Education for a World of Difference

Woodstock School is a different world. 6,500 ft up in the Tehri hills of Uttarakhand, it overlooks to the south the green and fertile Doon Valley and ancient Shivalik hills. To the north stand the majestic snow peaks of the high Himalayas. In the midst of this exceptional and beautiful environment, students from every corner of the globe and from every major faith meet and learn together. Friendships are forged which forever alter perceptions about country, creed and culture. Woodstock is a living example of the different kind of world we'll all be living in one day. Our students will be ready, because Woodstock makes a world of difference in their lives.
A 150-Year Tradition

Woodstock School has a 150-year history of excellence in education and service. Less than 25 years after the arrival of the first British resident in Mussoorie and the start of its development as a hill station, four lady teachers were sent by an English missionary society to establish what would become Woodstock School. The school moved into the Woodstock Estate, from which it takes its name, in 1856.

For over a hundred years Woodstock remained predominantly a mission school, educating the children of (largely western) Christian workers in India and the surrounding area. From the 1970s, in response to changes in India and in the pattern of mission work, the School began a new phase of its life by becoming an independent Christian international co-educational residential school.

Now Woodstock is a thriving international community. Students and staff are recruited world-wide, each bringing the distinctiveness of their own country, culture and traditions. Education is offered from KG to grade 12 for about 470 students. Woodstock is a Christian school, which means that our values and principles are those of the Christian faith, and we provide many opportunities for students from Christian families to grow in the understanding and practice of their faith. It is at the same time truly diverse: no one group of students, religious, national or cultural, is in the majority. Mutual respect and learning from one another are key elements of the school.

Woodstock prepares students for college and for life. The school offers a wide range of courses and externally-validated examinations, laying the foundation for lifelong learning. It encourages students to look for what is truly of value in life, to seek to live within a moral framework, and to become servants and leaders in their sphere.

Woodstock touched my life in many different ways. I learned to become independent. I learned to socialize with people from different countries. I learned many cultural gestures that help me at my workplace today. I learned to have a soft heart and to help others. — Pranesh Patel 2003
A Spectacular Campus

The Woodstock School campus covers about 290 acres of forested hillside, its buildings connected by steep and winding paths offering spectacular views at every turn, together with the chance of coming across exotic flora and fauna. There are over one hundred buildings, some of which date back almost to the foundation of the school.

Woodstock is on the outskirts of Mussoorie, an historic hill station, perched on a spur between the Ganges and the Yamuna rivers in the first range of the Himalaya. From the ridge above the school, the panorama includes snow-covered ranges whose peaks rise to more than 21,000' (6,500 meters), rimming India’s northern border with Tibet, South from the school lies the Doon Valley. On a clear day the view stretches beyond the Doon to the Shivalik range 30 miles away, and the plains of North India. At night the myriad lights of Dehra Dun, capital of Uttarakhand state, fill the horizon.

Cool in comparison to the plains, Mussoorie and the Doon Valley is a leading educational centre with many well-known English medium schools, amongst which Woodstock stands as one of the oldest and most highly esteemed.

Academic Buildings

The school buildings are located about a 10-minute walk from the main student residences. The High School building provides classrooms for grades 9 through 12, science laboratories, the Vera Marley Library, and Parker Hall auditorium, which offers up-to-date lighting, sound and stage equipment. Assemblies, plays, dances, graduation - even weddings of staff or alumni - are held in Parker Hall. Adjacent to Parker Hall is the Media Centre with an additional small auditorium, a computer lab, art room and further classrooms.

Below the High School, clustered around the Quadrangle, are the original school buildings, parts of which are over 150 years old. These buildings are the home of the Elementary and Middle Schools. The Quad buildings also house the music studios, the ESL (English as a second language) suite, the Quad library and computer lab, a third auditorium and a further arts studio. The main dining room, health centre, administrative and business offices are also at this level.

