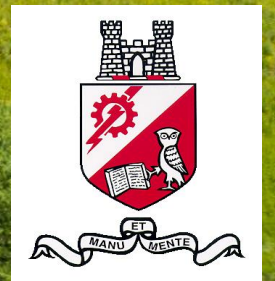
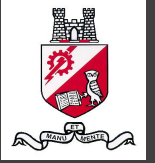


Welcome to West Hatch High School



“To be the best I can be...”

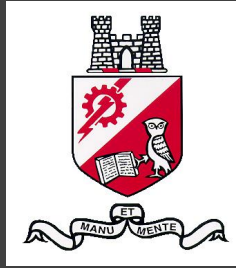


Welcome to West Hatch High School. My name is Mrs Victoria Schaefer and I have the privilege of being West Hatch High School's Headteacher.

Choosing a secondary school to attend is a really important decision for you and your parents. Making the transition from primary school into secondary is an important moment in your life and one you will always remember. It's important to choose a school that's right for you as a person. As Headteacher, I know we have a great offer at West Hatch and I'm looking forward to sharing it with you. This presentation will give you a flavour of the ethos and culture of our school and what we stand for.

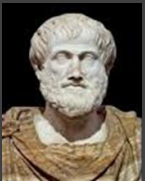
Our motto is “To be the best that I can be” and this is a call to excellence across 3 areas





Ensuring Academic Excellence

Our first priority is to ensure academic excellence. Our goal is to ensure every student makes outstanding progress. We support all students to leave equipped for university, apprenticeships, or the workplace



As Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.” This ethos has enabled us to achieve successful results for many years. Last year we were very proud of our results and progress

GCSE Results 2024



59% of Year 11 achieved English & Maths at 5+



75% of the cohort achieved English & Maths at 4+



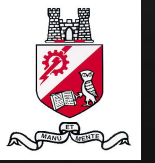
Our progress measure is that +0.20 meaning students are exceeding their targets

Last year we achieved - Just under 60% of Year 11 achieved English and Maths at a grade 5 and above, 75% of the cohort achieved English and Maths at a grade 4 and above, Our progress measure is plus +0.20 meaning students are exceeding their targets

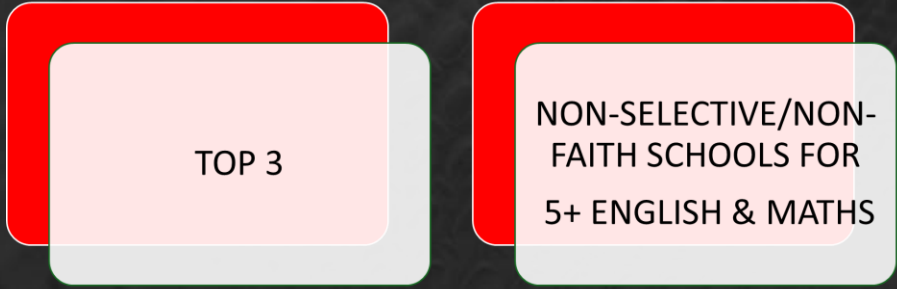
TOP 12

for students
achieving 5+
English & Maths

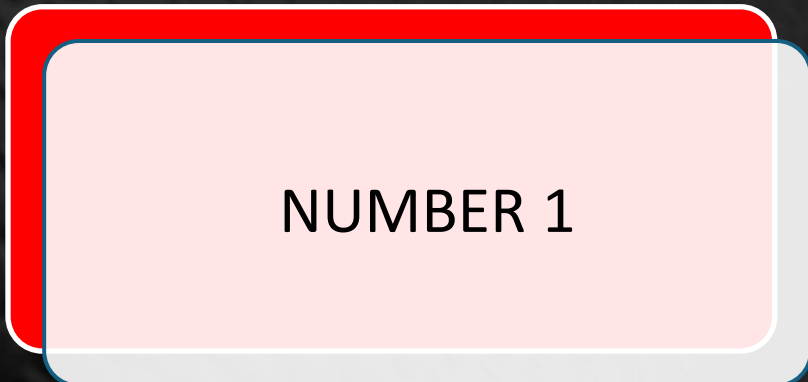
Overall, Essex has 133 state secondary schools, and our GCSE results this year put us in the top 12 schools in Essex for students achieving 5+ English and Maths.

