





William Edwards School

Aspire, Engage, Succeed





William Edwards School

A School Built on Heritage

William Edwards School has been at the heart of the Thurrock community since 1962. For more than six decades, generations of students have learned, grown and achieved here, creating a proud legacy that continues today.

Named after William Edwards, a respected local figure whose commitment to education helped shape opportunities for young people in Thurrock, our school has always been rooted in service, ambition and community. Those values continue to guide us, inspiring students to aim high, contribute positively and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Our strong alumni network is a testament to this enduring legacy. Former students regularly return to mentor current pupils, speak at careers events and share their experiences, helping to inspire the next generation as they prepare for their own futures.

Our heritage is reflected in our school badge. At its centre is the Essex Wyvern, the legendary dragon that symbolises the strength and resilience of our county. In its grasp is a scroll representing knowledge and wisdom – a reminder that learning lies at the heart of everything we do.

The scroll also reflects the history of our site. Before the school was built, archaeologists uncovered ancient Roman remains here, evidence of a thriving community dating back nearly 2,000 years. Today, our students continue that story, adding their own chapter to a long tradition of learning, achievement and service.

Our badge reminds us that while strength is important, it is knowledge that gives strength its purpose. We are proud of our heritage, confident in our present and excited by the opportunities that lie ahead.



On behalf of our students, staff and governors, I am delighted to welcome you to William Edwards School. It is a privilege to lead a school with a strong identity, a proud history and a valued place at the heart of the Thurrock community.

Headteacher's Welcome











At William Edwards, we are driven by high expectations, excellent pastoral care and a clear commitment to achievement. Every student is known, supported and challenged to fulfil their potential. As Headteacher, I am proud to build on these strengths with ambition and consistency so that all young people can thrive.

With over twenty years of experience in education and senior leadership, I firmly believe that a truly outstanding education goes beyond examination results. It is about developing confident, resilient and well-rounded individuals who are well prepared for the future. A rich extracurricular programme plays a vital role in this, offering opportunities for students to grow, lead and discover their interests.

We are committed to providing a calm, inclusive and purposeful environment where high standards of behaviour, attendance and learning are expected and achieved. These expectations are underpinned by strong relationships, mutual respect and a culture of support.

Partnership with families is essential to success. We value open, positive communication with parents and carers and look forward to working together to support every child both in school and at home.

If you are considering William Edwards School for your child, I warmly encourage you to explore our website and visit us to experience our community first-hand. I am proud to serve as Headteacher and look forward to working in partnership with students, staff, families and the wider community.

Lynne Sexton - Headteacher

William Edwards School

Our vision and values

William Edwards School is a values-led and inclusive community where every student is encouraged to achieve their best and contribute positively to school life.

Our core values – conscientious, curious, resilient and respectful – shape our culture and guide everything we do. We encourage students to take pride in their work, think independently, persevere through challenges and show consideration for others.

A strong sense of belonging underpins life at William Edwards. We foster a calm, respectful and aspirational environment where students feel valued and are encouraged to make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Our rich sporting and arts traditions play a central role in school life. Through a wide range of enrichment opportunities, students develop teamwork, creativity, leadership and self expression while discovering new interests and talents.

Working closely with families and the wider community, we aim to ensure that every young person leaves William Edwards equipped with the knowledge, character and confidence to succeed in the future.

“Pupils understand their leadership roles well. They take pride in their work to help others. They experience a range of opportunities which help expand their horizons and give them an understanding of the wider world. Pupils are being prepared well for life in modern Britain.”

(Ofsted, March 2026)



At William Edwards School, we provide a broad, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that enables every student to succeed academically and grow as an individual.

Our Curriculum











Through high quality teaching and meaningful learning experiences, students develop the knowledge, skills and character needed for further study, future employment and life after school.

We believe every student should have access to a curriculum that broadens their horizons while nurturing their individual interests and talents. By knowing our students well, we are able to provide the support and challenge needed to help them achieve their potential and move confidently to the next stage of their education and future careers.

Consistent routines and clear structures create a purposeful learning environment across the school, while allowing each subject to retain its unique character. Lessons are engaging and varied, incorporating retrieval practice, discussion, independent research and teacher modelling to secure strong progress and deepen understanding. Learning extends beyond the class-room, with regular home learning helping students consolidate knowledge, develop independence and take responsibility for their own progress.

Together, these experiences ensure that students leave William Edwards as knowledgeable, confident and well-rounded young people, equipped to contribute positively to society and embrace future opportunities.

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Discover and Develop Your Potential

“The taught curriculum is supplemented by enrichment activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and various sports and music clubs.”

(Ofsted, March 2026)

At William Edwards School, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our extensive enrichment programme enables students to develop their talents, explore new interests and build confidence through a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

All Year 9 students are encouraged to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, helping them develop new skills, support their community and promote their wellbeing. Many go on to achieve the Silver Award.

Students benefit from a diverse programme of sporting, cultural and performing arts activities, alongside memorable trips and visits, including Berlin, Kraków, France and Disneyland Paris.

Our super-curricular programme encourages academic curiosity and personal growth through opportunities such as the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, The Brilliant Club and Rotary Club competitions.

Partnerships with universities, businesses and former students further enrich learning and provide valuable real-world experiences.

These opportunities help students discover their passions, develop their potential and make the most of their time at William Edwards School.



Sport is a proud and successful part of life at William Edwards School. Through curriculum PE, examination courses and an extensive extracurricular programme, students develop physical confidence, teamwork, leadership, resilience and a lifelong appreciation of health and wellbeing.

Play, Compete, Achieve





Our excellent facilities include an eight-court badminton centre, an Astroturf pitch and a modern fitness suite. Students also benefit from access to a range of external venues, including athletics tracks, rock-climbing centres and Thurrock Rugby Club, enabling them to experience a wide variety of sporting activities.

