



# HURTWOOD HOUSE

## INFORMATION PACK



Hurtwood House is an independent school specialising in the sixth form; our unique blend of the creative and academic prepares students for university and life beyond.

The school has an outstanding academic record with over 20 subjects being studied at A Level, ensuring that it has ranked highly in the independent sector top ten coeducational sixth forms for the last five years. The other defining feature of Hurtwood House is its creativity. We are a centre of excellence for the performing and creative arts, providing outstanding opportunities for the aspiring actor, singer, artist, fashion designer, composer and film maker, both in the A Level courses and in specially arranged and professionally organised activities. These include our Film Academy, our concerts and our drama productions.

This culture of creativity, originality and professionalism permeates throughout the school and, because it is important to us that we provide a complete and broad education, we put a great deal of emphasis on personal development, preparing our students for university and, more importantly, the challenges of life beyond.

Hurtwood House is one of England's most exciting and successful schools – retaining traditional values, but breaking new ground educationally.

Joining the Hurtwood community offers opportunities to:

- Work with enthusiastic and well-motivated students in small, well-resourced classes
- Become part of a committed and professional teaching team in a friendly and supportive atmosphere
- Experience the benefits of a coeducational boarding environment, with a strong pastoral ethos and students from many different national backgrounds
- Develop your career in a modern, energetic school with a reputation for academic achievement and creative excellence
- Enjoy a beautiful campus in the midst of the Surrey Hills, but within easy reach of London, major airports and the South coast



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## DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



The Drama and Theatre Studies department prepares over 100 students a year for CIE IGCSE and EdExcel A Level Drama and Theatre Studies examinations, making it one of the largest departments in the school. Results are excellent, with 87% of candidates achieving A\* - B grades in their A Levels last year. These results, along with the professional standard of our performing arts productions, are the basis of the school's ambition to run one of the best drama departments in the country. There are nine teaching staff at present, two full time technicians and a wardrobe supervisor, augmented by visiting tutors and technicians as required.

Groups are small, averaging ten students in each class and each group has six hours of class time per week, encompassing theory and practical work. The classes are not streamed and the groups are of mixed ability. Our intention is to provide students with exposure to a variety of proficient theatre practitioners who have between them a range of areas of expertise and approaches. The department teaches collaboratively because that is how the theatre works. The fact that this is a subject where students are dependent on each other for their success, and where the subject matter is life, means that the delivery of this course will not only involve subject knowledge but also social and personal education as well. The ethos of the department is to run an integrated course, where students can learn from and complement each other, whilst extending their skills. The department wants to produce work of high quality and originality, setting benchmarks for the standards of student work at this level. Fundamental to the department is the philosophy of a team approach; thus the sharing of classes, combining groups for workshops, symposia and collective feedback on practical work performed or seen is part of our methodology. A significant amount of work is done out of class time to maximise the opportunities for collaborative and creative work of the standard required.

Drama and Theatre Studies operates within the Performing Arts faculty, which includes A Level Dance, the Dance Company and the Acting Company, as well as our extracurricular drama, dance, music, musical theatre lessons and a host of public performances during the year. Many of our students progress to drama, dance and music schools after Hurtwood, so we also offer an extensive programme of advice and preparation for students aiming to follow performing arts in higher education. An enthusiastic, dynamic and ambitious teacher should expect a challenging but highly rewarding experience by joining the team for September 2022.



# HURTWOOD HOUSE

## BOARDING AND PASTORAL



As a fully residential school our primary concern is to provide students with a safe, structured, caring and happy community. That is why we place so much emphasis on our House structure.

Students board in one of five country houses or their lodges, some of which are on the campus and some nearby. Each House has a Housemaster or Housemistress (HsM) who lives in and a team of House Tutors. The HsM is the link between the school, the student and parents and is the first point of contact on all academic and pastoral matters. The House staff are responsible for looking after the students, for monitoring academic progress, for providing guidance and for creating a warm, supportive and organised family unit and what we like to think of as a sense of 'structured informality'. All full-time staff are assigned to one of the boarding houses as academic tutors who take responsibility for a small tutor group, meeting them on a Monday evening. Some staff are full tutors who assist the HsM in the running of the boarding environment by doing evening and weekend duties in the House. An additional allowance is paid for these duties.

All of the working day is spent on campus and students are transported back to their House after supper every evening by the House staff. Main meals are taken on campus in our award winning 'refectory' building where the food is healthy, wholesome and there is a wide choice to satisfy all dietary requirements. It is all freshly prepared on the premises by our own staff. There are also kitchen facilities in every House for snacks, tea and coffee etc, games rooms and communal TV rooms. All Houses have internet access and a wireless LAN.

Joining the Hurtwood pastoral team offers opportunities to:

- Work with students outside of the classroom, building long-lasting, productive relationships
- Become part of the hard-working and dedicated tutor teams who run the boarding houses
- Help students prepare for the independence of life at university, drama school or art college
- Become fully involved in the busy and exciting extracurricular life of the school