



Woolwich Polytechnic
School for Boys



**WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

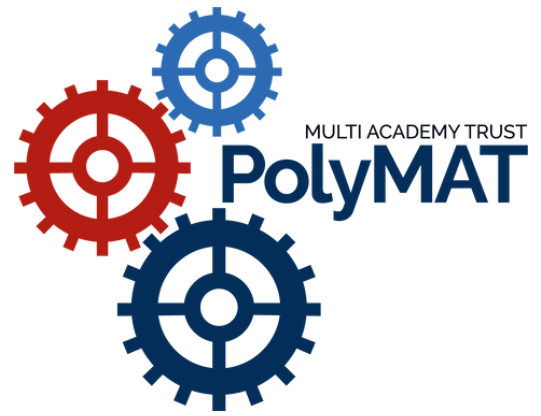
**SCHOOL PROSPECTUS
2022/2023**





WELCOME FROM THE
CEO OF POLYMAT
MR. TIM PLUMB

WHY CHOOSE WOOLWICH POLY?



POLYMAT OPERATES TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS IN THAMESMEAD – WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Our two schools are located next to each other and we work in close collaboration to achieve our Vision of “Success for Everyone”. This means that we are highly inclusive and place the needs of our students and their community at the heart of our work. All that we do is driven by two values – Care and Unity. By Care, we mean that we show a level of consideration and commitment to each-and-every student that we believe is unmatched. This means that each student is seen as an individual and treated with the care that they need to achieve great things. Unity means that we always work together – with our two schools, with our community and with our wider partners – to ensure that we are delivering the best strategies to create success for everyone.

Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys has a very long history of success (indeed, the actual school is over one hundred years old!). We have a track record of impressive exam results and impressive levels of pastoral care and we ensure that the environment for learning is always one which is safe, positive and enjoyable. We work very hard to create strong relationships within our organisation and we welcome strong parental involvement. We know that our students will only achieve their best if they are safe and happy. The main school is supported by a large and successful Sixth Form on the same site which admits girls as well as boys.

I do hope that you find this prospectus exciting and that it persuades you to come and visit us to see what makes us special. I am confident that you will not be disappointed!



SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE



WELCOME FROM THE
HEAD OF SCHOOL
MR TOM LAWRENCE

BECOMING PART OF THE POLY FAMILY

WELCOME TO WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN US.

We are a very special school that aims to serve the community, improve opportunity for our community and also reflect our community through our diverse and ambitious curriculum, as well as through our diverse staff and student bodies. We hope that you, too, feel that specialness when you visit us, a specialness that encompasses care and compassion, a genuine delight in children's contributions and a drive towards "success for everyone".

We have a long and proud history, having educated boys for over 100 years: we have been a technical school, reported as the most improved boy's school in the country, a community school and now an academy, a single school and now the founding 'brother' to our sister school, Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls. We have year-on-year exam results at GCSE and A Level that make us, our students and their families rightly proud. Yet our relentless focus is upon the futures of our current students as we counsel them through their educational careers to be the most successful version of themselves.

To support your son through their secondary education, we have firm foundations in exemplary pastoral care and expert teaching. Safeguarding our students is the absolute priority that informs the behaviours we demonstrate in the staff and student bodies. Our pastoral care and personal development programme are child-centred, empathetic to individual children's needs, recognising their challenges and assisting with overcoming them.

We care; we listen; we understand context and we actively build meaningful relationships with every child.

Our teaching is equally child-centred, offering support and challenge as required to ensure that all our students achieve the grades they need to pursue the courses and careers they aspire to with confidence. Our curriculum is designed so that students can make interconnections between the various subject disciplines, hence stimulating a culture of curiosity and questioning so that all our boys leave us as well-rounded, caring members of the community, ready to navigate the adult world safely, critically and knowledgeably.

We also recognise that child development is enhanced through pleasure and we therefore cater for their personal interests with an extensive enrichment programme, including wellbeing days, our Activities Week, curriculum and reward trips and a variety of clubs. There are always opportunities for your son to have their voice heard, whether through the Student Council or more informal feedback to tutors, teachers and head of year or our dedicated student voice co-ordinator.

I am confident that you will have made the right choice for your son by privileging us with his care, education and personal development so welcome to the Poly family.

SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

Trust-wide vision



Woolwich Polytechnic

School for Boys

Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys shares the PolyMAT vision for raising standards



OUR SHARED VISION

SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

Our vision is "Success for Everyone". We aspire for every member of our community, regardless of circumstances or background, to be the best version of themselves - confident, successful students, committed, successful staff, who are committed to growing and developing as practitioners, and engaged stakeholders who unite in celebration. We achieve our Vision through our two core values of CARE and UNITY.