Residences and Leisure Facilities

Five residence buildings extend along the wooded ridges below the academic buildings or on the hillside above them. Within the residences are a fitness gym, indoor sports court, swimming pool, four outdoor basketball courts, and a large playing field. The school is in the middle of a major refurbishment programme; three of the residences have already been brought up to modern standards, and further major work is planned. Hannum Field, the main sports and athletic field, is a ten minute walk from the lower residences.
A Fascinating Location

A short walk from the campus is Mullnger Hill and Landour bazaar - site of the first developments in Mussoorie in the early 19th century.

The narrow road through Landour bazaar and into Mussoorie town is packed with traffic donkeys delivering milk to the bazaar, their bells jingling, squeeze past jeeps from the surrounding countryside loaded to the roof with vegetables for the market. Taxis and tourist vehicles zoom for space. Through it all scooters and pedestrians jostle for position.

Open-fronted shops, lazy wooden balconies, sidewalk cobblers, saddlery, honeymooning Indian couples, blaring Bollywood music, ponies for hire, Nepalese coolies, Kashmiri shawls wallahs, a ferris wheel operated by manpower alone - all combine to make the bazaar richly fascinating. Side by side with this "old India" is the growing number of new shopping and dining facilities, from Barista coffee shops to international brand name showrooms.

Students enjoy the opportunity on Saturdays to explore the shops and to have a change from school food by sampling the fare in one of the many restaurants and dhabas. Tibetan momos (steamed or fried dumplings), butter chicken and hot mom, sumosas, sticky jalebis, roasted corn doused with lime juice and masala... even a China Joe restaurant run by the same company who manage the school's catering.

Out and About

The bazaar lies to the west of Woodstock. To the east are the mountains. Getting out into the hills is a Woodstock tradition. There are easy hikes such as those to Witches Hill and Pag Hill (a couple of hours each), medium hikes to Pepper Pot or Everest House (half a day), or more strenuous treks to destinations like Nag Tibba (40 kilometres and an ascent to just under 10,000'). The high Himalayas Mountains beyond Mussoorie, where the Ganges has its source, are sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists and abound with pilgrimage sites. This is one of the best trekking and mountain viewing areas in the world; for those with the courage and the skill there are opportunities to do some real climbing. The school height record for a staff/student expedition currently stands at 20,000'. Even without these extreme expeditions there is ample opportunity to experience the awe and wonder of Woodstock's "back yard".

The Changing Seasons

Seasons and weather colour life at Woodstock. In spring, the rhododendron trees burst with huge red flowers. Summer (May - June) is pleasantly warm and sunny. The monsoon months (July - September) are wet and languid. Mists roll up the steep mountain sides, clearing sometimes to offer glimpses of lush hillside etched against a translucent blue sky. Brilliant sunsets paint the clouds. Ferus, orchids and moss clothe the hillside. In the autumn (October - November), the weather becomes glorious - warm days, cool nights with clear, star-filled skies. During December - March the winterfront appears in the sky, and snow can carpet the hillside, though it seldom lasts more than a few days.
A Rich Experience

The World In Your Room

It is common today for schools to talk about educating "global citizens". At Woodstock, this is not just a catchphrase. The heart of the Woodstock experience lies in the diversity of nations, cultures and religions represented in our community, and the intense learning which happens almost by accident as we live and work together. Living across cultures is something which we recognise, talk about and teach. There can be no better preparation for students who plan to live, study and work in an international setting.

Experiential Education

As a boarding school, Woodstock has the opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom. Three important elements of Woodstock’s programme enable students to carry out activities and reflect on what they have experienced.

- Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of community service opportunities, including the school’s own CARE projects (Community Service and Restoration of the Environment). Elementary students engage with the children of our employees in learning activities, and visit local government schools. Middle and high school students help in orphanages, in local schools and hospitals, in various development projects from mountain villages to urban areas, and in carrying out environmental improvements.

- The Himalayan setting of the school is a rich and unique resource which lends itself to outdoor activities. Organised hikes take to the hills several times a month for all age groups. Rock climbing, natural history, environmental education, first aid and camping skills all feature.

