



Highlands



SCHOOL
PROSPECTUS
2027 - 2028



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.





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



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 2027.

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 2027. As Highlands goes from strength to strength, we look forward to welcoming them to our school community.

Vincent McInerney
Headteacher



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 to 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.



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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, playground and astroturf. Our transition programme enables students to begin their time at Highlands with confidence.



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Highlands Sixth Form

Highlands Sixth Form is a thriving, high-achieving and inclusive community, where students consistently perform above national expectations. With our 2026 A level results placing us in the top 25% nationally, a significant proportion of our year 13 students continue to progress 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 270 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, subject to meeting our entry criteria. Please visit our website for full entry requirements.



With A level results placing us in the top 25% nationally in 2026 - Highlands Sixth Form opens doors to Oxbridge, 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. Our GCSE students consistently achieve some of the highest levels of progress in Enfield, and in 2026 our A level results were in the top 25% of schools nationally.

However, the curriculum is about more than excellent examination results. The key stage three 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 three students study the topics in each subject that will not only prepare them for GCSE exams, but that will let them learn the best of which 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 being 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.

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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.

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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 of 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.



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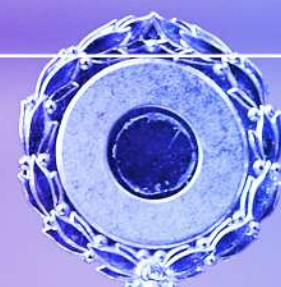


Rowan

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.



Oak



Beech



Willow

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.

Alongside the many leadership opportunities within our house system, we appoint a head boy and head girl from year 13. Our head students act as ambassadors for the school, representing students at school and wider community events, supporting key school initiatives and serving as positive role models for younger students. Through these roles students develop confidence, communication and leadership skills whilst helping to strengthen and shape our school community.

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Extra curricular activities

Highlands School is committed to providing students with a wide range of learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom, helping them to develop their abilities, talents and interests while building confidence, independence and resilience.

Our extensive programme of trips and residential visits takes students across the UK, Europe, Africa and beyond, with opportunities including skiing, sports tours, historical visits and cultural exchanges. Students are also encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, developing valuable skills in teamwork, leadership, resilience and independence.

Alongside these experiences, Highlands offers a diverse programme of extracurricular activities across sport, music, drama, the arts and academic enrichment. The breadth of opportunities available encourages every student to explore new interests, develop their talents and make the most of school life, and is an important part of what sets Highlands apart.



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25



Ed-Extra

We believe that a comprehensive student enrichment programme helps all our students develop character.

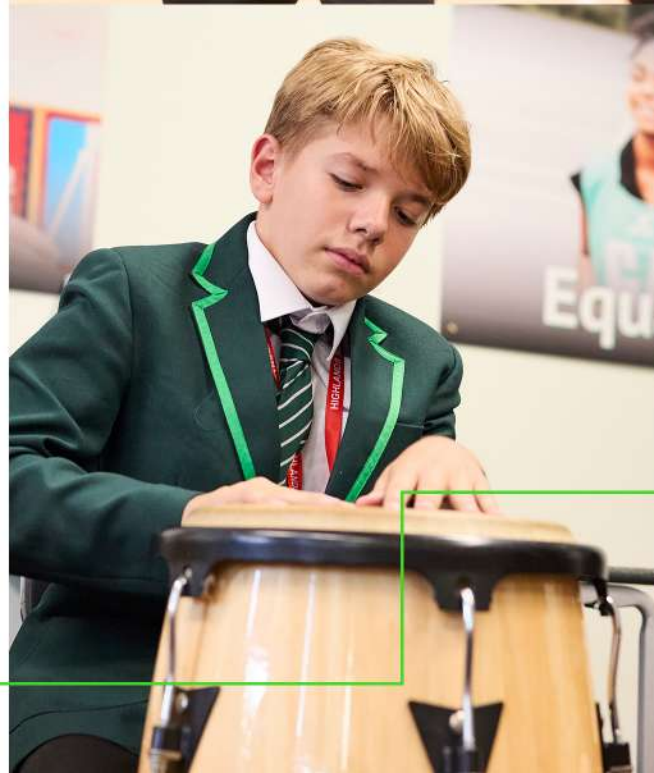
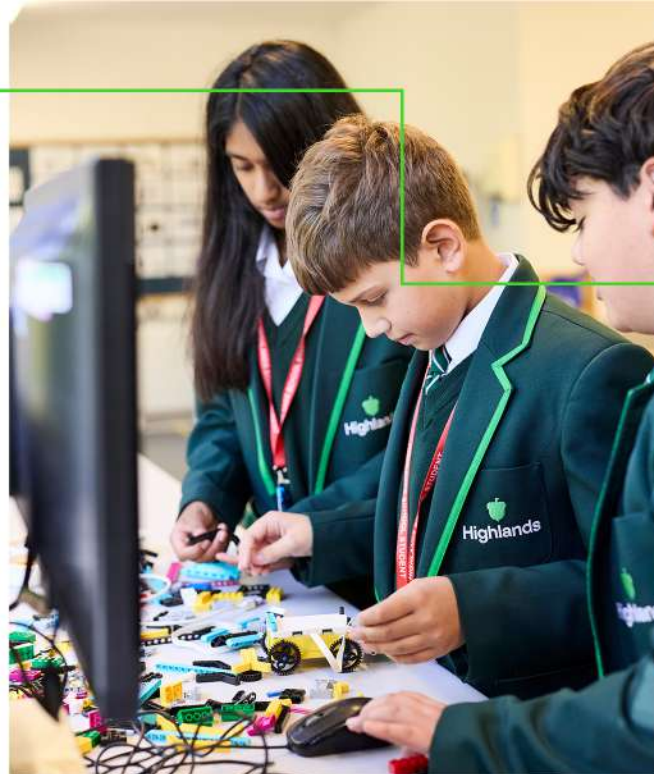
At Highlands, all students in year 7 participate in our 'Ed-Extra' programme which runs every Wednesday from 2:10pm - 3:15pm in the autumn term. This continues throughout the year for year 7 students.