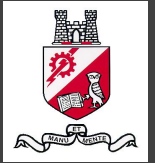


But this number is a bit misleading because it contains all the grammar schools e.g. Southend School for Boys and Colchester Girls Grammar as well as schools which select based on faith. We are a comprehensive, neighbourhood school so if we compare ourselves with other non-selective/non-faith schools we are in the top 3!



Furthermore if we look at the results of students who are disadvantaged and their results we are Number 1 in Essex for achieving 5+ English and Maths. We are incredibly proud of that statistic – it shows no matter who you are or what socio-economic background you come from, you can succeed here at West Hatch.





At West Hatch we have a stable staff body and teachers who are experts in their field – you don't get results like that without having those things. I think you'll be surprised at some of the lengths in service of our staff body, in a national and local shortage of teachers, my role is to keep teachers happy in their job .



Here's the staff football team looking pretty happy - after a win I presume – just to prove that teachers do smile sometimes! As Headteacher, I also need to give them the investment they need to be the best that they can be for our pupils. I will not lose sight of this goal for our children. Part of securing and keeping staff is to deal with poor behaviour.

Outstanding Behaviour

We do have high expectations and strict standards for our pupils at West Hatch. On a fundamental level, as Headteacher, I will not allow a few individuals to disturb and impact the learning of the vast majority. I take this goal exceptionally seriously. We have our own Internal Alternative Provision and if a pupil cannot meet our behavioural expectations they will be removed from our mainstream classes. We give all pupils every opportunity to improve with the help of our extensive behaviour, pastoral and SEND team.

Our high expectations are also applied in our response to any bullying. No honest Headteacher will tell you that bullying or unkind comments do not sometimes happen in school but it is our response to these – quick, decisive and effective – that makes bullying a rare occurrence at West Hatch. I want to highlight the important role parental involvement plays in our shared mission. Parents and teachers are key partners in a child's development. Parental trust in our school is crucial. When parents support our educational approach, it has a direct impact on pupils' confidence and motivation. This trust fosters a positive learning atmosphere and helps students believe in themselves. Building trust is a two-way process.

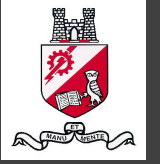
We encourage all parents and guardians to engage with us, share their insights, and actively participate in their child's education. Your involvement strengthens our efforts and enriches the overall experience for each pupil.

Wide range of subjects

Hopefully you will be excited by the wide range of subjects that we offer. We are committed to the arts and have a burgeoning Arts offer including music, art, photography, drama, media and dance. As a business and enterprise school we offer business, economics at GCSE and A Level as well as a Financial Literacy qualification at KS3. We have French and Spanish on offer as well as food and design technology and an engineering taster in Year 9. You can also experience digital media in Year 9 and we offer the Performing Arts Award at bronze and silver level too. There's a broad curriculum offer at KS3 that sets us apart from other schools.



The importance of reading...



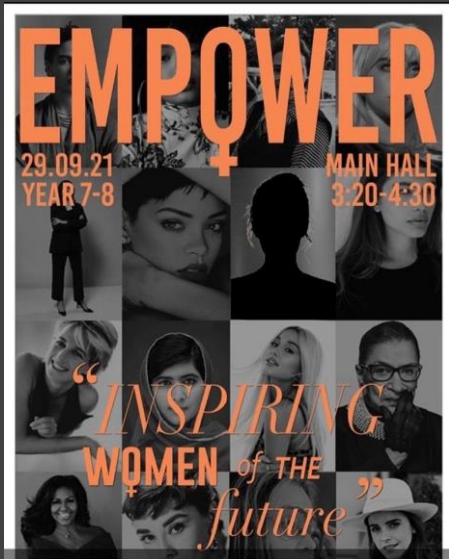
At KS3, reading is an essential skill, and we have many ways to support and nurture a love of reading. I am an English teacher by background and my goal is to have every student reading in line with their chronological age. GCSE exam papers are written for the reading age of a 16-year-old so I'm passionate about enabling every student to achieve this by the end of Year 9. Our library is fully staffed each day and offers access before and after school. It's a safe space at the heart of our school with one of the most important jobs.