01 CARE

The overriding feel within our Trust is that we care more than anyone else could expect. We care for all aspects of our practice and, in particular, we care for:

- Everyone's safety and happiness
- Everyone's personal development and growth
- Everyone's outcomes
- Everyone's standards
- Everyone's learning
- Everyone's well-being
- Everyone's relationships

This is reflected by the fact that we call ourselves the Poly Family and we are an organisation based on relationships above all else - we are individual people first and students, staff and parents second.

02 UNITY

The value that ensures that our impact is greater than it ever could be if we worked alone. This means that our schools, teams and individuals are always pulled together in ways which share the workload and create solutions from which everyone benefits. We are determined that nothing can divide us when we put the needs of our community before everything else.

PASTORAL CARE



CARING FOR OUR BOYS

Woolwich Polytechnic School prides itself on the outstanding quality and strength of its pastoral care. Our highly skilled heads of year and their tutor teams are dedicated to supporting the pastoral and academic welfare of the students in their charge.

This outstanding and compassionate team will ensure your son succeeds academically, socially and personally.

Woolwich Polytechnic School, like any high achieving organisation, is anchored in a celebration of its achievements.

We celebrate a diverse and multicultural community and academic, sporting, social and cultural successes.

Our celebratory ethos inspires our boys to reach their potential by praising and rewarding their success.

The pastoral team forges close links between parents, students and tutors to ensure that your son understands the importance of good manners.

We believe the success of Woolwich Polytechnic School is based on the thriving partnership between parents and carers, students, staff and governors.

We encourage parents and carers to take an active role in their sons' studies and often invite them into school to share subject knowledge with them.

We are in the process of developing a cloud based platform for sharing and communication across the trust.

This sharing of information will give our stakeholders ownership of the schools.

We hold many events that bring our entire school community together to share in your son's success.

It is the parents/carers' responsibility to ensure that their child attends school and that the school is informed of the reason for any non-attendance. Students receive certificates for very high attendance.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

LESSONS FOR SUCCESS

We offer an exciting, innovative and personalised curriculum that changes in response to national requirements. All stages of our curriculum are designed to inspire and challenge students at all levels of their education.

The school puts an emphasis on the importance of information and communication skills. These underpin and empower your son's independent learning, which will put him at the forefront of technology.

"Teachers use their good subject knowledge to plan exciting lessons which motivate and inspire their pupils."

OFSTED, 2019

In a recent OFSTED inspection, it was noted that we have "an unusually high proportion of Advanced Skills Teachers and Lead Practitioners" who encourage creative, responsive and effective approaches to teaching and learning.

Academic, personal, social and leadership skills are developed through our varied curriculum that includes artistic, musical and sporting opportunities.

"There is an exceptional ethos of care across the school and pupils view the school as their family"

OFSTED, 2019



SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

CURRICULUM

We are very proud of our new curriculum, which has been designed to be inclusive of our school's communities. It is reviewed each year in order to tailor the right courses to the right students and so ensuring success for everyone.

The wider curriculum includes an extensive Personal Development programme and a fantastic range of leadership and extra-curricular activities.

Our curriculum plays an important part of the continuing success of our boys in their examinations.

KEY STAGE 3

We offer a full, broad and balanced curriculum, taught by subject specialists who deliver high quality lessons in order to inspire the love of their subject and promote a sense of awe and wonder so that our students become specialists in that field. At the heart of this curriculum is the development of literacy, numeracy and ICT skills – those skills central to future success and life-long learning and to develop our students as well rounded individuals, ready to move onto the next phase of their education

Our personalised curriculum means that some students in Year 7 follow our transition curriculum. This involves a cross-curricular approach to literacy and numeracy, taught by specialists who are skilled in developing vital learning skills. This curriculum has proved a great success in helping students make more rapid progress than that of the national average.

"Pupils are highly ambitious, because of this culture set by leaders."

OFSTED, 2019

KEY STAGE 4

All students select their Key Stage 4 choices via our option programme during Year 9 and start their courses in Year 10.

Our options programme is extensive and allows students to study a considerable range of GCSE and vocational courses at Level 1 and 2, where appropriate.

Students are given close guidance and support to help them make the best choices for themselves and their future, securing the most suitable pathway to sixth form, college, apprenticeships and beyond.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL INTAKE

We are pleased to be able to offer an exciting and challenging curriculum to our most able students through the Grammar School Intake (GSI) programme.

The aim of this programme is to provide a grammar school curriculum experience within an outstanding, inclusive and caring comprehensive school.

Students are selected for the programme based on their previous achievements and school testing on intake.



SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

ENRICHMENT



Our gifted and talented programme identifies those students who have the potential for above average achievement in either traditional 'academic' subjects and/or more creative areas such as art, drama, music and sport.

We ensure that conditions such as dyslexia, which may prevent students from demonstrating their potential, do not form barriers to identification and achievement.

We offer a broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities that are designed to motivate and challenge students and explore interests beyond the curriculum.

We believe that learning transcends barriers and reaches out into the local community and beyond; therefore, we actively encourage students to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

We have a wide variety of after-school clubs and activities that are available to all students, including sports, drama, music, art and technology. Students are often given the chance to showcase their talents to a far wider audience than the school.



Our school was the first in the country to receive a Gold Award for its Work Related Learning, which promotes students' understanding of the world of work and key employability skills. We have close links with businesses, both local and national, which support our enterprise activities.

Moreover, our excellent work experience programme for students in Year 10 and Year 12 helps your son with his career choice and prepares him for the transition from school, to college or to employment.



"Being a prefect gives you a sense of meaning and responsibility. It makes you proud."

Year 11 Prefect



UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear the school's uniform and to possess the necessary kit for physical education.

Clothing must be smart, clean and tidy. All boys are expected to wear this uniform on the journey to and from school, as well as in school.

If for any reason your son is unable to come to school wearing the correct uniform, he should bring a note of explanation from you.

Caps, trainers and hooded jackets are not permitted. If your son is found wearing these items, they will be confiscated and he may be sent home.

Boys are not permitted to wear jewellery (including earrings) to school for health and safety reasons. The only permissible pieces of jewellery is a watch or a medical wristband.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Black blazer with school badge*
- Black trousers
- White shirt
- Black v-neck jumper with school badge*
- School tie (black and red with school badge)*
- Shoes - black (boots and trainers are not permitted)
- A plain dark coat or jacket for outside wear
- Black socks
- A lanyard* (One free lanyard is provided in the first instance but lost lanyards must then be paid for)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION KIT

- Black shorts with school badge*
- Red and black polo shirt with school badge*
- Red and black rugby shirt*
- Trainers
- Red football socks*
- Black training top ~
- Black training pants ~
- Red and black fleece ~
- Football boots ~

Uniform must be smart, clean and tidy.

*These items can be purchased on-line direct from the manufacturer. Please see the school's website for the order form. Orders can be collected from the school or sent directly home.

~ These items are not compulsory.

Cashless Payments

The school operates a cashless payment system. The school finance office will no longer accept cash as a method of payment unless there are exceptional circumstances.

The school is able to accept card payments which is operated by MCAS. All parents/carers will be issued with a username and password and details of how to access the system. The system can be used for all payments including catering, educational visits, Activities Week and revision guides.

Cashless Catering System

Cash loaders around the school allow students to use their identity cards to add funds to their accounts. Students are discouraged to bring cash into school and electronic payment is the preferred option.

SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

BEHAVIOUR

Safeguarding our students is the absolute priority that informs the behaviours we want to see from all stakeholders and it also informs decisions made by the designated safeguarding lead.

Expectations of students' behaviour can be summarised in the three words: we expect students to be ready, respectful and safe. Students conduct themselves in a way that helps keep themselves and others safe: they show self-restraint, even in difficult situations when they always politely defer to teachers and associate staff around them. Our students are caring, empathetic and tolerant, celebrating cultural and lifestyle differences. They show their readiness by being punctual to school and lessons, whilst maintaining correct uniform and equipment required to start tasks swiftly and with minimal instruction or reminders. In summary, teachers teach uninterrupted and students study uninterrupted.

Students feel secure so that they can share problems with their tutors/heads of year, knowing that they will be supported through these problems.

They know the school rules and understand why the rules are in place. We also expect that we need to teach students how to behave, through consistency, boundaries and repetition: some students may take longer to acquire a solid foundation of expected behaviour but they will be reminded, taught and sanctioned as appropriate if they fall short of expectations.



Be
Ready



Be
Respectful



Be
Safe

SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

GCSE RESULTS 2022

34.1% OF GRADES BEING 7 AND ABOVE
79.9% OF GRADES BEING 4 AND ABOVE
6.5% OF GRADES ACHIEVED AT LEVEL 9

Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys is delighted to celebrate its best ever GCSE examination results this year following a tremendous collective effort from staff, students and the support of our wonderful parents/carers. We smashed both the London and National averages with 34.1% of grades being 7 and above and 79.9% of grades being 4 and above. This is despite the fact that boys typically underperform compared to girls at a national level. Grade 9s, on their own, made up 6.5% of all grades achieved with many students gaining multiple 9s.