- As the monsoon draws towards a close, the whole student body moves outside the school to experience learning in a variety of different environments. Activity Week is a chance to develop skills, to acquire new knowledge, to gain first-hand understanding of some of the problems and joys of the Indian environment through activities as diverse as city visits to Lucknow and Delhi, interaction with the Buddhist community in Bharamula, village service in the Garhwal hills, and high altitude lakes.

These activities and more are co-ordinated through our Hanafi Center, a purpose-built facility for outdoor activities and environmental education. The Hanafi Center is fully equipped for residential study, including dormitories, a computer lab, library and classrooms.

Leadership Training

The school is committed to developing leadership skills in our students, and there are numerous opportunities to serve as a student leader at Woodstock, including as representatives to the Board of Directors. These leaders, as well as benefiting themselves, make a valuable contribution to the functioning of the school and staff rely on their contribution. They are expected to show moral leadership, and be role models for younger students.

Elected leaders in student government, National Honor Society, CARE, Social Activities Committee, Menu Committee, Stage Crew, Audio-Visual Crew and Assembly Planning attend a weekend leadership retreat to prepare them for the responsibilities of their posts.

The Indian Dimension

Students are encouraged to make the most of the school’s location by developing a deep acquaintance with Indian culture, religion and traditions. Indian studies are built into the curriculum at all levels and its most disciplines — music, literature, religious studies, language, CARE and Activity Week. The school strongly encourages participation in these programmes.

On leaving Woodstock, Indian students are confident about being Indian and proud of the strengths of their nation. Students from other countries take with them an appreciation for India, together with an understanding and empathy for its people, traditions, religions and culture.

Woodstock gave me the ability to mix with people from everywhere, to blend into multiple cultures efficiently. It gave me the desire to learn on my own. And finally it made me realise the importance of a degree and the work environment. I wouldn’t trade my Woodstock experience for anything. It feels good to have friends all around the world.

— Niharika Bhattachary 1997
Sport
Woodstock’s Win Mumbly Basketball Tournament is keenly contested by a dozen boys’ and girls’ teams from as far away as Delhi and the Punjab. As might be expected, cross-country running and athletics also feature in the programme, with inter-house and inter-school sports days each year. Woodstock competes against neighbouring - and more distant - schools in soccer and cricket. Physical fitness is encouraged, and there is space in the curriculum for individual and team activities which build skill and stamina.

Music
Woodstock is renowned for the strength and depth of its music programme. Classroom music from grades 1 - 8 lays the foundation, and from Elementary School onwards students are encouraged to take up an instrument. Tuition is available for piano, strings, brass and Indian instruments including sitar and tabla, and visiting performers hold master classes. There are ensembles, orchestras, bands - including a thriving jazz band - and frequent recitals and concerts encourage performance from an early stage of expertise.

Drama
A highlight of each semester is Drama Weekend. High school productions range from classical to modern theatre. Middle school students present a play or musical each year. Students in the stage crew and the audio-visual crew provide a high level of technical support, from building sets to lighting to costume design.

Student Exchanges
The SAGE Program, Studies Abroad for Global Education, offers high school students from North America and Europe in grades 10 - 12 the opportunity to spend an academic year at Woodstock, earning credit as they experience the unique setting and culture of Mussoorie. During the winter vacation students join Woodstock’s month-long Winter Tour which covers much of India.

Grade 11 students from India and the SAARC countries may apply to spend an academic year in the United States through PAX (Program for Academic Exchange), which is established to facilitate cross-cultural learning and expand international understanding. Woodstock has a semester exchange programme (which grade 11 students may apply for) with Carey Baptist Grammar School in Melbourne, Australia.

