

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

15th October 2025

Dear Year 12 Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful that so many of you came to the Year 12 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=204&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 13.

The development will include:

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

We hope to be able to provide some more study space for post 16 pupils as well. We plan (subject to risk assessment) 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.

Access Arrangements

Some pupils with SEND needs will be eligible for access arrangements in their A Levels, such as extra time or a separate room and may have had experience of this at GCSE. 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 have 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 5 report at the end of term. This will include:

- Current A Level grades
- Predicted Grades
- Target grades

To generate meaningful and robust targets, we make use of the 'value added' scores produced by the A Level Performance System (ALPS). ALPS measures the distance travelled by pupils from their GCSE grades in Year 11 to their final A Level grades and sets targets based on these. These 'value added' scores are the best way to compare pupil achievement in schools and colleges.



Occasionally, we adjust targets to be more ambitious if your child is exceeding expectations. If you have any questions after receiving the report, please contact the appropriate staff member listed on the report.

Intervention

Intervention sessions sometimes take place in Year 13, 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.

Community Languages

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

Questions Raised by Parents

How much should my child be working?

It's not necessarily about quantifying the specific number of hours but utilising private and open study as effectively as possible and then dedicating an hour after school and evening to studies too. As mentioned about the Learning2Learn programme, we are providing your child with study tips and giving them time in form time to try these out - we expect them to be utilising these tools in their independent study to maximise their potential.

How do I talk to my child about their studies?

I would recommend talking to your child about what they have learnt this week - any new ideas, key concepts, case studies etc - as mentioned in the information evening, the more they discuss with you the more they are 'recalling' and this helps with long and short-term memory. Ask them about what planning they have done for their open, private and home study - get them to show you their revision and study plans (we are frequently doing this fortnightly in Learning2Learn).

When is the Year 12 Challenge Cycle?

The first Challenge Cycle will commence on 20th October and conclude on 21st November. These Challenge Cycles each term are similar to the assessment windows from previous years. The assessments take place over 6 weeks, allowing the curriculum to be taught and pupils to be assessed in line with departmental schemes of learning. In the summer term, Year 12s have a more formal set of mock exams. Please contact z.ali@wansteadhigh.co.uk if you have any more questions about assessment.

Is there going to be work experience for Year 12?

Yes, you should have received communication from Mr Wood confirming the details of this.

Thank you again for your continued support and engagement. Year 12 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