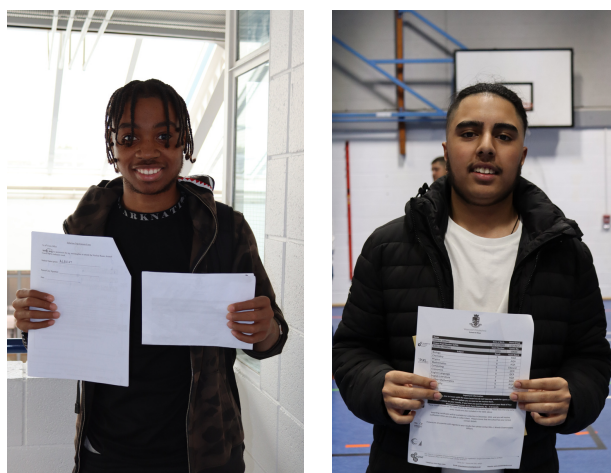
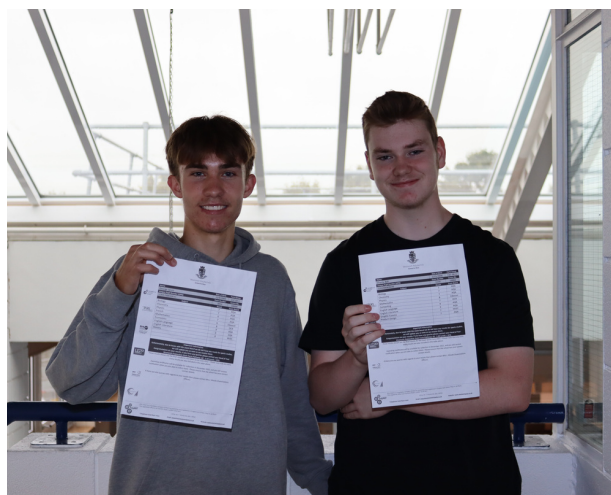
Most importantly, the gap between our disadvantaged students and the whole cohort was virtually non-existent, proving that our Vision of "Success for Everyone" is at the heart of all we do.

Despite the many challenges faced by our school family and our community, students and staff have achieved truly great things by demonstrating resilience, ambition and discipline. Many students attended additional lessons voluntarily every Saturday and some also on Sundays - such commitment is highly impressive and reflects our values of Care and Unity, always willing to go to above-and-beyond to create life opportunities.

Huge congratulations to our staff, many of whom have been part of The Poly for many years; they have worked incredibly hard and delighted in seeing the students being rewarded with such success.

Head of School, Mr Tom Lawrence, says:

'I am delighted and immensely proud to announce that Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys have achieved our best ever GCSE results. Our amazing success translates to even more deserved opportunity for our outgoing year 11s, many of which we are welcoming back to extend their success in our Sixth Form. I must also congratulate teachers for their enormous efforts during the last very challenging years and offer my gratitude to parents for supporting their sons and us through these times: everyone's efforts have been rewarded with great success.'



SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SIXTH FORM



Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form is co-educational, meaning that girls as well as boys can benefit from an education of the absolute highest standards.

Our Sixth Form reflects the ethos of the school in valuing hard work and outstanding learning and teaching.

Sixth Form students benefit from two modern study areas, both with state-of-the-art IT facilities. We encourage and support students to develop independence in their study skills and in their general attitude to life.

Our outstanding pastoral care system extends to Sixth Form students and is the foundation upon which their success is built.

SUCCESS FOR EVERYONE

51% OF STUDENTS ACHIEVED A*-B

It is with tremendous pride that Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form, rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted, celebrates the success of the Class of 2022. 51% of students achieved A*-B, with a significant number continuing their academic pathways at Russell Group universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial, amongst others.

It is without surprise that staff at Woolwich Poly are extremely proud of the students' achievements. Hannah Elliott, Head of Sixth Form comments, "I couldn't be prouder. I am delighted that we have maintained our outstanding results and the hard work from staff and students has paid off. I am filled with gratitude."

This sentiment is shared by Head of School, Mr Tom Lawrence, stating, *"With another unpredictable and challenging year for our students, we are delighted that so many are leaving us with excellent grades, going onto the universities of their first choice. I am truly in awe of the talents our students have developed over their years with us and am confident that they will continue to develop their skills further over the next stages of their academic careers. I want to also congratulate our staff who have negotiated the uncertainties with dexterity and sensitivity to support and guide this highly motivated cohort to their A Level and BTEC success."*

"The Sixth Form is outstanding because students' outcomes are very strong and the teaching is consistently high."

OFSTED, 2019





Woolwich Polytechnic
School for Boys

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