



WOODBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

# ISI INSPECTION REPORT 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



I am delighted to be able to share with you our exceptional report from our recent ISI inspection, and can confirm that all regulatory standards have been met, highlighting numerous areas of excellence across School life.

The inspectors visited our School in early March 2026, spending the week gathering evidence to provide an unbiased view of our School's

performance and adherence to regulatory standards. Taking time to understand the culture of our values driven School and its inner workings, their findings reflect the School that we all know, recognising that every child thrives through the support of our staff, governors, pastoral care, the curriculum, and our extensive co-curricular offering.

I remain grateful to everyone within our community for their ongoing commitment to provide an outstanding education to those within our care.

**Shona Norman**  
**Head of Woodbridge School**

“  
**Students overwhelmingly feel happy and safe in School. Every child at Woodbridge School thrives.**”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026



Woodbridge School is delighted to confirm that its most recent inspection (March 2026) by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) judged the School to be fully compliant with all regulatory standards across education, safeguarding, leadership, governance, welfare and health and safety.

*Download* > **Woodbridge School Inspection Full Report 2026**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The report is outstanding. Inspectors truly understood our priorities and our strengths. For example, they describe:

- › Strong, effective leadership and governance, providing stability, clarity of vision and a culture of ambition and aspiration
- › A nurturing and stimulating environment in which students, from the youngest children in the Early Years to the oldest in the Sixth Form, achieve and thrive
- › High expectations for learning, underpinned by carefully structured teaching, a wide range of effective teaching methodologies, excellent subject knowledge and strong student engagement
- › A rich, broad curriculum, academic enrichment and extension and a strong entrepreneurial ethos, that prepare students academically, socially and emotionally for their place in a global society
- › Students are engaged in their lessons applying intellectual, physical and creative effort and showing academic initiative
- › Students who have SEND learn and achieve well alongside their peers
- › An ambitious programme of activities which enable students to develop a range of skills, spark curiosity, foster creativity, nurture confidence and encourage adventure.

# LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The extent to which the School meets Standards relating to leadership, management and governance.

ALL THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE MET

Leaders ensure that the School's values are evident in policies and daily routines. Because of this, students' behaviour and treatment of others is notably courteous and considerate. Leaders create a culture where mutual respect is paramount and the School environment is welcoming, differences are respected and students are able to express their individuality.

The revised composition and structure of the Senior Leadership Team allows for daily collaboration between the Prep and Senior School, ensuring consistency of approach between the two phases. Leaders are highly visible

around the site, inspiring trust and confidence among students, staff and parents. They teach classes and know students and all members of staff by name. Their determination to be visible in the School community creates an egalitarian culture with a marked sense of belonging. Leaders model the School's values, treating others with kindness and respect.

**“ Leaders model the School's values, treating others with kindness and respect and are always eager to improve. ”**

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026



# QUALITY OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RECREATION

The extent to which the School meets Standards relating to quality of education, training and recreation.

ALL THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE MET

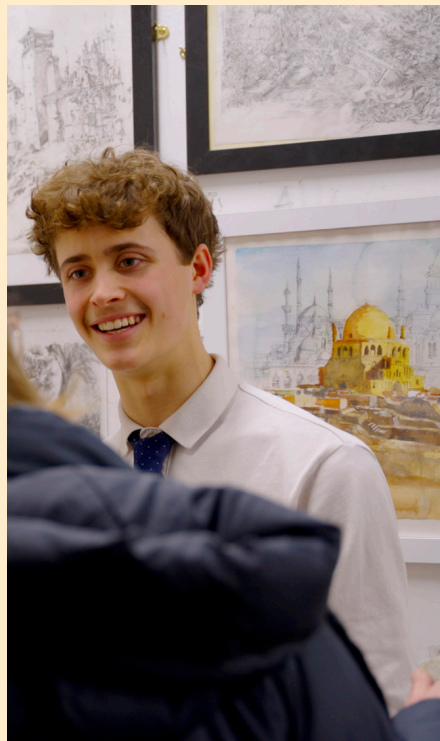
Students are motivated to learn, supported to apply their knowledge in different contexts throughout School. Students of all ages achieve highly in relation to their starting point and that recognition extends to detail that this is true for all students in relation to support for SEND, EAL, pastoral and academic need. Teachers' insistence on high standards of language and accuracy helps them to work with precision. Informative reports are provided to parents on a regular basis. Students participate in a broad and stimulating co-curricular programme which includes opportunities in academic pursuits, drama, music, creative arts, debating, outdoor pursuits and service opportunities. Chess is popular. Many take speech and drama exams and success rates are high. Every child in the Prep School participates in the co-curricular offering, benefitting from the way the programme builds skills and allows them to make new friendships and have fun.



