



AKELEY WOOD SCHOOL

NURSERY | JUNIOR | SENIOR | SIXTH FORM

An independent school for boys and girls aged 12 months - 18 years



Senior School

for ages 11 - 18 years





Bringing out the best *you* can be

Welcome to Akeley Wood

Akeley Wood is a unique school for children from Nursery through to Sixth Form, where we aim to help your child meet and exceed their goals. From day one and extending throughout their time with us, we aim to unlock your child's true potential by providing the perfect balance between an excellent education, uncompromising pastoral care and the nurtured development of your child's individual qualities.

Our pupils achieve exceptional academic results – but in equal measure have the greatest opportunity to develop their creative talents, sporting abilities, positive personal qualities and self-esteem. In this way, they are given a tremendous springboard for the exciting challenge of life beyond school.

When your child comes to us, we make it our first priority to discover and foster each child's strengths, attributes and aspirations. The school is situated in the midst of inspirational Buckinghamshire countryside, where we aim to provide a very happy and secure learning environment. Children at Akeley Wood want to achieve their best, and we help them to do just that. We encourage and reward healthy competition, but not to the detriment of any individual's sense of achievement and self-worth.

We are happy to accept new pupils at any stage of their school life. From whichever year they join, your child will benefit from our unique ethos and continuity throughout their time with us, perfectly equipped to take their place in society.

Akeley Wood Senior School

Akeley Wood is an independent co-educational senior day school for pupils from the age of eleven to eighteen: Year 7 through to Sixth Form. This provides invaluable continuity of both holistic education and care.

Our broad curriculum enables us to offer our pupils exposure to as many skills as possible, with no one subject group taking precedence over another. In this way we prepare them well for whatever path they choose, be it one of the top universities, an art or music college, or the career of their choice. The sciences and humanities are taught by professionals who are both highly experienced and passionate about their respective fields, as are the practical, creative subjects and sports.

Teaching classes number a maximum of twenty, though examination groups are much smaller. This enables close attention to the progress and needs of individual pupils.

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*The noblest pleasure is the joy
of understanding.*

Leonardo da Vinci

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Seeing

is believing in yourself

Academic life

As with most other aspects of Akeley Wood, our curriculum is based around maximising the individual's talents and abilities, which is why we offer such an extensive choice of subjects – right through to GCSE and A-Level. The curriculum features an excellent balance of academic and creative subjects, with pupils normally choosing to take the more challenging options at GCSE and, equipped with the highest A-Level grades, proceeding to a wide range of destinations including the top universities.

We spend limitless time and effort on different teaching strategies and techniques, reviewing and implementing the best approach for each pupil. This is all made possible by the expertise of our teaching staff and class sizes of no more than twenty – and frequently fewer at GCSE and A-Level.

We cater for a very wide range of abilities: high calibre academics as well as those to whom classwork may otherwise present a real challenge. We also offer a Tutorial Group in every year catering for particular learning needs – especially dyslexia – and staffed by experienced specialists. No pupil's progress – however fast or moderate – is compromised by others. Each year comprises six form groups, and certain subjects are 'set' according to ability.

Excellent teaching in Modern European Languages is complemented by slightly less 'usual' choices including Greek, Russian, Urdu and Chinese.

We also have a comprehensive offering in the sciences, where Chemistry, Biology and Physics are all available as individual GCSE options, as well as the dual award and, where appropriate, single science. IT is used to facilitate learning, but does not dominate it. Our continuing IT investment includes Autology – an advanced, personalised e-learning tool which pupils are also able to access from their home computers.

Our 2009 Ofsted inspection has judged the academic provision of our Senior School as 'outstanding' in all categories.

'Akeley Wood Senior School provides an outstanding quality of education for its pupils, [who] say they find the school welcoming, calm and friendly.'

