

Woodard – What is a Woodard School?

(Reviewer: Dominic Mott, September 2021)

From the Woodard website (www.woodard.co.uk)

Founded in 1848 by Priest and educational visionary, Nathaniel Woodard, the family of Woodard Schools - independent and maintained, senior and prep, co-ed and single sex, boarding and day, all share the founder's vision of a Christian education coupled with a belief in nurturing and enriching each individual.

The schools all provide the highest academic standards but Woodard Schools set themselves apart by also offering an unrivalled effective and supportive environment, where each individual is valued and encouraged to give of their very best. Today, Woodard Schools have a sense of 'faith, unity and vision' that has never been stronger.

Faith

A Woodard education values both the spiritual and moral development of each person giving strength, confidence and respect for others. Young people from all faiths and traditions, or none at all, flourish in the rich, diverse culture of our schools enabling them to lead full and creative adult lives.

Unity

The Woodard family of schools provides many inter-school opportunities, the sharing of best practice and a strength and expertise within education. Our pioneering heritage places much emphasis on leadership and management. From attractive, welcoming environments to modern facilities, Woodard Schools offer a rich variety of extra-curricular activities, professional teaching and effective pastoral care.

Our Vision

Woodard Schools offer a twenty-first century education rooted in the vision of the founder. A vision which challenges those that believe education is simply a matter of teaching and learning certain skills. The education of the whole person, to foster the unique potential of each individual, is the Woodard way.

1. Hurstpierpoint College – a Woodard School

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Overview

Hurstpierpoint College is a Woodard school founded on the above principles. The life of the school is therefore founded upon Christian beliefs and practice both through example and the experience it offers its pupils.

The School provides a caring, disciplined environment that encourages excellence and seeks to enable children to take responsibility for their own lives.

The foundation provides a complete education for boys and girls through two schools – Pre-Prep & Prep School and Senior School – in one College. The College works from the principle that pupils who are happy at school are more likely to thrive.

The College, as a Woodard School, seeks to provide:

- A structured and ordered community within which pupils feel secure.
- An excellent all-round education which equips pupils to meet the many challenges of the 21st Century.
- A house system with a friendly and orderly environment wherein an appropriate level of pastoral care is exercised by the Housemaster or Housemistress and tutors.
- A valuable preparation for university life through a university Hall of Residence style of accommodation, in an Upper Sixth House within the normal boundaries of school rules.

The College, as a Woodard School, is committed to:

- Enabling pupils to fulfil their academic potential from Pre-Prep to Sixth Form through teaching and learning programmes which support the individual girl and boy and which raise the academic standards of the College as a whole.
- Embracing the Christian faith, developing spiritual and moral values and by this, and in other ways, creating a positive, supportive, living and working environment for pupils and staff.
- The sporting, physical, social and cultural development of each pupil through the provision of high quality sports coaching and of focused and specialist programmes in Music, Drama and other activities.
- Making the highest possible levels of investment in the School's general facilities and in boarding and day Houses.
- The extension of Information and Communication Technology across the curriculum to create an ambitious standard of provision which exceeds national standards.

The practicalities of this structure

The Woodard Schools - of which Hurstpierpoint College was Nathaniel Woodard's second foundation - are divided geographically. Hurst is in the Southern Division (Lancing, Hurstpierpoint, Ardingly, Bloxham, with the Archbishop Michael Ramsay School in Camberwell and St Olave's in Orpington as affiliated Schools).

However, the College is, in its own right, incorporated as a Limited Company and a Charity. This means that the College is directly responsible for its own assets and other resources and the members of the School Council are Directors of the Company.

The School Council - half of whose members must be Fellows of the Corporation - meets termly to receive reports and recommendations from the Head of College, Head of the Senior School, COO and CFO. It reviews accounts and budgets and authorises expenditure. There are, in addition the following sub-committees of the School Council (each of which has its own terms of reference):

- The Finance Committee which does preliminary work on financial and policy matters and makes recommendations to the full Council.
- The Estate Committee which advises on the fabric of the College.
- The Education Committee which reviews and advises on academic matters.
- All committees meet termly and submit their minutes for full Council scrutiny. The ultimate authority within the Corporation is the Corporation Executive. Except during periods of change and difficulty the Executive is quiescent and the Corporation as a whole is 'driven' by its member schools and their governing bodies.