**“Lessons are frequently designed to link to real-life scenarios, and there is a notable use of adult professionals and local employers who regularly support students' learning in the Senior School.”**

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026





# STUDENTS' PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

The extent to which the School meets Standards relating to students' safeguarding.

ALL THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE MET

Students feel overwhelmingly happy and safe in School, secure in the knowledge that they are cared for well. Leaders provide opportunities and spaces for students of all ages to develop spiritual understanding and to appreciate the importance of calm reflection. Students are provided with many opportunities to develop and maintain their physical health, the canteen serves nutritious food and

allergen guidance is meticulously followed, with the School holding a national award for this work. Alongside rigorous Health and Safety procedures, students are educated about how to keep safe. The report confirmed that the boarding house is welcoming and well maintained, with areas for social activities; and that boarders are happy and proud of their house.



**“Students overwhelmingly feel happy and safe in School.”**  
Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026

# STUDENTS' SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

The extent to which the School meets Standards relating to students' social and economic education and contribution to society.

ALL THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE MET

Students are well prepared for life beyond School, in Early Years and Prep School careers links are planned into cross-curricular projects, Senior students learn about specific job roles through role play, and in art students in the Sixth Form learn to market and sell their work. Leaders create a culture where mutual respect is paramount.

Students are involved in many aspects of community service, examples include working in the associated care home, organising the community running event and raising money for charities in various different ways.

Throughout the year, hundreds of school children from the local community come into the School

for workshops as part of the Primary Enrichment Programme.

Providing comprehensive university and apprenticeship guidance, bespoke support is available whenever needed. The majority of students progress to prestigious universities and some to art and drama schools, apprenticeships or employment. Leaders ensure that students of all ages develop a sense of service and responsibility. Students contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the community, as well as to wider society, through the School's extensive partnership and outreach programme; through leadership responsibilities, fundraising and mentoring.



**Students develop a sense of service and duty through the many opportunities to work with and within the community, this is a priority for the School.**

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026



# SAFEGUARDING

The extent to which the School meets Standards relating to safeguarding.

ALL THE RELEVANT STANDARDS ARE MET

As well as leaders who create a culture of care and vigilance, the safeguarding team undertakes audits and training to continue to enhance the skills and experience of its members – governors scrutinize arrangements for keeping students safe. Records are rigorously maintained, induction of new staff is comprehensive and the safeguarding team

works collaboratively and supportively. Students are aware of the many ways in which they can seek help for themselves or their peers. A variety of adults are identified as trusted adults to whom they can go to for help and advice. Student mentors, trained in mental health first aid, provide an extra layer of support. Systems for raising concerns are clear and responsive.

**“Leaders take a proactive approach to emerging digital risks, with regular review and update of digital policies and practice.”**

Independent Schools Inspectorate, March 2026





## IN SUMMARY

“To summarise what is an incredibly detailed and extensive report, might be to highlight one very specific point made by the inspectors which was that every child thrives. The report confirmed that students recognise and acknowledge how lucky they are to be learning at Woodbridge School; they are fully aware of, where appropriate, the sacrifices made to ensure they learn in such a wonderful environment and are truly appreciative of it, in terms of the access they have to exceptional teaching, pastoral support and co-curricular opportunities – as well as having a truly beautiful physical environment in which to learn.”

**Shona Norman**  
**Head, Woodbridge School**



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