Ofsted Inspection, 2009

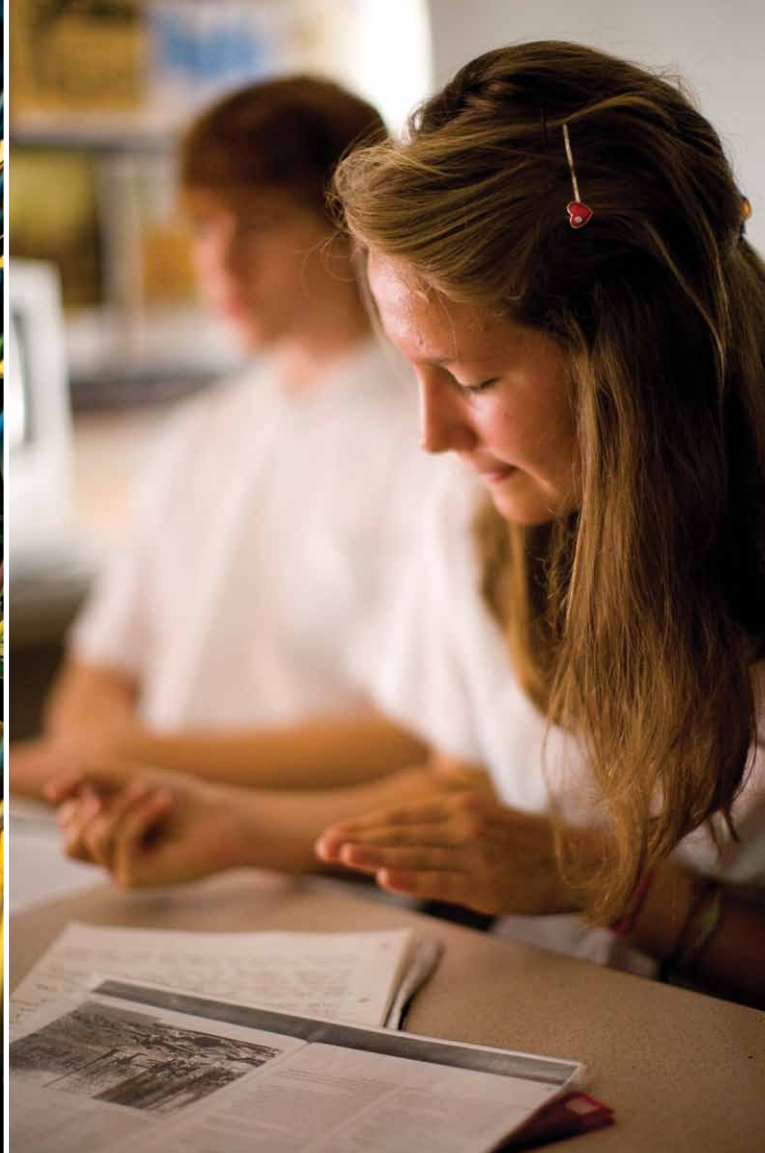
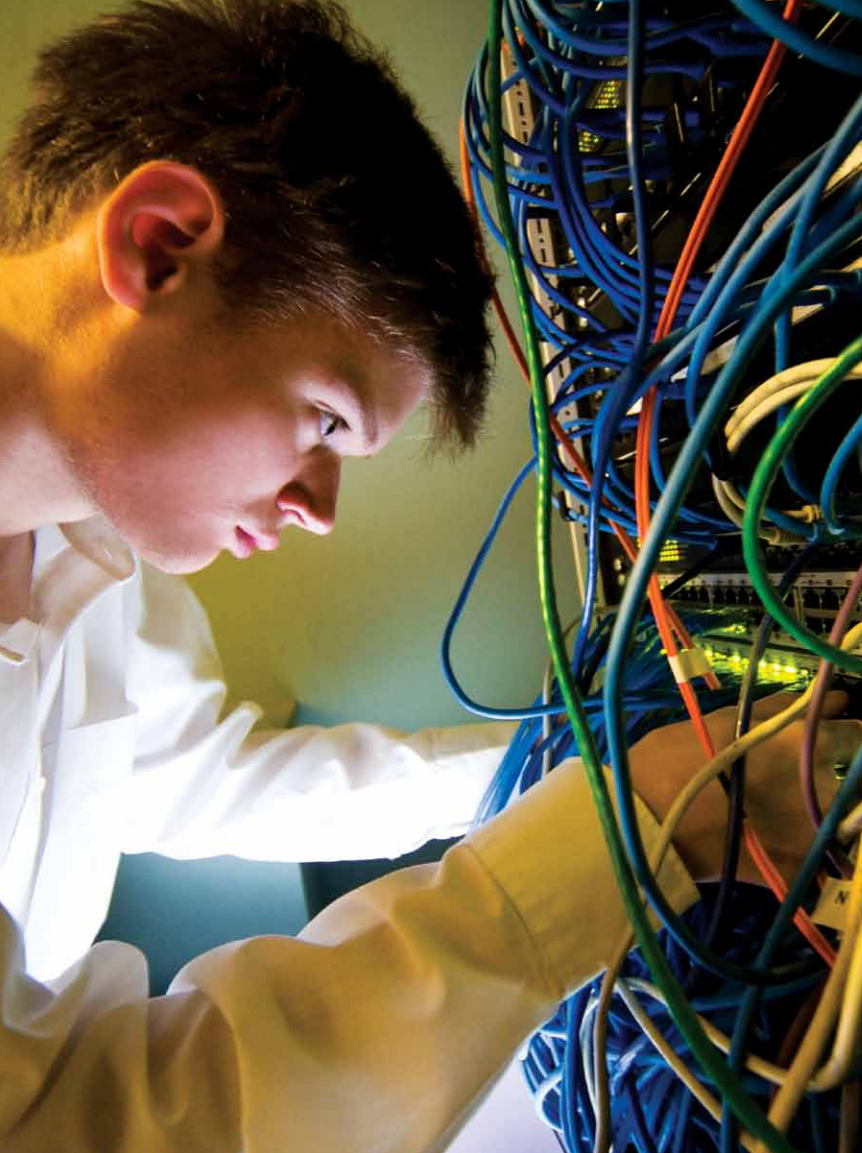


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Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning.

