

# Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

Dear Parent/Carer,

With Sixth Form enrolment taking place this week, I am very pleased to share news of our outstanding A Level results which have continued to improve and compare very favourably with other local schools. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and their hard work and dedication. Their achievements continue to grow year on year, placing them among the highest-achieving young people in the borough and setting them up for very bright futures. This year, 29% pupils achieved A\*-A, 61% A\*-B and 82% A\*-C, increasing from last year and well above national figures. 59% of pupils will be studying at Russell Group Universities and two pupils are on their way to Cambridge, one with with 2A\*s and 2 As in Geography, History of Art, History and Art. There are numerous success stories with many individual pupil results on Facebook and Instagram (@WansteadHighE11) and include Lola and Luke with 3A\*s each, and many other top grades.

A few updates before the start of term.

## Parental Survey

We would be very grateful if you could complete the following survey by midnight on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August** - this should take no more than 15-20 minutes.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVUfHkLYizkazeOsZRcqO5ETH3f6plSE-8cBo17JHTSO1WFw/viewform?usp=header> .

One lucky recipient will win a £25 voucher drawn at random. We are finalising the School Development Plan and this information will be really useful to fine-tune areas. We are very keen to continue to develop our communication strategy this year and hence a number of questions are based on this and also drilling deeper into some of the Ofsted general Parent View feedback, as well as some consideration about parental financial contributions for the future (see below for this year). Many thanks in advance. Please also let pupils know there will be a short survey for them to complete on Google Classroom.

## Parent Handbook

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 pupils and the Parent Handbook is now available on the website in the Parent section and on the link below. Mrs Martin has a list of those who have requested hard copies and these should be sent shortly.

<https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/page/?title=Year+7+Parent%2FCarer+Handbook+2025+%2D+2026&pid=174>

## Uniform Update

As there is talk of another impending heatwave in September, we will start by allowing skirts to be worn without tights as long as skirts are knee length (the bottom of the skirt must reach the top of the knee). We really need to improve uniform this year and need your support with this by ensuring skirts are the right length; otherwise tights **will need** to be worn and this is non-negotiable for all years. We continue to consider the uniform and how we can ensure it is smart at all times in and out of school and will be having a greater focus on this next year.

## Design and Technology Resources

As you know, we currently ask parents and carers to support our Design Technology, Food Technology, and Textiles departments by making a contribution of £25 per year via ParentPay. Whilst this is voluntary, these

funds help us provide high-quality materials and resources that enhance pupils' practical learning experiences. If we do not receive sufficient contributions, we may need to revert to asking pupils to bring in their own ingredients and materials and, trust me, this can be challenging for parents and carers, especially if your child forgets to tell you until the final hour! Your support is greatly appreciated and directly benefits your child's education.

### Contributions to the School Fund

We are also currently inviting parents and carers to make a voluntary contribution to the School Fund to support enrichment activities and key projects in our School Development Plan. Suggested contributions are £20 per term for main school pupils and £15 for Sixth Form. Last year, these funds helped enhance our library provision and supported pupil travel and participation in sports fixtures across the borough. Your continued support enables us to offer valuable opportunities beyond the classroom and this is also on ParentPay. Sadly, school budgets are more stretched than ever before and we await further news about pay awards and the impact of this on budgets. Our School Business Manager does an excellent job of balancing budgets but all local Headteachers, including myself, remain anxious about cuts. We hope that any refurbishment of areas relocated after the building work (such as the old kitchen) will be funded by the Local Authority.

### SEND Provision in the Local Authority

Although the May Ofsted report of SEND in the borough highlighted many areas for improvement, we hope that many of the issues we have been facing as a school, such as the lack of alternative provision in the borough or slow processes for EHCPs, will transform rapidly which will support you, us and our children.

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### Reminder of Return Times

All pupils will return on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Further information about new staff is attached. I will update you early in the term with some feedback from the surveys. All other information will be updated on the website. We wish every Year 11 pupil the best of luck on Thursday - we are so proud of them whatever their outcomes.

Best wishes for the rest of the holiday.



Emma Hillman

Headteacher