



Highlands



SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS
2026 - 2027



Welcome to Highlands School

Highlands School is a high-performing, mixed comprehensive school located in the heart of west Enfield. Judged 'Outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted in 2024, we are proud of our inclusive ethos and strong sense of community. We welcome students from a diverse range of backgrounds and are committed to supporting, challenging, and nurturing every individual who joins us.

Our aim is simple: "To provide a world class educational experience for our students. In whatever we do, to be held as an example of best practice to other schools." This is an ambitious goal, but one we are relentless in pursuing. With a culture of high expectations, dedicated staff, and a broad, balanced curriculum, Highlands provides the foundation for students to succeed and flourish both in school and beyond.



Headteacher's welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Highlands School. This prospectus will give you a sense of the values and principles that underpin the work we do at Highlands, and of the opportunities and experiences open to your child if they join us in year 7 in September 2026.

Highlands is one of the highest performing and most popular secondary schools in north London, judged 'outstanding' by OFSTED three times consecutively. We opened in 2000 in brand new buildings surrounded by landscaped outdoor spaces and playing fields and our school buildings and site are still a source of great pride to us. Highlands is a genuine community school; we achieve academic excellence whilst remaining fully inclusive and welcoming students with a range of different backgrounds and abilities.

This summer, once again, we achieved A level and GCSE results reaffirming our place as one of the highest performing schools in London. Our 2024 Ofsted report highlighted the excellent behaviour of students at school, the quality of the pastoral care, and the vast range of extra curricular activities we offer. We are proud that both academically and pastorally, we are an example of excellence.

I hope that your child joins us in September 2026. As Highlands goes from strength to strength, we look forward to welcoming them to our school community.

Vincent McInerney
Headteacher



Highlands is one of the highest performing and most popular secondary schools in north London, judged 'Outstanding' by OFSTED in all areas in 2024.



Our vision and values

Our school values are determination, aspiration, respect and equality (DARE).

These values underpin all of our work, and are our guiding principles. They summarise what we expect from students and staff: that we work hard and never give up when faced with challenges and failure; that we have high expectations of ourselves and each other and we strive to reach them; that we are kind to each other, never cruel and we treat our wonderful school buildings with respect; and that we are all committed to diversity and inclusion.

Our motto is 'Dare to flourish'. We chose this very carefully. The word 'dare' was chosen as it links to our values. The word 'flourish' was also carefully selected. The origin of the idea of flourishing dates back to Aristotle, who believed that the human purpose is to try and flourish, or live well. The modern spelling of the word is derived from the Latin, flos, which means flower. We like this word because we want all of our school community to grow and to develop. We know not everyone will grow and develop in the same way, but we will support them and be proud of them regardless.



**Our values underpin
all of our work, and are
our guiding principles.**



The transition to year 7

As the move from primary school to secondary school is a big change for children, we run a dedicated programme to ensure this transition is as smooth as possible. The head of year 7 visits many of the feeder primary schools to meet with the teachers and find out more about the new students joining Highlands School.

To get students excited about joining us, all new students are invited in for a taster day in July, where they get to experience a day at Highlands.

All year 7 students start the school year one day earlier than the older years to follow a bespoke induction programme. This builds students' confidence and enables them to establish relationships with their form tutor and with their peers. Year 7 students have their own lunch time, separate from the other year groups. They have sole use of the canteen and playground and astroturf. Our transition programme enables students to begin their time at Highlands with confidence.



Our transition programme enables students to begin their time at Highlands with confidence.



Highlands Sixth Form

Highlands Sixth Form is a thriving, high-achieving and inclusive community, where students consistently perform above national expectations. We are proud to share that our sixth form has been ranked 47th among state school sixth forms in England and 106th out of 4,352 sixth forms nationwide (value added) - a testament to the exceptional dedication of both students and staff. Many of our students going on to Russell Group universities, Oxbridge, and prestigious apprenticeships.

At Highlands, students benefit from expert teaching, a strong focus on academic progress, and outstanding pastoral care. Our sixth formers enjoy a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including international trips, leadership roles, and a tailored programme of university and career support. With over 250 students joining our sixth form last year alone, we are proud to be a popular and successful choice for post-16 education.