We offer opportunities for every student to get involved, whether competing at a high level, representing the school, developing new skills or participating for enjoyment. Our thriving extracurricular programme includes football, netball, rugby, cricket, badminton, basketball, trampolining, table tennis and athletics, with teams competing successfully at district, county and national level.

As a school with a strong sporting tradition, up to 10% of Year 7 places are allocated through our Sports Aptitude admissions route. Further information about the application process can be found on our website.

Recent sporting successes demonstrate the strength and depth of participation across the school:

Team	Success
Year 7 Girls Athletics Team	Lee Valley Indoor Cup A Finalists
Year 7 Boys Athletics Team	Lee Valley Indoor Cup A Finalists
Junior Girls Athletics	Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Finalists
Junior Boys Athletics	Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Finalists
Inter Girls Athletics	Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Finalists
Year 7 Girls Sports Hall Athletics	District Competition Winners
Year 8 Girls Sports Hall Athletics	District Competition Runners Up
Year 7 Boys Sports Hall Athletics	District Competition Winners
Year 8 Boys Sports Hall Athletics	District Competition Winners
Year 7 Boys Athletics Team	District Athletics Winners
Junior Girls District Team	Junior Girls District Athletics Champions
U15 Girls Cricket	District Cricket Winners
Year 7 Boys Cross Country	Thurrock District Winners
Year 7 Boys Football	Thurrock League and Cup Champions
Year 8 Boys Football	Thurrock League Champions & Cup Runners Up
Year 10 Boys Football	Thurrock League and Cup Champions
Year 11 Boys Football	Thurrock League & Cup Champions
U14 Girls Football	Thurrock League Champions
Year 7 Girls Football	Let Girls Play Tournament Winners
Year 7 Girls Netball District	Runners Up
U16 Girls Netball	District Runners Up
Year 7 Girls Rugby Team	Essex Rugby Tournament Winners

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“Teachers at William Edwards always provide support when it's needed and encourage us to challenge ourselves in every lesson. I particularly enjoyed taking part in a project with students from Jessen, Germany, which gave me valuable cultural experiences and helped me develop new skills while learning about life in another country.”

Year 9 student LB

“I enjoy the wide range of subjects and opportunities available at William Edwards. As a Sports Leader, I take part in football, netball and athletics, and I love being involved in school life. Teachers encourage us to achieve our best, and programmes like The Brilliant Club have helped me think about my future and prepare for university.”

Year 8 pupil SG

“Taking part in school productions, performing at Disneyland Paris, and supporting younger students in drama has helped me grow in confidence and develop my skills. William Edwards has given me opportunities I never thought I would have, and I am now comfortable performing and speaking in front of large audiences.”

Year 10 pupil LK



At William Edwards School, every student is known, valued and supported to achieve their full potential. Through strong pastoral care, inclusive opportunities and leadership experiences, we help young people develop the confidence, resilience and skills needed for success.

Supporting and Empowering Every Student











Student voice is at the heart of our school. From Year 7 onwards, pupils are encouraged to contribute to school life through leadership roles including prefects, house captains, sports leaders, mental health ambassadors and the student executive team.

All students belong to one of our five houses – Attenborough, Parks, Ennis-Hill, Turing and Nightingale. Through competitions, events and shared experiences, the house system fosters belonging, teamwork and school pride.

We are committed to meeting the needs of every learner. Our dedicated pastoral and SEND teams work closely with students and families to provide personalised support, while form tutors build strong relationships that help guide each student's academic progress, wellbeing and personal development.

Together, these systems ensure that every child feels supported, heard and empowered to thrive.

“William Edwards is a really welcoming school where I feel safe, supported and challenged to achieve my best. I enjoy learning languages, getting involved in extracurricular activities and spending time in the outdoor spaces. Every lesson has something fun and engaging, and there are always opportunities to try something new.”

Year 7 Student JM

William Edwards School

“The school teaches pupils to treat others with respect. Pupils respond well to this and treat others kindly. They are polite and respectful of people's individuality. This leads to the school being a comfortable space to be yourself.”

(Ofsted, May 2026)

“Outside lesson time, pupils behave in a calm and responsible way. They are polite. They know that people have different and individual characteristics and that it is important to be treat everyone well. It is fine to be yourself here. The school does not tolerate bullying. Pupils know that if it happens, staff will deal with it promptly and fairly.”

(Ofsted, May 2026)

“I have trusted you with the two most precious things I have and I would do it all over again. William Edwards has and will continue to guide them, allow them to develop, pick up on their mistakes, push them, challenge them and allow them to experience as many opportunities as possible. I have confidence in the team you have created to do this. I thank you all, for impacting so positively on my children’s lives.”

(Parent of two children in the school)



William Edwards School is proud to be part of the SWECET family of schools, working closely with three secondary and three primary schools. This partnership enables us to share expertise, support students throughout their educational journey and provide wider opportunities for learning and development.

A Thriving Community











Strong partnerships between students, families, staff and the wider community help create an environment where every young person can thrive.

Our Parents' Association, Friends of WES, plays an important role in enriching school life through events, fundraising and community activities. We are also supported by our Local School Advisory Board, whose guidance helps ensure the school continues to meet the needs of the community it serves.

We value our strong alumni network, with former students regularly returning to share their experiences and inspire current pupils. Their involvement, particularly through events such as Year 11 mock interviews, helps students prepare confidently for the future.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from a range of community and cultural partnerships, including opportunities through the Royal Opera House in Purfleet. They also play an active role in local events, developing a sense of responsibility, belonging and pride in their community.









William Edwards School

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