

# Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

26th May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Finally the sun has come out - I do hope this makes everyone's half term a little brighter. Thank you again for your on-going support - it is much appreciated as we move into the final part of the school year. Pupils have really appreciated the summer tops and have been very vocal in their thanks for this change. We were thinking of the Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh pupils on Friday who were walking and camping in this weather. Year 11 and 13 pupils have approached their exams with such good focus and good humour and we wish them all the best for the next series after the break. We hope they find a balance of rest and work in this important week and are very optimistic about outcomes.

## Start of Summer Term 2

Pupils in Key Stage 3 should arrive at the appropriate gate from 10.10am for a 10.20am start. There will be no break food on this day. Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils should arrive from 11.10am for an 11.20am start. Exam intervention sessions will run as published.

## Canteen Update

Please note that, at present, our school lunch offer does not include the advertised *Street Vibe* option from Tuesday to Thursday. This is due to one of our ovens requiring replacement. We are currently working closely with the borough to resolve the issue as quickly as possible, and we appreciate your understanding while this is being addressed. Ironically and frustratingly, there is a new oven in the new build complex but we are not able to move this. It is not a good use of public money to spend £5,000 for an oven that would be used for 9 months or £4.5k for a repair when the whole kitchen is being replaced!

## Communication with School

Thanks to those who have offered to work with us to develop a new communication strategy. In the meantime, please be aware:

- We will aim to make Year 7 requested Progress Evening calls by 19th June.
- If you are sending emails to someone in school, please only put one recipient in the To box if you are sending directly or one recipient FAO if you are sending via [whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk](mailto:whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk). Not doing this means that emails do not always get responded to or are delayed as there is a lack of clarity about who should reply.

## Staffing Update

We say goodbye to Owais Rakhda who has worked with us as part of the apprenticeship programme. We wish him well and thank him for all he has done. We will share our exciting new appointments for September later in the term including an excellent new Head of Maths.

## AI

We will be working on policies around AI shortly and this will span keeping pupils safe but also how we ensure pupils and parents have appropriate guidance on how to ensure pupils do not use this instead of their own work. It is of paramount importance, for example, that pupils know the rules for public exams as any improper use of AI can jeopardise the whole exam series. In the meantime, please be alert to your child using AI to complete homework or Sparx Maths or Science (currently a TikTok trend) and ensure you talk to them about this. We hope to run a workshop for parents in the near future if this is all a new and frightening area for you.

• INTEGRITY • CURIOSITY • RESPECT • SERVICE • TEAMWORK



### **Community Behaviour**

A reminder that we expect the highest standard of behaviour from all our pupils in the community in the holidays and term-time. Please always be aware that you know where your child is after school and that they understand the high expectations. We have had reports of pupils spitting in the street which is obviously not acceptable. Conversely, we have recently had more praise from the community for pupils handing in lost property, helping an unwell lady on the bus and general good behaviour.

### **Uniform**

Mrs Martin is updating the uniform guidance and this will be sent out and updated on the website in the future. Pupils now have plenty of choice but a reminder that if they choose to wear the skirt option (without tights), skirts must reach the knees. We do not want to remove any pupils from lessons but this may be the case if they do not follow rules. Lanyards have been redistributed where there are gaps and the expectation is that all pupils wear these at all times in school. A reminder that false nails are dangerous and not allowed and pupils may well be removed from lessons for wearing these.

### **Heron Homelink**

The link is below and hope you enjoy reading this.

<https://wansteadhigh.ovw10.devwebsite.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=275&type=pdf>

It remains a pleasure to lead this amazing school community and, whilst we still have work to do in some areas, this has been a successful half-term in so many ways. We look forward to your feedback on the survey. I want to thank all the school leaders who work so hard to drive improvement. A belated congratulations to Adam Joiner, who left last year, who was elected as a councillor in the Bridge Ward in the local elections. Whilst you may not all agree with his political views, this is a phenomenal achievement for an amazing young man who is destined to go far.

We look forward to an exciting final term of the school year with a dance and music show, Culture day, Sports day and enrichment trips and activities, as well as lots of academic focus in lessons right up until the final day.

I hope you are able to spend some well earned time with your friends and family this week. We wish love and happiness to all our families marking Pentecost, Eid al-Adha or Shavuot.

All the best



**Emma Hillman**  
Headteacher