

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

4th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a joy to welcome your children back and also to meet the new Year 7 and Year 12 pupils. They have come back full of enthusiasm and ready to learn.

A few important updates:

Uniform

Most pupils have returned in outstanding uniform and thank you for your support with this. We will be working with pupils and families where uniforms need to be corrected over the next week or so. A reminder that if a pupil chooses to wear a skirt, this must reach the top of the knee or pupils will need to wear tights. Pupils who have followed this guidance look much smarter but there is more work to do. In addition, please remember if your child attends our Sixth Form the high uniform expectations are the same. They should be wearing a blazer, school shoes and appropriate skirt length. Further information is on the school website.

As you know, we will continue to review uniform for warmer weather this year. Pupils all have a paper timetable copy and in the next week or so, pupils will be given their new lanyards (given out and handed in at the start and end of the school day) and this will include a small pouch with the timetable in.

Weather

The weather over the next few weeks will be highly changeable and our indoor space at break and lunch time is limited due to the building work. Please ensure your child has a coat and/or umbrella. Coats can be worn in the building but must be undone so we can see the school uniform.

Photographs

Photographs for Years 7, 10 and 12 will be taken on **Friday 5th September**. These are primarily for our database but you will also have an opportunity to buy these. Pupils should, as ever, look smart and guidelines re make up and jewellery remain the same despite it being 'photo-day!' Years 11 and 13 will have their photographs taken on Tuesday 16th September.

EduLink One

Over the next few days, we will be sending you an email which will tell you how to log in for the first time and set up your account; your child's timetable etc can be viewed from here. EduLink One is a purpose-built parental communication-platform that can be accessed on any device - PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device. A letter will be sent to you early next week.

Bicycle Helmets

It is great that so many pupils are cycling into school but we need to ensure they are all safe. We urge that your child wears a helmet as per the Highway Code recommendation. We will be looking to increase the bike storage available, hopefully with support from the PTA. **Please do consider joining the PTA to help continue their magnificent work.**

Parking and Security

Next Monday, the Local Authority will finally be undertaking a security review of the site. It is likely that some of the recommendations will impact the front of the school and may well mean we have to restrict access to vehicles. In the meantime, please avoid driving into the main entrance whenever you can and never block other cars in, move cones or use the disabled spaces unless you are a badge holder. There is parking in the local area or you can use the Leisure Centre car park for a period of 3 hours if you register in their reception.

Parent/Carer Survey

If you have a returning child, please do give us your feedback on the past year. The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes and will close on Friday 5th September at midnight.

Parent Governors

We will shortly be looking for 2 Parent Governors. Details about the process and elections will be with you shortly.

Social Media

We are aware that a significant number of our pupils are members of various Snapchat and/or WhatsApp group chats. Whilst some of these groups can be pleasant and help pupils to feel connected to each other, unfortunately the vast majority of the content on these groups is not always appropriate and can be unpleasant for the pupils involved to receive. We have been made aware of a number of the peer group issues and incidents of unkindness which occurred over the summer holidays; these incidents ultimately cause upset to pupils and spill into the school day which detracts from their learning.

Several of the WhatsApp groups have 40+ members in them and often pupils are sharing personal information unaware of the identity of every group member. It is very easy to add people to a WhatsApp group and this increases the likelihood that your child may be in a group with people they do not know who subsequently can access their mobile phone number and profile picture if privacy settings have not been set to maximum security. Some of our pupils have received upsetting and threatening calls from people they do not know, but who have accessed their details from one of the many WhatsApp groups they belong to. This has implications for the safety of our pupils as well as their emotional wellbeing.

If you do allow your child to access social media, such as Snapchat and WhatsApp, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded.
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles.
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily / weekly routine.
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

For those of you in parent WhatsApp groups, we encourage these to provide support and a community for you. Please do remember however that, if you have any concerns or questions, please check any letters or the website for information first or then please contact us. We are here to help and would hate for things to escalate in a group when we may be able to clarify or provide answers.

Too Good to Throw!

After a successful trial period, this year we will be continuing with selling leftover lunch food in the dining hall on a Friday between 3.15 and 3.25pm. Grab and go will be reduced in price, although all still in date.

All the best



Emma Hillman
Headteacher