

# Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you have had a wonderful half-term and you and your child/ren have spent some relaxing time together. ***A very quick reminder that we start school at normal time tomorrow and are looking forward to a focused and successful half-term prioritising the best quality of education for all our pupils and ensuring Year 11 and 13 are supported in the run up to their exams.***

I am delighted that the strike action is now over and we will ensure we reflect on all that has taken place to ensure we continue to balance school development with ensuring staff continue to feel supported at such a difficult time in the profession. A number of schools in neighbouring boroughs are facing strike action over the next few weeks and I feel very relieved that we have all worked in a solution-focused way to get back on track for our pupils with half of the academic year left and in the run up to exams. School leaders and I want to thank all of those who provided their support during this difficult time - I can only apologise that there was not time to reply individually. We feel honoured that we have a parent body so committed to the school. I would also like to thank Ellen and Ian, as Co-chairs of the Governing Body for their unwavering support and challenge during this time – it is often hard to remember that all this work is voluntary and, again, we are so lucky to have such committed Governors in all areas. I will be running assemblies this week focused on **'Resetting'** in order to focus on the future, after a tricky start to the year, and will remind pupils of our direction of travel and expectations, as well as continuing to celebrate the resilience of our school population during the seemingly never-ending building works. Here are a few important updates and do get in touch if you have any additional questions or queries.

## Challenge Cycle 2

I am aware that some of you have expressed concern about these assessments after time missed from school. Please do not worry about this and as long as your child does their best, the missed lessons will be considered when setting and marking assessments. We are committed to continuing to develop these assessments taking feedback from staff and parents/pupils to ensure that they develop to be the most helpful tools possible to measure progress, tackle misconceptions and provide robust information about individual and class progress, whilst respecting pupil and staff well-being and ensuring we are more than an 'exam factory'.

## Staffing Update

I am delighted to announce that **Ms White**, Head of Year 7, is expecting her first child later in the year and she will be going on maternity leave in the summer term. I know that parents of Year 7 pupils will be anxious about what this means in her absence; we will keep you updated as soon as we are able. Ms White will be a hard act to follow but I am confident we will find a positive solution and she will, of course, be back in Year 8.

**Ms Piorkowska** starts as our new experienced **SENDCo** later in March. I am delighted that she is joining us and is fully aware and ready to take on the challenges of the last few years. She is committed to ensuring the SEND provision at Wanstead High is second to none. She will begin by prioritising support for EHCP pupils and ensuring this is as per the EHCP, reorganising TA timetables to ensure the best support for pupils and revitalising intervention to ensure all pupils are able to make maximum progress in the necessary area which will range from literacy to numeracy to speech and language and emotional needs. I would like to thank **Ms Worham** for acting up at such a difficult time. We move forward from 24<sup>th</sup> March with a substantive SENDCo,



3 Deputy SENDCos and a full team of HLTAs and TAs – a significant investment from September 2022 when there was one Deputy SENDCo. This should provide an improved service for all our SEND pupils and their families and we aim to provide outstanding provision in all areas of SEND.

We will keep you updated with any other staffing changes before the start of next term.

### Ofsted and School Performance

As you know, we are still waiting for the deferred Ofsted inspection to take place. This should be before the end of the school year but may be more immediate. Parents will be asked to complete a survey when Ofsted announce the inspection – this can be completed at any time – it is important for the school, where possible, that this feedback is not clouded by the strikes or building challenges, although we will be very transparent with Ofsted about this. I will also be sending out a school survey before the end of term to all parents and undertaking significant pupil voice to ensure that we take on board feedback well in advance of school development planning for 2025-26. We encourage you to respond to this as this will help us with the next stages of development. I will also be reminding pupils in my assemblies about all the great things that we achieve here as we need to remember the positives and the development we have made, despite the challenges of the year.

The latest school performance data puts the school's 2024 progress score for GCSE at 0.27 - above average - and English and Maths attainment scores as well above England and the Local Authority - <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>. The IDSR document - available to schools and Ofsted only - shows all the 2024 performance outcomes below as **very positive and a significant improvement in science progress**, which we know will continue, whilst recognising there is still more to do in this subject. We hope this year's science results will further reflect progress in this area, despite the temporary lack of normal progress measures at GCSE due to a lack of SATs data. In all the areas below in 2024 that show a significant trend, these all show an upward progression since 2022.

	2024 cohort/ entries	Performance in 2024
Overall P8	222	Sig above national and 72nd percentile
English P8	222	Sig above national and 82nd percentile
Mathematics P8	222	Sig above national and 75th percentile
Open P8	222	Sig above national and 75th percentile
Humanities VA	172	Sig above national and 75th percentile
Languages VA	102	Sig above national and 66th percentile
Overall A8	235	Sig above national and 85th percentile
English A8	235	Sig above national and 89th percentile
Mathematics A8	235	Sig above national and 88th percentile
EBacc A8	235	Sig above national and 81st percentile
Open A8	235	Sig above national and 85th percentile
English % 5+	234	Sig above national and 86th percentile
Mathematics % 5+	235	Sig above national and 87th percentile
Science % 5+	235	Sig above national and 72nd percentile
Humanities % 5+	179	Sig above national and 91st percentile
Languages % 5+	107	Sig above national and 67th percentile
English % 4+	234	Sig above national and 87th percentile
Mathematics % 4+	235	Sig above national and 86th percentile
Science % 4+	235	Sig above national and 74th percentile
Humanities % 4+	179	Sig above national and 89th percentile

## **Year 9 Options Update and Progress Evening**

Year 9 pupils have now successfully submitted their subject preferences for GCSE. We are currently analysing the responses and formulating the option blocks. Our options system is designed to maximise the number of pupils who can study their preferred courses. Further details regarding the final option blocks and the process for making final choices will be shared shortly.

Additionally, the Year 9 Progress Evening is scheduled for **6th March**. Appointment bookings will open early this week and Ms Murray will be sending out further information on how to sign up.

## **Critical Incident/Lockdown Policy**

This policy will be going through Governors shortly and I want to advise you that in the next month or so we will be running a 'emergency lockdown' drill in school to ensure we are all ready in case we ever have to face a serious incident. We will ensure all pupils are fully aware of this in advance and are supported in case of any anxiety. This is normal procedure in schools and should not be anything to worry about – we would rather be alert and safe than sorry!

## **Term Dates 2025-26**

Term Dates for 2025-26 are on p.32 of the Heron Homelink - [Wanstead High School - Newsletters](#).

## **Year 7 2025**

Many of you will be finding out shortly if siblings have got a school place in September 2025 and we wish you the best of luck with the process. We will write to all new Year 7 parents after the March announcements and cannot wait to meet the class of 2025.

Please do, as always, get in touch if you have any questions or queries. We look forward to a great half-term ahead and good luck to all Year 11s and 13s with the impending exams.

All the best



Emma Hillman  
Headteacher