

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

22nd July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have finally reached the end of term. A huge thank you for all your support this year and it has been a pleasure watching your children grow and develop, as well as take part in so many exciting events and activities, many of which are highlighted in the Heron Homelink. This letter includes a few key notices before the end of term and we will update you with further information in the new year.

Start of Term

All pupils will return on Tuesday 2nd September. **Year 7 and Year 12 will return from 10.00am for a 10.20am start and all other pupils from 11.00am for an 11.20am start.** Pupils will use the following gates next year for all entry and exit:

Year 7	Leisure Centre Gate
Year 8	Leisure Centre Gate
Year 9	Main Entrance to right of Reception
Year 10	Leisure Centre Gate
Year 11	Main Entrance to right of Reception
Year 12	Main Entrance to right of Reception
Year 13	Main Entrance to right of Reception

Staff Changes

We will update you with our new staff at the start of term and this information will also be available on the website. We say goodbye to a number of staff and want to thank them for all they have contributed to the journey at Wanstead. Particular thanks to my amazing Deputy Head, Ms Steel, who is moving on after 10 years. She is staying in Redbridge so we know we will continue to collaborate.

A fond farewell to...

Ms ALI - Training to be a teacher
Mr BOACHIE - Retiring
Ms GALLAGHER - Moving schools
Ms HASSAN - New role outside a school
Ms HINSON - Retiring
Mr NELSON - Moving schools
Mr SMITH - Moving closer to home
Ms STEEL - Moving schools
Ms TASSINE - Taking a break
Ms UMAR - Taking a break
Ms URREHMAN - Moving abroad

We wish you all the best for your future endeavours!



Good Luck to...

Ms YASIN

Ms KARTHA

We wish you well with the birth of your babies!

Updates

- We will update you about any changes to policy at the start of term. In the meantime, please remember that if your child chooses to wear a school skirt, these should reach the knee and they should be worn with black tights. We will take further feedback on uniform moving forward via a survey and make any substantive changes at a later date and after consultation with Governors. *We have also just been informed that Carolina School Outfitters have extended their promotion period to purchase school uniform until 31st July 2025.*
- Don't forget all pupils from Years 7-11 will now need to hand mobile phones in in the morning. They will be returned at the end of the day and should not be used until pupils have left the school site.

Parent Handbook

This will be available via the website for new parents in the next week or so.

Parent Survey and Communication

This will be sent over the holidays – please do complete this and there will be a prize for one entry picked at random. Your feedback is really important to us although we will not be able to respond individually unless there are exceptional circumstances. We will be revisiting the school's communication next year and looking at how we can ensure parents and other stakeholders are aware of what they can expect, through which channels and details of timescales etc. This will include looking at the website, EduLink, social media etc and we will be looking to publish a clear policy or strategy to support this. Other areas for development will be shared with parents and carers via the Summary School Development Plan for 2025-26 in the new academic year.

Lockers

A reminder that lockers can now be booked for all year groups – see attached.

Pupil Safety and Security

- Pupils have all had assemblies about how to keep safe over the holidays. There is further information in the Heron Homelink. Please don't forget to contact safeguarding@wansteadhigh.co.uk if you have any concerns or need our support; your child can email talktous@wansteadhigh.co.uk and I can be contacted if you have any urgent questions or information. As stated previously, we have the highest expectations of our pupils' behaviour in the community. The Behaviour Policy in all schools applies to pupils who can be identifiable as a pupil of Wanstead High School at any time and I hope it remains the case that we have never yet had to apply this over the holidays.
- The Local Authority have agreed to undertake a full audit of site security as a result of the incident at the start of the month. This is a positive outcome and will address the joint access with the Leisure Centre which is where the breach occurred. This internal entrance/exit has now been closed to staff and pupils.

School Fund: Parental Contributions

School funding remains a challenge, with rising costs in areas such as national insurance, contractor services, and energy — including a 30% increase in water charges — not matched by increased government funding. For the past two years, parental contributions have made a real difference, supporting library improvements, PE transport (allowing greater participation in borough competitions), and a range of enrichment activities. We are once again

asking for your support: we suggest £20 per term (£60 per year) for main school families, or £17 per term (£50 per year) for Sixth Form families — though any amount you can give is greatly appreciated. Your generosity continues to directly benefit our pupils. We will also include questions about parent donations in the Parent Survey.

Design and Technology Annual Contribution

Thank you for your continued support of our practical Design & Technology (DT) subjects, including Food and Nutrition, Textiles and Product Design. To help cover the cost of essential materials such as ingredients, fabrics, and other consumables, we currently ask for a voluntary contribution of £25 per year. While not compulsory, these contributions allow the school to purchase resources in bulk — ensuring consistency, reducing waste, and avoiding the need for families to supply materials individually. Your support helps us maintain the high-quality, hands-on learning experiences our pupils value in these subjects. This also saves the last minute panic of your child asking for complicated ingredients on the way to school!

All the best and have a great rest and holiday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Emma Hillman'.

Emma Hillman
Headteacher