Religious Life
Woodstock is a school where religion is taken seriously. This means first of all that we encourage people to be “disciples” in the true sense of the word: learners, open to truth, pursuing their journey into faith with respect for those of differing beliefs. As a Christian school, we encourage all students to come to an understanding of the distinctive qualities of the Christian faith - its values, its teaching and its history. Students have the opportunity to explore the unique claims of Jesus Christ through a range of voluntary Christian activities for each age group. The Religious Education programme supplements this through the academic study of Christianity and other major world religions. There is one compulsory chapel per month for grades 6 - 12 at which we encourage students to think about and respond to real issues in the world, and to gain an understanding of Christian perspectives on them. Elementary students attend Sunday School every week. Many local churches welcome our students to their services. Mussoorie town has places of worship for other major faiths.
An Excellent Education

Woodstock School offers a high-quality academic programme which is designed to meet the needs of students right through from KG to graduation at the end of grade 12. At each stage there is a carefully planned age-appropriate curriculum, culminating in a range of high school options which meet the students’ requirements for entering into higher education at their college of choice. Detailed information about programmes, examinations and graduation requirements are contained in the Elementary School, Middle School and High School Guides.

Elementary School

The Elementary School includes a preschool programme, kindergarten and grades 1 – 5. The youngest students are either children of faculty or day students; the school does not normally admit children into boarding before grade 3 (8 years of age). Elementary School students have one classroom teacher for English, mathematics, sciences, health, social studies and religious education. The classroom teacher is assisted by specialists in music, library skills, physical education, computers, Hindi and art. The Elementary School programme aims to build strong foundations and nurtures students to develop mentally, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Teachers, counsellors, health centre and residence staff provide the support that is needed for healthy development. Learning within the classroom is complemented by activities such as hiking, musicals, Indian folk dancing, learning through service, Friendship Club, and after school sports. These activities keep the students constructively occupied and contribute to the overall development of each child.

Middle School

Grades 6 – 8 form the Middle School, which has its own separate suite of rooms in the Quad School Building. This is a period both of transition through early adolescence and of careful preparation for the demands of High School. Home room teachers monitor the academic and personal development of each student. Each grade level has two sections of between twenty and twenty-five students. The school day is divided into seven periods and students move as a class to their various subjects, which are taught by specialists. All students continue with Hindi until the end of grade 7; Indian passport holders continue Hindi into grade 8, while others have the option of Hindi or French. There is a mandatory hiking programme for all, and students in grades 7 and 8 participate in service learning as part of the CARE programme.

High School

Woodstock helps students to acquire the knowledge, experience and certification which will enable them to gain access to college and university courses in the USA, India, the UK, Australia, Korea, Japan and many other countries. The High School curriculum offers a wide variety of subjects including English language and literature, mathematics, sciences (biology, chemistry, physics and environmental science), social studies, French, Hindi, journalism, art, religious education, health and physical education. The up-to-date science and computer laboratories and the extensive High School library provide excellent study and research facilities, and students are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for their own learning.
Qualifications, Examinations and Testing Programs

The Woodstock Diploma
The Woodstock Diploma is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for university entry in the USA and most other parts of the world, and is accepted as equivalent to the 10+2 system by the Association of Indian Universities, the Indian Council of Technology and the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations. In order to graduate, a student must earn at least 26½ credits (including 22 credits in majors) by passing various courses as listed in the High School Guide.

Advanced Placement Programme
A broad range of College Board authorised courses prepares students for American Advanced Placement (AP) examinations in a variety of subjects. Although requirements vary, many universities and colleges in the USA waive courses and/or give college credit for a score of 3 or higher on the AP examinations. AP scores are also commonly used by universities in the UK and in Commonwealth and European countries as equivalent to local entry requirements.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education
Grade 10 courses offer preparation for the University of Cambridge IGCSE examinations in a range of subjects. This qualification is increasingly used by international schools both for its worldwide recognition and its rigorous standardisation, which enables accurate comparisons to be made between schools around the world. Five IGCSE passes are essentially equivalent to a Grade 10 marksheet for Indian students.

College Entry Tests
High School students take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) in Grade 11; most also take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT 1 & 2) and the American College Test (ACT). Students who sit the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) may have their scores added to their school records. These tests are commonly required for admission to colleges and universities in the US and other countries.