Choosing Highlands School means your child will have access to Highlands Sixth Form, providing they meet the enrolment criteria. Please see our website for more details about that criteria.



Ranked 47th among state school sixth forms in England, Highlands Sixth Form opens doors to Russell Group universities and top apprenticeships.



Our approach to teaching and learning

The curriculum at Highlands is planned and delivered by a team of well qualified teachers who benefit from over 80 hours of professional learning, delivered by the school and external experts, each academic year. This means the Highlands approach to teaching is informed by the very latest educational research.

Teachers carefully plan how they teach new information to students. This means thinking about what prior knowledge students need to have at the start of each lesson, and what important things they need to remember by the end. They spend time in their departments preparing and rehearsing lessons to ensure that students are supported to be successful.

New material is delivered to students in small chunks. This ensures that students do not become overwhelmed when learning new information. Students' learning is also checked throughout lessons. For example, teachers use mini whiteboards, and targeted questioning to check learning, and to adjust teaching accordingly. This ongoing assessment means our teaching quickly responds to the needs of students.

Following key pieces of work, teacher feedback is given to students using whole-class feedback. This means that the teacher will read students' work and then share with the class on how improvements can be made.



Highlands' approach to teaching is informed by the very latest educational research.



Our approach to curriculum

Highlands School offers a curriculum designed to ensure that students leave school with outstanding examination results. At GCSE and A level, our students make significantly more progress than students nationally. However, the curriculum is about more than excellent examination results. The Key Stage 3 curriculum extends from year 7 into year 9. This enables students to continue to study the arts, humanities, and modern foreign languages, irrespective of their GCSE option choices. Highlands School therefore prides itself on producing well-rounded and knowledgeable young adults.

In many ways the curriculum is the most important part of the learning experience at a school. Deciding on the curriculum means deciding the things that students will learn about and that they will remember forever. Key Stage 3 students study the topics in each subject that will not only prepare them for GCSE exams, but that will let them learn the best that has been thought and said in those subjects. We want our students to excel in their exams but we also want them to be excited and fascinated and have a love of the subjects they study. We want our students to feel like they are historians, scientists, poets and artists, as well as students studying those subjects.

Our personal, social, health and economic curriculum was recognised as a strength by Ofsted in our most recent inspection. Students spoke to the inspectors with confidence about how they are taught to stay safe, to challenge racism and discrimination, to care for their mental health or to make a valuable contribution to modern British society. Highlands does not pay lip service to its values of 'respect' and 'equality: we embed them into our taught curriculum.



Highlands School offers a curriculum designed to ensure that students leave school with outstanding examination results.



Our GCSE students consistently achieve some of the highest levels of progress in Enfield.