William A. Ward

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Playing

the right part in your future

Creative Arts

At Akeley Wood we have a particular strength in – and proud tradition of – the creative arts. This extends from curricular subjects, which are given equal importance to the sciences and humanities, to those enjoyed as extra-curricular activities.

Music

Music echoes in the very fabric of Akeley Wood. All pupils are encouraged to express themselves musically from the outset. Music and Music Technology are both offered at A-Level, after which some progress to the most respected music colleges in the country. Whether pupils express an interest in cello, bassoon, electric guitar or drums, their instrument and musical styles are catered for, with our talented teaching staff opening up a whole world of music for them to explore. Professional performers also frequently visit the school, taking specialist workshops and masterclasses across all musical genres. Choirs, orchestra, ensembles and bands abound in all parts of the school. Our accomplished jazz band brings a professional ‘big band’ sound to the school and is even hired for outside functions. Choirs frequently sing at local churches for the enjoyment of the wider community (and the benefit of the church coffers).

There is an extensive programme of music performance throughout the year, and concerts are always well attended by parents. The contemporary music year culminates in Akeley Woodstock – a now-legendary outdoor rock festival complete with pupil and staff bands, full PA and lighting – eagerly anticipated by pupils, parents and staff alike.

Drama

Drama is the other creative art enjoying a superb reputation at Akeley Wood. To us, drama presents a fabulous opportunity for children to rise to the challenge of expressing themselves, thus gaining valuable confidence and self-esteem. There are many opportunities for those who choose to take part in productions. West End actors or not, everyone is involved, either under the lights or in sound, lighting, costumes, make-up, scenery construction or stage management. Past pupils have progressed to study at drama colleges, others have been selected for the National Youth Theatre.

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*A painter paints pictures on canvas.
But musicians paint their pictures
on silence.*

Leopold Stokowski

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Creating

and developing new skills

Art

Visitors to the school are frequently astounded at our pupils' imagination and skill. Akeley Wood's unique ethos and learning environment encourage confidence and self-expression that give rise to an incredible breadth and depth of creativity across the entire range of artistic media, through to GCSE and A-Level. Exhibitions are supported by preparatory work and written rationalisations more commonly associated with far older artists. Our Sixth formers are all given the opportunity to do life drawing in the evening. Regular masterclasses are also held, courtesy of visiting professional artists, and we have links with some of the most sought-after art colleges. Akeley Wood is indeed proud of its artistic talent at all levels.

Design and Technology

In Design and Technology, which may be studied to GCSE and A-Level, pupils are encouraged to explore the boundaries of their creativity from the design of their work to its realisation, using a range of resistant materials including wood, metals and plastics. The end product is not only aesthetically pleasing – it will also be fit for purpose, with all materials costed by the pupils themselves, equipping them with valuable experience for life beyond school. Our Design and Technology department is exceptionally well equipped with CAD technology, lathe, forge and a state of the art 3D printing system.

Textiles

Another immensely popular subject at Akeley Wood, Textiles provides a superb opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their creativity and self-expression without constraint. Offered through to GCSE and A-Level, our content covers the subject's theory and history as well as skills in order to provide a meaningful context to the practice of design. We often host visiting fashion experts to discuss contemporary trends in design and production, and fashion evenings showcase the skills of our Textiles pupils on the catwalk, as do some of the ballgowns modelled at the end-of-year Graduation Ball.

Photography

Photography is offered as a subject at A-Level only, although it is also very popular as a club throughout the Senior School. We teach the history and theory of Photography to show its evolution from its beginnings – we have our own darkroom – to digital photography using the latest software. The emphasis is on drawing out pupils' individual talents in order to encourage creative expression. As with our other creative subjects, Photography is showcased at regular exhibitions and supported by visiting experts who impart their knowledge and skills to the pupils.



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*The world is but a canvas to
the imagination.*

Henry David Thoreau

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Together

we are a winning team

Sport at Akeley Wood

At Akeley Wood we believe that taking part in sport and physical education is as important for all children as their class-based subjects and activities. Here, whatever pupils' abilities, they gain an enhanced sense of self-esteem and competitive spirit from participating in both curricular and extra-curricular sport, with Physical Education and Sports Science popular options at both GCSE and A-Level. Pupils also become familiar with the benefits of exercise in maintaining personal fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

We offer a wide choice of sports, increasing as children progress through the school. Our enviable grounds and first rate facilities, set in the surrounding woods and fields, provide the perfect location for sports enjoyment.