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 activities include sports such as basketball, judo and football as well as other activities including art club, fashion design, coding and robotics, narrative and film club and samba drumming.



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DARE Days

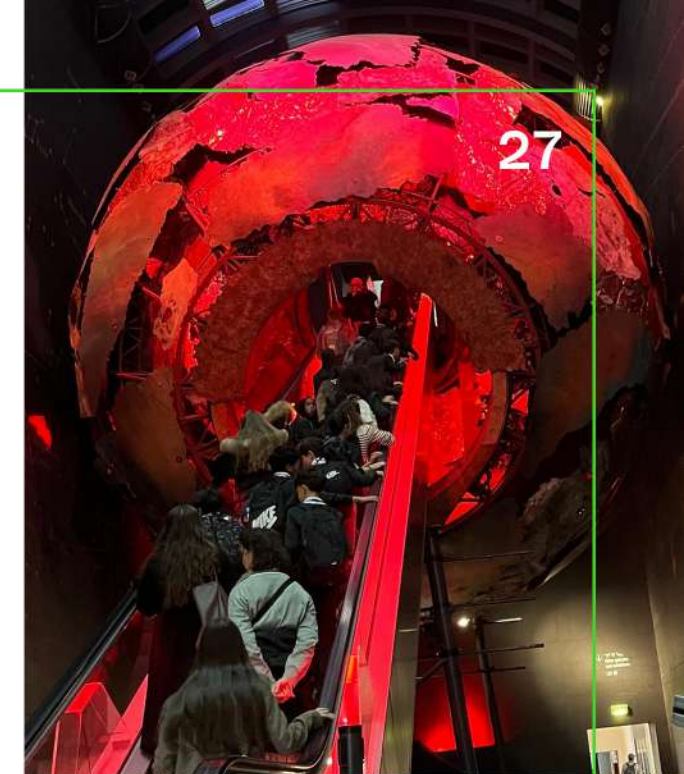
At Highlands, we believe trips and visits are a right not a privilege. That's why, four days each year, the usual curriculum is suspended and every student and member of staff takes part in our DARE Days – a total of 24 days across a student's seven years at Highlands.

Our DARE Days are carefully planned and sequenced to broaden students' experiences, build cultural capital, raise aspirations and develop character through our DARE values: determination, aspiration, respect and equality.

Throughout their time at Highlands, students take part in a wide range of experiences, including visits to museums and galleries, London Zoo, Bletchley Park, St Albans Cathedral, Herts Young Mariners and Go Ape, as well as geography field trips, a World War One trench experience, careers and university events, outdoor activity days, team-building experiences and public-speaking workshops.

Each experience is designed to be relevant to students at that stage of their journey, helping them develop confidence, resilience and important life skills while providing opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and, importantly, have fun.

By the time our students leave Highlands at 18, they will have experienced a rich and varied programme of memorable opportunities that broaden their horizons, raise their aspirations and help them Dare to flourish.



Sports

Sport is an important part of life at Highlands, giving students opportunities to compete, develop new skills, build confidence and be part of a team.

Our PE department runs a varied programme of sports clubs throughout the year, including netball, football, basketball, badminton, athletics, cricket, rounders and volleyball, ensuring students have plenty of opportunities to get involved beyond their lessons.

Highlands has a proud history of sporting success, with teams regularly competing at borough, county and national level. Our boys' and girls' football teams have won numerous Middlesex titles, while more recently our U16 girls were crowned Middlesex Cup champions, our girls' football teams have enjoyed success in the Enfield leagues, and our girls' rounders teams have also been crowned borough champions.

Our students have represented London at the National Futsal Finals, competed for the county across a range of sports and regularly represent Enfield at the London Youth Games and Enfield Borough Schools competitions.

One of the highlights of the school calendar is our annual Sports Day, when our four houses – Rowan, Oak, Beech and Willow – come together to compete to become Sports Day Champions. Filled with competition, teamwork, house spirit and plenty of fun, it is a fantastic day enjoyed by students and staff alike and a wonderful opportunity to come together as one house community.

Whether representing the school, competing for their house or simply taking part in a sport they enjoy, every student has the opportunity to get involved, be part of a team and experience the pride of representing their school and house.



U16 Middlesex Cup Champions 2026

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 power 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



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