College and Career Counselling
The Guidance Office provides counselling and assistance with college admission worldwide. Faculty from the country to which application is being made provide local knowledge. Career counselling is provided by the guidance team and the Institute of Career Studies (Lucknow). Students in High School have semi-annual meetings with counsellors from ICS. In addition, career workshops featuring outside specialists, particularly alumni, are offered regularly for interested students.
A Supportive Community

Residence Life

Residence life is integral to the Woodstock experience. We are a small school - everyone knows everyone. The atmosphere is friendly and accepting. People are interested in each other. The unique background of each student is valued for its contribution to the lively variety of community life.

Students may be considered for boarding from the age of eight. There are separate residences for boys and girls, based on grade level. Residential living is an essential and local aspect of life at Woodstock. Using a well thought-out residence curriculum, staff help students to develop independence and responsibility within a supportive and caring environment. Students learn invaluable life lessons through the camaraderie, friction and fun of living with their classmates. There is time for work, sports and play, time to be alone or with friends, to rest, or to enjoy a long talk with a staff member.

Standards of conduct for the residences, as for the rest of the school, are based on Christian principles and the recognition of our location in India. Discipline is imparted in a spirit of love and with a sense of justice. Students are expected to be respectful, honest and considerate.

Strong Relationships

When asked about what meant the most to them while they were at Woodstock, alumni again and again talk about the quality of their relationships, not just with their fellow students, but with the adult community. Teachers, residence faculty and support staff demonstrate their personal commitment to students through a wide range of social and personal contact. Hiking and carrying out CARE trips, sharing a meal in a staff home, worshipping and learning together in a voluntary Christian activity, watching sports or making music. Woodstock is a true community in which students participate at every level.

Personal Counselling

When students need more than just friendship, or when they are facing difficulties in their academic or personal life, Woodstock has a range of counselling options. Qualified personal counsellors can be called upon; the chaplain is available to talk through religious and spiritual issues, and there are many others who are ready and able to give their time if what is needed most is a listening ear.
Campus Services

Food Services
Woodstock's Food Services are managed by Mars Hotels and Restaurants, a Mumbai-based company established by one of our alumni, who manage a chain of restaurants under various brand names in India and overseas. Their Executive Chef and Food Services Manager oversee the quality and variety of food enjoyed by staff and students. At weekends, a food court in the lower residence area serves delicious dishes from the Mars range: The Pizzeria, China Joe, Rotti, Dona Diner.

Health Services
The school takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard the health of staff and students. The school has a health centre, staffed by professional nurses, which is open 24 hours a day. The newly refurbished Lachour Community Hospital is a five minute drive away, and provides more extensive medical facilities. Doctors from LCH hold regular clinics at the school health centre.

Liaison, Travel & Banking
As an international school operating in a location relatively distant from main centres, Woodstock provides a number of important student facilities on campus.

Liaison
All students arriving from outside India, Bhutan and Nepal need to obtain visas, and to keep them up-to-date for all of their travelling. Students need to be registered with the local authorities in Dehra Dun. The liaison office looks after this, providing advice before arrival, holding passports securely, ensuring that residency permits are obtained and that new visa applications are made in good time.

Travel
The nearest international airport is India’s Gadgil International Airport in New Delhi. The day-long trip from Delhi to Mussoorie can be made by car, taxi, bus or train. The rail terminus for Mussoorie is Dehra Dun where taxi and bus services are available for the 23 mile (37 km) climb up the mountain.

Students living outside India are escorted between Delhi airport and the school on the legendary ‘Coming Up’ and ‘Going Down’ days. Students living in India may join supervised school parties travelling between Mussoorie and Delhi. The school travel office assists with all travel and hotel booking arrangements.

Banking
The State Bank of India has a counter service in the school’s business centre. Older students may have individual accounts, and withdrawals may be made daily. There is also a UTI Bank ATM on site which services local and international accounts.

My Woodstock experience showed me how life is today more than any other experience. It gave me a world perspective and a desire to travel, learn about different cultures, and meet new people. It also helped me realise that believing in yourself, maintaining personal relationships and developing a sense of community and service are essential ingredients for happiness.
- Craig Gingerich 1986
A Confident Future

Graduation

The culmination of the year is the Graduation ceremony, when grade 12 students celebrate the completion of years of hard work, and eagerly anticipate the next step in their academic careers. There is great excitement not just among the students, but among staff too, as the college and university offers are received, pondered over and accepted. The whole community takes satisfaction, too, in seeing so many of our students receive scholarships and financial aid for their chosen place of study; particularly when we see hard-working and deserving students fulfilling their dream.

