

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

14th October 2025

Dear Year 10 Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful that so many of you came to the Year 10 Information Evening. Thank you to those who have taken the time to share your feedback. I'm very sorry I wasn't able to attend in person — I unexpectedly found myself at Whipps Cross with an ankle injury at the last minute! Trust me, I would much rather have been at the event, as I'm sure you can imagine.

Although I wasn't able to speak at the start of the evening as planned, I wanted to share the key messages I would have delivered. This is such an important year in your child's school journey, and some of the points below also address questions raised by parents. The presentation shown on the evening can be found on the school website: <https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=205&type=pdf>

New Building

We've now been informed that our new building is scheduled for completion in September 2026. Assuming everything goes to plan, your children will benefit from this fantastic new facility at the start of Year 11. The development will include:

- A new canteen
- Additional toilets
- New classrooms for Art and Humanities

We also hope to return to a single break and lunchtime, which will improve pupils' social experience and give them greater access to indoor spaces and sports areas — especially valuable in such a key year.

GCSE Access Arrangements

Some pupils with SEND needs will be eligible for access arrangements in their GCSEs, such as extra time or a separate room and may have had experience of this at Key Stage 3. We will be holding a remote information session soon to explain how these are assessed, applied, and managed.

Last year, we noticed some misunderstandings around this process, so we want to ensure parents are fully informed and expectations are clear well in advance. This is particularly important for pupils who experience anxiety or other challenges that may affect how they sit their exams. JCQ has very strict guidance on these arrangements so it is important that these are understood and followed to the letter and include strict testing conditions and specific mock exam procedures.

Science Staffing

Unfortunately, a member of staff did not return after the holidays due to illness, which has led to the timetable and cover changes. We sincerely apologise for the disruption and assure you that Mr Hadden is making prompt decisions based on priority classes.

We will keep you updated on any long-term staffing changes as soon as we are able.



Data and Reports

You will receive your child's first Key Stage 4 report at the end of term. This will include:

- Current GCSE grades
- Predicted grades
- Target grades

Most children in the UK take national tests (SATs) in English and Mathematics at the end of Year 6. Our target grades are generated from Fischer Family Trust (FFT), which is an organisation which processes national pupil data and supports schools with analysis. These targets are based on the latest Key Stage 4 framework and performance of pupils with similar prior attainment nationally. We have high expectations of our pupils and set targets based on how pupils in the top 5-20% (depending on subject) would progress based on Year 6 SATs scores. As the system becomes more embedded, we have the capacity to raise or lower individual target grades, for example if a child has SEND in a particular area and the target is causing anxiety or if a child had no Key Stage 2 data. In the past, pupils have been given a generic target.

If you have any questions after receiving the report, please contact the appropriate staff member listed on the report.

GCSE Tiers

Some subjects have tiered entry, including Maths, Science, and MFL. Pupils will be entered for either:

- **Higher tier** (grades 9–4)
- **Foundation tier** (grades 5–1)

Teachers will make final decisions on tier entry in Year 11.

Intervention

Intervention sessions take place in Year 11, usually after school. These are designed to support pupils who are not yet meeting their target grades or who have key characteristics such as SEND or disadvantaged status.

Further Maths

In Year 11, some pupils follow a **Further Maths** course. In previous years, this has been delivered either after school or within the regular timetable for our most able mathematicians. We will confirm arrangements for this year group once our new Director of Maths has been appointed.

Community Languages

You will receive further correspondence later this term regarding GCSEs in community languages. We will support pupils to take a GCSE in a language they speak fluently, provided a qualification is available.

Thank you again for your continued support and engagement. Year 10 is a crucial and exciting time, and we are committed to working closely with you to ensure every pupil is well prepared, confident, and thriving.

All the best



Emma Hillman
Headteacher