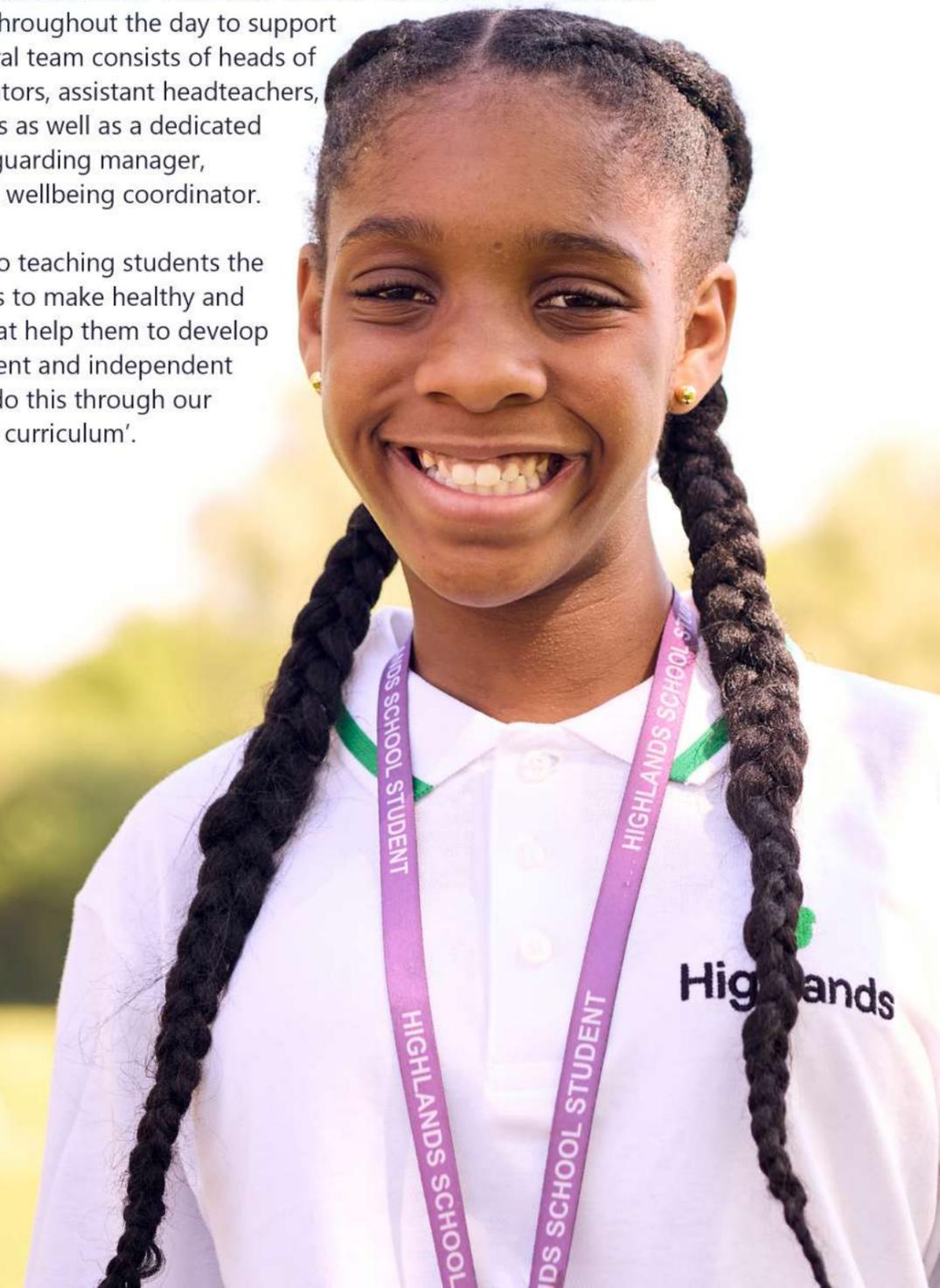


Pastoral care and student wellbeing

At Highlands School we strive to support students as they develop into happy and well-rounded individuals, well-equipped for later life. Our school values of determination, aspiration, respect and equality (DARE) are at the core of our pastoral system.

We provide support for individual students' differing educational and welfare needs. We have a large pastoral team with more than twenty members of staff dedicated to the wellbeing of students. Nine of these staff are not classroom based and are therefore available throughout the day to support students. The pastoral team consists of heads of year, behaviour mentors, assistant headteachers, deputy headteachers as well as a dedicated welfare officer, safeguarding manager, inclusion officer and wellbeing coordinator.

We are committed to teaching students the knowledge and skills to make healthy and informed choices that help them to develop into confident, resilient and independent young citizens. We do this through our innovative 'stay safe curriculum'.



We are committed to teaching students the knowledge and skills to make healthy and informed choices that help them to develop into confident, resilient and independent young citizens.

