly qualifying for regional and national finals. We also provide boys and girls for county,

regional and international squads in a range of sports and support individuals with bespoke academic programmes if the demands of their sport mean they may miss some schooling.

Our expert coaches and superb facilities including a large, very well-equipped sports centre and 25m indoor pool, combined with our thorough sports' programme and strength and conditioning facility, mean that sport here is truly for all. We believe in the power of sport to draw people together and teach winning and losing with good grace.

"We believe in the power of sport to draw people together"



MUSIC

Music runs through the very heart of Wrekin from the rousing singing in Chapel every morning (you would be surprised to hear the volume) to the regular programme of intimate soirées and recitals, from our choirs, orchestras and bands to our grand, and regular musical productions. Our Jazz Band is currently one of the best five in the country ranked in a national competition.

The House Singing Competition is probably the cup most fought for and the standard is superb.

Individual music lessons are accommodated in the school day, rotated around lessons to ensure academic work is not affected. There are numerous opportunities to perform and enjoy music.

Our new Music School (opened in January 2020) provides a modern and well-equipped home for our orchestras and all musicians and a facility to match the talents of our pupils and staff.



ART

The Art School is a professional, vibrant space with a unique atmosphere which nurtures artistic talent at all levels. The department has a 3D and ceramics studio with kilns and a spray booth, a general-purpose studio and three large dedicated Sixth Form areas. Work produced here adorns all areas of the school. The annual art exhibition showcases the work produced by the department and regularly astonishes all who attend. Each year leavers go on to Art Foundation and Art degrees and a number of Wrekinians work in art and design related careers.

Design and Technology also flourishes at Wrekin. The GCSE and A level Design Show demonstrates extraordinary craftsmanship; the quality of the finish is impressive even to those 'in the trade'.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

We are proud to boast one of the most successful Duke of Edinburgh schemes in the country. All Fourth Form pupils are entered for the bronze award with very many going on to complete silver and gold before they leave. Indeed, our assumption is that all our pupils will complete the Gold Award before leaving Wrekin. We recommend the programme highly and see it as an essential part of education because the skills it fosters and promotes are those that employers require. Anyone with Gold DofE is employable because they have proved they can be in teams,

have great independence and resilience, can solve problems, keep accurate paperwork and multi-task. The element of service in the Award is important to us, too, inculcating as it does a sense of morality in our pupils.

All our Third Form pupils also complete at least a year in our Combined Cadet Force with some staying on in more senior roles, some gaining pilots' licences before leaving school or being selected for prestigious cadet leadership courses.

THE WHOLE PERSON

The happiness and mental wellbeing of our pupils is our priority, and we are justifiably proud of our outstanding reputation in this area. When a pupil is stretched and challenged in a supportive environment, he or she will be happy and then productive.

Pastoral care is not an add-on for those who struggle. It is engrained and embedded in all we do at Wrekin. Our Sixth Formers are given safeguarding training to help support younger pupils: looking out for and after each other is simply a way of life in our community.

“Looking out for and after
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INDIVIDUAL

HOUSE PARENTS

House parents are usually the first port of call for pupils when they need some advice or a helping hand dealing with a personal issue. Every pupil also has a tutor who they meet with regularly and who becomes another important point of contact, particularly on the academic side.

The Heads of Lower School (First - Third Form), Middle School (Fourth - Fifth Form) and Sixth Form scrutinise the academic life of pupils in their areas overseeing the Challenge Grade Reviews and liaising with pupils, teachers and parents to ensure pupils stay on track and achieve their academic 'personal bests'.

If parents have concerns, they can communicate with these people who will work hard together to resolve the issue properly.

WELLBEING

As well as House Parents, Tutors and Academic Heads of School, there are a multitude of other forms of support. A number of Sixth Formers are selected to become members of the Peer Support Team and are specially trained as mentors for younger pupils. This peer-to-peer support forms a valuable part of our pastoral offering.

The School has a Director of Wellbeing and, as well as the Peer Support Team, there is a school counsellor and an independent listener. There are also our prefects, as well as House matrons, teachers, coaches and the school Chaplain.

For medical matters we have our own medical centre with medically trained staff in attendance.

Assemblies and weekly Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) sessions focus on moral choices and choices that lead to a happy and fulfilling life. The very clear school rules and these pastoral sessions reinforce what behaviour is to be encouraged and what is to be discarded.





CHAPEL AND COMMUNITY

The Wrekin Chapel is at the heart of all we do here. It is a space where the whole school can congregate, celebrate, give thanks and reflect. The school gathers here numerous times a week as well as for special occasions such as Remembrance Service and our Christmas Carol Concert. The values inculcated in this most important classroom pervade all aspects of Wrekin life.

