



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 coeducational sixth forms for the last ten 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 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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ART & DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY



With over 90 students studying Fine Art, Textiles and Photography, Art and Design is one of the biggest and most popular subjects at Hurtwood House. With 100% record of success in external examinations and 96% A*-B grade at A level last June, it is living up to its claim to be the best school Art department in the country. It has the full support of the management and enjoys excellent resources and funding. The teaching team consists of seven teaching staff and three technicians. All of the staff are specialists in particular aspects of Art and Design, as well as practising artists.

Photography at Hurtwood House is led by a dedicated team of two teachers, supported by a professional photographer who also works as our in-house technician. The department is based in a specialist studio equipped with high-spec computers, industry-standard software, and a full Adobe Creative Cloud licence available to all students and staff. Teaching begins with a practical, skills-based foundation that builds confidence in both digital and physical processes. Students are then encouraged to develop independent, creative projects, supported by in-depth research into contemporary photographers and artists. In the first year, students complete two coursework projects focused on relevant and engaging themes. These feed into second-year work, where students refine their best ideas into a major coursework project, followed by an externally set exam project from February onwards. Students document their journeys in A3 sketchbooks, culminating in large-format, professionally printed final outcomes. The emphasis throughout is on originality, exploration, and professional standards of presentation. Our students consistently achieve outstanding results and progress to top university courses in photography, media, film, and art, both in the UK and internationally.

Hurtwood House operates a flexible policy in student admission and the mixed ability intake contains many students who are studying and writing in their second language. Group sizes are small, with an average of ten students per class. An enthusiastic, dynamic and ambitious teacher should expect a challenging but highly rewarding experience by joining the team from September 2025.



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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 dining facilities where there is a wide choice of menus to satisfy all dietary requirements, freshly prepared on the premises by our own staff. There are also kitchen facilities in every House for snacks, tea and coffee, as well as games rooms, gyms and communal TV rooms. All Houses have wifi access and are connected to the main school network.

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