Behaviour

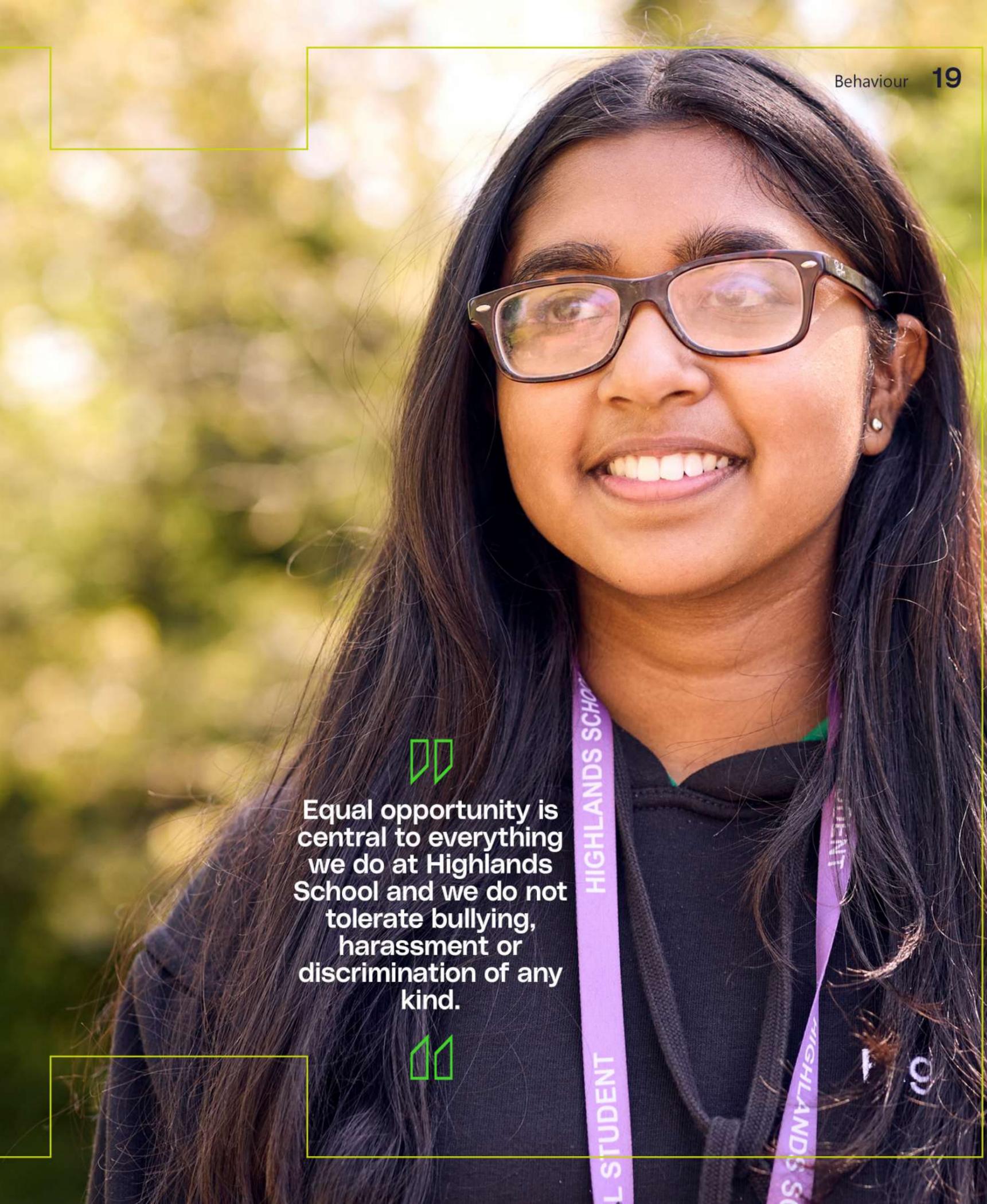
Highlands School has high expectations of students' behaviour. Students have a right to learn in lessons free of disruptive behaviour, in a school free from bullying and discrimination and where they are happy. We are committed to creating an environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of school life, so that all students can achieve their full potential.

The aim of our behaviour policy is consistent with our wider school aims to develop young people who are kind and caring towards themselves, each other, their community and the wider world. We expect our students' behaviour and attitudes to embody our school values, determination, aspiration, respect and equality (DARE).

Equal opportunity is central to everything we do at Highlands School and we do not tolerate bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind.