Further Study

About 70% of our students join universities in the USA, with the rest going on to study in India, the UK, Europe, Canada, Australia and throughout the world. Wherever they go, they can be sure that a Woodstock graduate has gone before and that there is likely to be a local group of alumni with whom they can make immediate contact. Woodstock is in touch with 3,500 alumni. Our interactive alumni website provides a place where stories are exchanged, news and photos are shared, reunions are arranged and services are offered and sought - internships and job opportunities, help with background for a novel, accommodation, or just a friendly welcome to a new town.

Where Are They Now?

Graduation and college entry only tell part of the story. Woodstock aims to produce men and women who can cross national and cultural boundaries and make an impact on their world. To mark our 150th anniversary in 2004, Woodstock introduced the Distinguished Alumni Honour Roll, to celebrate truly significant achievements by our alumni. Among the first dozen were a highly honoured US development worker who has spent his working life in South Asia; a world-renowned Indian author; a Harvard professor who has had a major impact on improving the lives of rural women in India and Bangladesh; a ground-breaking woman lawyer who reached the pinnacle of her profession in India; the foremost expert in the archaeology of the IndusValley civilization; and others who are international leaders in the fields of physics, law, computing and medicine.

Gerry Williams, Class of '42, wrote this when he was honoured as a Distinguished Alumnus, and we believe it remains as true today as it was almost seventy years ago:

"Perhaps the most important quality instilled in us by Woodstock was the sense of internationalism. Multi-national, multi-racial and multi-religious, Woodstock taught us that we are all members of the family of peoples and nations, and that respect for the variety in human culture is the foundation for peace. We travel the world easily now because of Woodstock. We think in global terms because Woodstock was a microcosm of that world. We serve all people of the world because Woodstock taught us that service to others is our primary ethic."
Admissions Information

The School Year
The school year begins in early August and extends to late May the next year. There is a holiday from mid-December to late January. Parents receive a full progress report at the end of each semester, with a shorter report at each mid-term break. Students are expected to return home for the summer and winter holidays, and parents are encouraged to visit their children or take them out of boarding during the mid-term breaks in October and April.

How and When to Apply
The application process begins in September for the following August. Application forms may be obtained by writing to the school or by registering on the school website (www.woodstock.ac.in). The Admissions Committee judges applicants on the basis of academic ability, character, ability to fit into an international environment and support for the school's student outcome goals. The admissions process includes an admission test and a personal interview, where possible.

We welcome applications for boarding students from grade 3 (age 8+) through grade 11 (age 16/17) and day students from KG. In exceptional circumstances a student may be considered for entry to grade 2 or 12. Prospective parents and students are encouraged to visit the campus, by prior arrangement with the Director of Admissions.

Grant Programme
Woodstock School's Grant Programme helps qualified students to attend Woodstock regardless of family financial status. Woodstock offers a number of needs-based grants to students, usually from families involved in service to the community, who will benefit from the kind of education offered and make a significant contribution to the school and the student body. Should you be interested in applying for a grant, please request a grant application form from the Admissions Office (admissions@woodstock.ac.in).

Accreditation and Administration
Woodstock was the first school in Asia to receive US accreditation through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (1959). During 2004, Woodstock successfully completed its application for continuing accreditation with MSA under the 'Accreditation For Growth' protocol, for the K-12 program. In 2007, Woodstock became the first school in Asia to be awarded the MSA's new International Credential, which identifies and celebrates schools which are international in character. The school also holds accreditation with the Commission on International and Trans-regional Accreditation. Woodstock School is an approved testing centre for PSAT, SAT, ACT, GCSE and IAP examinations.

Woodstock School is an independent, non-profit society registered in India under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It is governed by a Board of Directors drawn from India and the international community, including alumni.