All pupils participate in sport. Whilst we quickly identify and foster special talent, we also celebrate the achievements of everybody taking part – whatever their ability, with motivation coming not only from our teachers but equally from fellow pupils.

The main sports on offer to boys are rugby, football, tennis, cricket and athletics; whilst girls enjoy netball, hockey, rounders, tennis and athletics. Other options include swimming, badminton, volleyball, basketball, cross-country and weightlifting.

Sport is an expanding department at Akeley Wood, reflected in our team of specialist teaching staff and increasingly extensive fixture list, which involves competitive games with both private and state schools. A number of pupils also represent their county and country.

We have, in recent years, invested heavily in our facilities in both financial and planning terms, and continue to do so in order to provide the best for all pupils. Our impressive all-weather Astroturf pitch offers full-size football and hockey – or alternatively twelve tennis courts – so that pupils can benefit from all year round exercise and healthy fresh air. There is also a four badminton court heated sports dome.

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The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Pushing

the boundaries of possibility

Sixth Form

The story continues into our Sixth Form, where we provide the perfect environment for around 150 students to prepare for life beyond school, both academically and socially. The fact that most Year 11 pupils choose to progress here – and the significant numbers of new joiners – reflect our outstanding Sixth Form reputation.

Akeley Wood Sixth Form is sufficiently small to offer excellent individual care for its pupils – both academically and pastorally – and large enough to offer a very wide choice of subjects and activities without being carried along ‘with the tide’. Here, as in the rest of Senior School, individuals are recognised and rewarded for their respective achievements. End of year trophies for endeavour bear testament to this, including one for the pupil who in their time with us has best personified the spirit of the school.

Our Sixth formers benefit from a wide range of A-Level subjects, top facilities and an ideal forum for their learning. We also provide them with comprehensive post-A-Level preparation, including links with tertiary institutions and an insight into aspects of university life, from degree choice to gap year planning, equipping them to make informed choices for life beyond school.

Other activities such as the Enterprise Club and Charities Committee provide further vision of the wider world. The Model United Nations fosters free expression on all manner of topical subjects, as does our Debating Society. The Sixth formers’ own magazine, entitled ‘Creative Writing’, celebrates the creative arts and welcomes contributions in prose, poetry and music from all. ‘Akeley Woodstock’, our incredible annual outdoor rock concert, is run by Sixth formers, giving them the opportunity to work as a team, contributing respective skills and talents to events management.

We field highly competitive first teams against other Sixth Forms in the main sports, but pupils of all abilities are actively encouraged to participate.

The school’s Head Girl and Boy, Heads of House, Prefects, and Year 7 Mentors are all Sixth formers.



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*Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.*

Robert Collier

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Thinking outside the box

Extra-curricular

We firmly believe that learning is not confined to the classroom, and our pupils benefit from a substantial choice of extra-curricular activities, clubs and visits to broaden their horizons and ignite individual passions.

A number of clubs and workshops are held both at lunch hour and after school – encouraging furtherance of leisure interests as well as reinforcement of curriculum subjects. These include chess, board games, textiles, art, computing, photography, car maintenance, and design and technology, as well as many opportunities in music, drama and sport. Many pupils are keen to participate in the School Council and public speaking.

School trips are not only popular – they demonstrate to children first-hand how life's adventure extends to a bigger, wider world. Recently, pupils have enjoyed watersports in the South of France and skiing trips to Canada, as well as language, history and other subject-related visits, giving them a broad appreciation of other cultures.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme also plays an important role in school life. We encourage pupils to take advantage of the opportunity to fulfil their potential through volunteering, fitness, skills development and adventure and – at Gold level – a residential element.

Over three-quarters of our Year 9 pupils enjoy participation in the Award Scheme, and Sixth formers are always ready to help our youngsters achieve their Bronze award.

Entry

Entry to the Senior School is normally at the age of eleven (Year 7), though many pupils join us after that, subject to vacancies and assessment. Transfer from the Junior School is normally automatic. We recommend advance registration owing to high demand for places. This is done by returning our registration form, normally after parents have visited us. The Headteacher will contact all those registered in the Autumn or Spring before the proposed September entry and invite them for assessment in order of registration. Prospective Senior School pupils are invited to an assessment day to judge their suitability. Reading, literacy and numeracy skills are assessed, and places are offered to those who in our opinion will be comfortable with our level of work. Behaviour, good manners and enthusiasm are also taken into account.

To make an appointment to visit the school, please telephone the Registrar on 01280 812000 or email enquiries@akeleywoodschool.co.uk.



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*Education is not filling a bucket,
but lighting a fire.*

WB Yeats

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Contact

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