Our approach to behaviour management is prevention before sanction. This approach promotes exemplary behaviour, with the aim that students do not reach the point where their behaviour results in a sanction. This means that we prioritise the consistent application of rules and expectations, early interventions and a nurturing pastoral and wider curriculum that teaches students the core principles of self-discipline and positive relationships.

Praise and reward are important aspects of our behaviour policy. We believe that recognition for positive behaviour builds confidence, builds self efficacy and motivation. Our behaviour policy ensures that there are a variety of opportunities and methods for praise and reward.



Equal opportunity is central to everything we do at Highlands School and we do not tolerate bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind.



Rowan



Oak



Beech



Willow

Our houses are Beech, Oak, Rowan and Willow and our house system offers our students a great opportunity to get to know students in other year groups, participate in student leadership opportunities, unite around common goals and make a difference to the school community.

Each member of our school community is assigned to a house and students will have the opportunity to support their house by earning achievement points, competing in house competitions or working with our senior leadership team to champion causes close to their heart.

2003-04 ROWAN HOUSE
2004-05 WILLOW HOUSE
2005-06 BEECH HOUSE
2006-07 BEECH HOUSE
2007-08 OAK HOUSE
2008-09 WILLOW HOUSE
2009-10 ROWAN HOUSE
2010-11 ROWAN HOUSE
2011-12 ROWAN HOUSE

Student leadership

At Highlands, we are proud to nurture confident, responsible, and compassionate young leaders. Our comprehensive house system lies at the heart of student leadership and personal development, offering all students the chance to contribute, collaborate, and lead across a wide range of school life.

Since opening in 2000, every student and staff member at Highlands has belonged to one of our four houses: Beech, Oak, Rowan, and Willow. Our house system provides meaningful opportunities for leadership, participation, and community-building.

Our house system encourages leadership through six key strands:

- Environment
- Equalities and diversity
- Performance
- Social action (charity and fundraising)
- Sport
- Wellbeing

Each house appoints student leaders at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. Senior students (years 10 - 13) take on roles such as house captains and vice captains for each strand, as well as overall house leadership. These students are instrumental in driving house initiatives and inspiring their peers. At Key Stage 3, house representatives are selected to support captains and gain early experience of leadership.



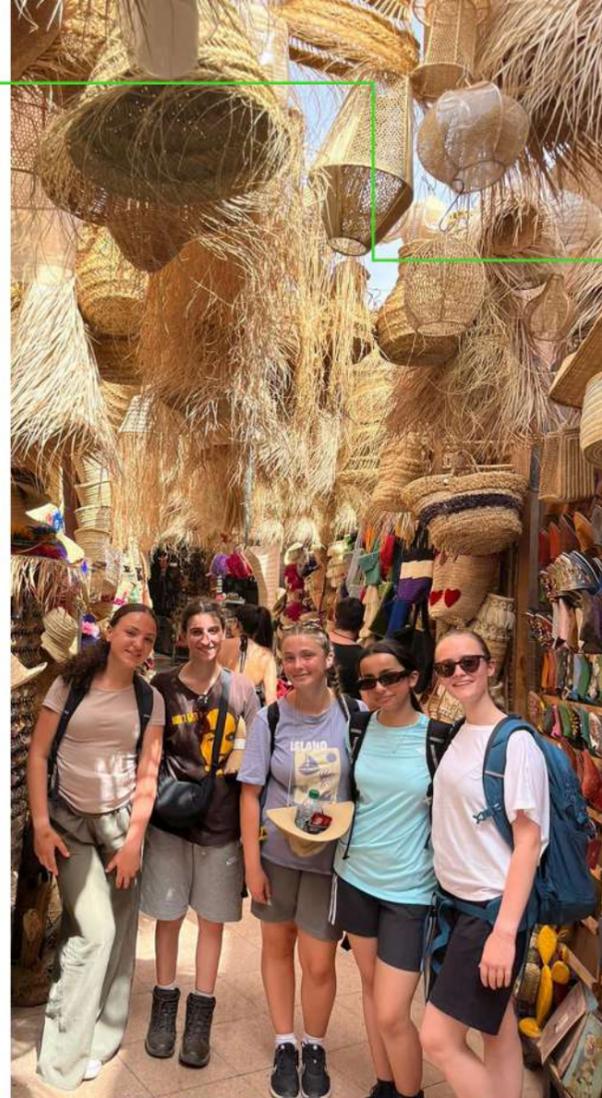
We are proud to nurture confident, responsible, and compassionate young leaders.