To further support our pupils, each year group is split into 3 – we call them Hatch, West and Chigwell. This enables us to have 3 top sets in each third of the year, meaning more students get to experience the challenge and excitement of the learning journey in a top set. We have a really exciting curriculum offer, achieve outstanding results and perhaps the best accolade of all is many staff who work here choose to send their own children to West Hatch.



Fostering a West Hatch Spirit

Our second area of excellence is fostering a West Hatch spirit through a caring, inclusive environment with the key values of kindness, empathy, justice, and celebrating diversity. We aim to instil these values in our students, encouraging them to be role models and leaders who will inspire our younger pupils and themselves become positive agents of change in the world.



We take pride in creating a community where every student feels valued. We have our Student Council who have been involved in food bank drives and has sent representatives to Epping Forest Youth Council. We have an Empower group run by Sixth Form students to inspire women of the future.



House Events

Our House system fosters the West Hatch spirit with competitions across the year: from House Cross Country to Sports Day to the ever-popular Bake-Off competition! There's something for everyone to get involved with.

We want every pupil to feel safe and seen at West Hatch. Our cultural week, coordinated by our Equality and Diversity Committee, is always a highlight of the year with events happening all week from special dishes of food served in the canteen to cultural dress day for staff and students at the end of the week. We are a community with a family feel and love to celebrate the milestones in a student's life.





Year 11 leaver's day is always a highlight of the year with ice cream vans and photo fun on our fields – followed by our Year 11 Prom. Here's our 2024 Prom King and Queen. You'll notice Robert has ear defenders on; this was to protect him from the sensory overload of the event. Everyone is included at West Hatch, everyone is safe to be themselves at West Hatch.



Year 7 Graduation Day!

Not to be outdone, Year 7 also have their own celebrations at the end of their first year where we finish early to have an awards assembly all family are invited to and then have fun and games on the school playing fields. It's a great event that you can look forward to being part of!



Developing character skills

Our final area of excellence focuses on developing character through opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. We offer many chances for students to grow as leaders, such as becoming prefects or leading clubs and activities. We want our students to be well-rounded individuals who contribute to school life and the wider community



I'm delighted to announce that we are Jack Petchey School of 2024 and take part in their 'Speak Out' challenge annually.

Trips & Visits

Trips and visits are a key part of our character education you can look forward to trips to the National History Museum, the Tower of London, Imperial War Museum and the London Stock Exchange.

You might also be lucky enough to take part in our visits abroad – here's a picture of our ski trip to Italy this year and in 2025 some students are off to Malawi as part of World Challenge



Sports Teams

We have so many sporting teams and opportunities on offer for you. We have an outstanding provision –we have a heated swimming pool and a new sports hall

Sally Gunnel the Gold Olympic winner for hurdles is an ex-WH pupil and came in last year to give our pupils a master-class on being a professional athlete. We are excellently represented at a local, regional and national level across many different sports; there's something for everyone at West Hatch.

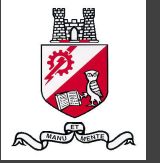




Performing Arts

If Performance is more your thing, then our exciting performing offer is for you – whether you're a musician, an actor, singer or dancer, you are expertly coached and developed at our school.

“To be the best I can be...”



By embracing our three areas of excellence: academic excellence, fostering the West Hatch Spirit, and character development – we believe every student can truly “be the best they can be.”

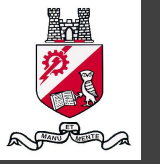
We are heavily oversubscribed and last year offered no places outside our Preferred Admissions Area on National Offer Day but obviously this changes year on year. What I would advise that if we are your preferred choice, you must put us down as number 1 on your preferences otherwise it’s unlikely you will be given a place.

At West Hatch, we believe in every child’s potential to thrive, to grow, and to succeed. We are a school where every student can truly "be the best they can be"

Whether that’s in the classroom, on the stage, on the sports field, or in leadership roles. This is more than just a school; it’s a community that nurtures, challenges, and inspires. This is a place where your children will be known, supported, and encouraged to achieve more than they thought possible.

Thank you for considering West Hatch High School, and I look forward to welcoming many of you into our family next year

OFSTED 2023



“West Hatch achieves its
aim of feeling like a
family.”