

# Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a wonderful break and a good rest with family and friends. The Heron Homelink is now placed directly on the website and can be accessed here.

<https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=83>

This letter contains some key information to support with the term ahead.

## Return to School

Pupils should return to school at the **normal time and their normal gates on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. All work is now complete in the Leisure Centre and surrounding roads. We will hopefully avoid snow and any more potential disruption to our children's education; if there is ever any need in the future for a change in school arrangements due to poor weather, the latest information can be accessed via a pop up on the website.

Please ensure however that your child has a warm outdoor coat that is suitable for school, these can be worn in the building but must be undone and blazers must be worn underneath at all times. All pupils should have had a chance to correct any other uniform and appearance issues over the Christmas holidays and we expect all pupils to be therefore correctly dressed on their return to school, this includes the removal of nail and eyelash extensions. Expected uniform and guidelines can be found in detail with pictures in our school uniform leaflet accessible here

[https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/\\_site/data/files/users/template/files/uniform-clothing-and-appearance/B6FC4BA1F08C8EF30FC8AB23AE68D08D.pdf](https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/template/files/uniform-clothing-and-appearance/B6FC4BA1F08C8EF30FC8AB23AE68D08D.pdf)

Please do contact your child's Head of Year if you feel you need any financial support with uniform. For the next academic year, we will consider the style of school skirts and may consider a different style to prevent the rolling up of skirts that takes place too frequently, especially when pupils leave school. We will ensure that we continue to consider cost and follow the government guidance on uniform cost – the new guidance being no more than 4 branded items need to be bought.

Pupils must also be fully equipped for the lessons they have each day. We would expect all pupils to have an appropriately sized functional school bag and the following equipment as a minimum expectation: blue/black ink pens, green ink pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, a scientific calculator, a reading book of choice. Optional equipment used in some subjects includes a glue stick and colour pencils. Having full equipment enables pupils to fully participate in their learning and enables them to produce work of the highest quality and presentation.

## Staff Changes

We say goodbye to some staff, wish them well and thank them for all their contributions to Wanstead High.  
**A fond farewell to...**

- **Mr Daniyal Ahmad** who leaves the Maths Department for a promotion to Leadership.
- **Ms Samera Choudhury** who leaves the English Department.
- **Ms Erica Ellis and Mr Alexander Ikhide** who leave the Art and Photography Department.
- **Ms Terri Beak** who leaves the Reception Team for retirement.
- **Ms Nikisha Lewis** who leaves the Attendance and Admissions Team.
- **Ms Liz Robbins** who has supported the SEN Department this term.

**We welcome some new staff** and are excited to have them on board. We have also appointed a substantive and highly experienced new SENDCO from April 2024 who will now lead the team of 3 Deputy SENDCOs, including Ms Worham who has done (and will continue to do in the short-term) such an excellent job of leading the team.

- **Ms Sadia Begum** who joins us as a Sixth Form Supervisor. Sadia has prior experience of working in a Sixth Form and has also supported pupils in English tutoring.
- **Ms Emma Urrehman** who joins us as a Teacher of Art and Photography until the end of the summer term in the first instance. Emma has a degree in Fine Art and, prior to raising her family, had experience as Head of Department and Subject Lead.
- **Mr Shumshar Raja** who joins us as a Cover Supervisor initially until the end of the summer term. Shumshar is studying for a degree in Computer Science and has more than 4 years of experience supporting youth programmes including coaching a basketball team.
- **Ms Sarah Morey** who joins us temporarily 3 days a week as a Teacher of English. Sarah has over 15 years teaching experience in the USA and Istanbul. Outside of school she organises and curates a bi-monthly poetry open mic event and enjoys the theatre, and yoga.
- **Ms Atifah Shah** who joins us as a temporary Attendance Officer whilst we recruit a permanent candidate for the role. Atifah has 5 years' experience in Attendance, Admissions and Finance and is looking forward to working at Wanstead.
- **Ms Mariaemauela Messina** who joins us as a temporary Art & Photography Technician whilst we recruit a permanent candidate for the role. Mariaemauela has experience in working in education and the creative, cultural and heritage sectors across the UK and Italy. She has a Master of Arts Degree from Goldsmiths University and has worked in the National Maritime Museum.
- We have also appointed a new Media Technician starting later in January to replace Ms Revan as she goes on maternity leave and we will update you about the replacement for Ms Begum's, (Head of Media), maternity leave as soon as we are able.

## INSET Day - 13th January 2025

This will still need to go ahead despite the unexpected strike action. The timing is unfortunate but we have to honour this for staff.

## Year 11 Progress Evening - 16th January 2025

You will receive information about booking early next week.

## Challenge Cycle 2 - 20th January 2025

The second Challenge Cycle will begin on 20th January and finish on 14th March. A letter outlining the assessment dates and relevant information will be sent to families within the first few weeks of the term. For subjects with assessments scheduled early in the term, details will be posted on Google Classroom.

## Ofsted

We still await Ofsted every week and will, of course, update you as soon as they call. We will send out the Ofsted Parent View survey link shortly for you to complete and will also be completing our own regular surveys for feedback.

## Building Work Update

We have been informed that the new building will be completed in Winter 2025 so can tentatively say the work will be finished 'this year' now. The latest news from Redbridge is here -

<https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/wlc>.

## Fabulous Fundraising

I want to express my gratitude to the PTA who continue to support the school at every opportunity and some of their contributions to the community are highlighted in the Homelink, with a bigger feature in the next edition with feedback from pupils and staff about the impact of these donations. Thanks to Dennis Weeks and Louise Russell (and all the other volunteers) who are so committed to this fundraising. In addition, we are so grateful for the donation to come from the Assemble Media Group's Christmas Events. These two events were magnificent and raised money for the school and Haven House. Huge thanks to Mary Richardson and Tom Broughton for allowing us to be part of this and also for so generously inviting staff and pupils.

## Finally...

On behalf of the Governors, school, and Leadership Team, I want to sincerely thank you for your understanding and support following the recent letter about proposed strike action. We wholeheartedly recognise and respect workload and well-being issues raised by our teachers and the NEU, which are prevalent across the profession, and we remain committed to working collaboratively to address these challenges in a constructive way, ensuring that we retain the ambition to ensure the best education for our young people and continued development and improvement.

We remain steadfast in our belief that the changes we are pursuing are essential to making this school the best it can be for everyone. Despite the obstacles ahead and frustrations of strike action, we are determined to move forward in a spirit of positivity, co-operation, and shared purpose.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these important conversations and next steps.

All the best



Emma Hillman  
Headteacher