Extra-curricular activities

Highlands School is committed to offering students a wide range of learning contexts in order to develop all aspects of their abilities, talents and interests.

We offer a range of residential visits to Africa, Europe and beyond, including skiing, sports, historical visits and cultural exchanges. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh programme to develop their independence, resilience and ability to work in a team. The extra-curricular activities that Highlands offers students sets our school apart from many other secondary schools.



Sports

The PE department runs a full timetable of sports clubs throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities including netball, football, basketball, badminton, athletics, cricket, rounders and volleyball.

Highlands has a number of highly successful sports teams and regularly enters borough, county and national championships. Over the years, our girls' and boys' teams have won numerous Middlesex titles in football. Last year, the U16 girls' football team were crowned Middlesex Cup champions, with the U15s finishing as runners-up. Our year 9, 10 and senior girls' teams won their respective Enfield leagues.

In rounders, the year 9/10 rounders girls' team won their league with the year 9 team also taking the title at the borough tournament.

Highlands has previously had teams represent London at the National Futsal Finals and students selected to represent the county in various other sports. Our students regularly take part in the London Youth Games and compete in Enfield Borough Schools competitions across a range of disciplines.

Ed-Extra

We believe that a comprehensive student enrichment programme helps all our students develop character. At Highlands, all students in year 7 participate in our 'Ed-Extra' programme which runs every Wednesday from 2:10pm - 3:15pm in the autumn term. This continues throughout the year for year 7 students. In year 8, students opt in to participate in Ed-Extra activities. Students can choose from a range of activities in three different enrichment spheres: sport, music and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths).

This year such activities include sports such as rugby, judo and netball as well as other activities such as art club, fashion design, drama and LEGO.



DARE Days

On four days each year all lessons are suspended and all students and staff participate in our DARE days. Over the course of seven years at Highlands School, students will take part in carefully planned and sequenced trips which include: visits to museums and galleries; zoos; field trips to support geography; career days to raise aspirations; Bletchley Park to learn about coding; outdoor activity days to work on team building and resilience; the World War One trenches and a university careers fair. By the time our students leave us at 18 years old, they will have participated in a wide range of enjoyable and important trips.



Special educational needs

Highlands School has a higher than average number of students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for a mainstream secondary school. We believe that knowledge is powerful and that SEND should never limit a student's access to learning. All students are taught in mainstream classes across the full curriculum, including languages (French and Spanish).

Our Learning Support Department is well established and includes a SENCO, two assistant SENCOs, four learning support specialists (covering speech, language and communication, literacy, numeracy, and social, emotional and mental health), a SEND administrator, and a team of dedicated learning support assistants (LSAs). LSAs provide targeted interventions, act as key workers, and support students in lessons. In-class support is limited and is prioritised for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We offer a wide range of interventions to meet diverse needs, including programmes to improve reading, develop communication skills, and build emotional literacy.

In addition, Highlands School is proud to host an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) for Deaf learners. The ARP welcomes young people from across the borough with severe or profound deafness, often alongside speech, language, or complex needs, all supported through an EHCP. We embrace a mixed communication approach, valuing both British Sign Language (BSL) and spoken language equally. Students are supported by a fully qualified Teacher of the Deaf, along with specialist staff, ensuring they receive the expertise and tailored support needed to grow into confident, independent young people.

How to apply

All admissions to Highlands School are controlled by the London Borough of Enfield, Admission Department, in Enfield.

Enfield Schools Admission Service, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3XA.
Email: ESAS@enfield.gov.uk



148 Worlds End Lane, London, N21 1QQ
T: 020 8370 1100 | E: postbox@highlearn.uk

www.highlands.enfield.sch.uk