Wrekin is a Christian foundation, but all faiths and none are welcome. We simply wish for all pupils to use our Chapel as a place for not only self-reflection, but to hear and consider the views and opinions of others. We encourage diversity and inclusiveness. We seek uniformity only in the sense of expecting and encouraging all our pupils to be good, respectful and engaged in learning in all its forms.

Any pupil, from First Form to Sixth Form is welcome to speak in Chapel on a subject about which they feel strongly. This is often the springboard for discussion elsewhere. Debate is encouraged and stimulated by our excellent House Debating Competition. Voices are found not silenced at Wrekin.

A group of six young girls, likely members of a school house, are posed together outdoors. They are all wearing blue V-neck t-shirts with the Wrekin College crest, which features a red lion rampant and the words 'WREKIN' and 'COLLEGE'. The girls are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a brick wall and some greenery.

HOUSES

Wrekin operates a strong House system that underpins many activities and competitions, with plenty of friendly House rivalry in evidence. All pupils will tell you their House is the best.

Our junior house, Lancaster, is split into boys' and girls' sections, housed separately, and with their own Housemaster and Housemistress. It is an important part of the school for our First and Second Form pupils and provides them with an extra layer of support during a formative time in their education. Lancaster House is a 'decompression chamber' between prep or junior school and senior school education and provides

the best of both. Our pupils in Second Form mature as a result of having been in Lancaster but we recognise that young pupils and Sixth formers are pastorally worlds apart and that the young ones need more nurturing.

On entering Third Form, pupils join one of our senior Houses: for girls either Clarkson or Roslyn, and for boys Tudor, York or Bayley. Day pupils and boarders are fully integrated into Houses, with our day pupils benefiting from our boarding ethos, round-the-clock care and extensive activities including those that take place over the weekend.

FUTURE



PREPARING PUPILS FOR LIFE

Wrekin responds to the employers' view that they need well-qualified, but also flexible young people able to start work straight away rather than have no idea of how the workplace operates.

Too many employers and universities say that the young people they meet are not ready to learn on their own, are not independent or mature enough when they leave school. Wrekin is fast forming an excellent reputation for producing people who are ready.

We run an extensive Exchange Programme where at the end of Fifth Form or Lower Sixth many pupils go across the world to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to experience being in another school and to be introduced to other cultures by host families. The maturation that ensues after such an odyssey and sojourn is marvellous to see.

BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Business School provides a dynamic mix of enterprise and education offering our pupils a stepping-stone from the world of education to the world of work. It is a modern building closer to that of the corporate world than a school giving pupils exceptional opportunities for learning about employment in an office-style setting.

We want to ensure that our pupils leave Wrekin not only with exam results but the wherewithal and knowledge to be employees and employers of the future. Pupils learn about money here, how it works, how it is made, so they can budget and be competent and enterprising beyond school domestically and at work. The Business School is dedicated to ensuring the employability of our pupils.





OUR HOUSE

Situated within the Wrekin campus, but detached from other residences, 'Our House' is designed to resemble the realities of a student house-share. Groups of six same-sex students spend a week staying in Our House learning to cook, clean, budget, study, relax and get along! They will already have spent a year preparing for the experience, supported with sessions to hone their practical life skills of cookery, cleaning, laundry and household repairs.

Our House is part of our ambition to ensure that Wrekin pupils leave school equipped and ready for the outside world. This dose of independent living, like the Business School and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, is designed to foster independence, resilience and moral fibre in our pupils making them as our grandmothers would say "fit to live and fit to live with".



CAREERS

We have a robust, busy and thorough careers' programme which sees extensive advice offered to all pupils on a huge range of career choices, including careers new in the 21st Century.

Our popular Lunchtime Lecture series welcomes speakers from a huge variety of employment sectors and is open to any interested pupil. Speakers give more detail about their jobs and offer invaluable advice on the best ways to start on a particular career path. Year groups

have career sessions in our Business School where they are taught what it takes 'to be employable'. We also hold and attend careers and industry-specific events throughout the year. Pupils also learn about alternatives to University: apprenticeships and school leavers' schemes are a preferred option for some.

Work experience is a vital part of career choice and we help our pupils to undertake this.

NEXT STEPS...

- Contact the Admissions Department; they will be delighted to hear from you
- Book your visit to Wrekin College, tour the school with pupils and meet the Headmaster
- Register your child for entry
- Sit the Entrance/Scholarship exams in the November prior to year of entry
- Confirm acceptance of an offer of a place
- Join us for Induction Day

START YOUR WREKIN JOURNEY