

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

- Redbridge Lane West, Wanstead, London E11 2JZ
- Tel: 020 8989 2791 • Email: whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk
 - Website: www.wansteadhigh.co.uk



Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

24th June 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you in advance about new and additional risk controls for the hot weather and red weather warnings, based on the current forecast. We have only 4 classrooms with air conditioning and the temporary block has been out of action since Monday as classroom temperatures in there are over 35 degrees. Temperatures across the school in other rooms ranged from 29-34 degrees late this morning and rooms are not cooling down overnight. We have no shade in our outside areas with so many areas out of action. With the on-going building work, we have unique circumstances and so this is much more challenging than in other schools. We will be talking again to the Local Authority about the need for more air conditioning and other more permanent risk control measures.

For this reason, we have made further changes to the school week. These have not been easy decisions but we have considered all options before making these plans. Please read the details below but, in summary, **school is open for all until 11.30am tomorrow and closed on Friday for all except pupils taking morning exams for Year 10 and 12.**

Thursday 25th June

The School Day

- Pupils should arrive at school at the normal time.
- Break will take place as normal.
- Period 1 and 2 will be as normal.
- At 11.20am, pupils will return to tutor rooms and will be released at 11.30am.
- They should go straight home, they should not be waiting or gathering in the local area.
- Pupils can choose to collect a grab and go lunch at 11.30am and break times will be as normal.
- The same uniform guidance applies for the whole week - please see previous letter.
- There will be work on Google Classroom for those who would like to access this - we have asked for this to be clearly signposted but will not be new learning for assessment.
- The Year 12 Drop Down Day will take place as planned, but activities will be relocated to cooler spaces, and will now only be half a day, finishing at 12.10pm. If visitors cancel, this may be further amended. However, this is a well-planned and informative morning that would be difficult to reorganise. Year 12 should therefore attend school for the normal start of the day.

Examinations

- Morning exams for Years 10 and 12 will take place as normal; these will be held in cooler spaces where possible, although the main hall is relatively cool.
- There will be no afternoon exams.
- Year 10 MFL speaking exams will continue as normal, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and pupils will be able to wait in cooler areas beforehand. Please ask your child to speak to Ms Collins if they have any concerns about this and we will try and be flexible.
- We will be aware of the conditions for pupils and consider this when allocating exam marks/grades, but have to accept that conditions may be this hot for the real exams so cannot be too lenient.

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Other Activities

The Library Trip and extra-curricular activities are cancelled for this week, as well as the Tag Rugby Trip.

Friday 26th June

School will be closed for all pupils except morning exams for Year 10 and 12. Pupils should enter by the Leisure Centre entrance at 8.30am and will line up in the MUGA. Pupils will be released from the exam hall from the same gate.

Vulnerable Pupils and Supervision

Vulnerable pupils, or those who need supervision, will be provided with a space in school if necessary. Please complete the attached form which has been re-opened by 9am tomorrow morning. This also applies for Friday's arrangements.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQxBhDgicEKAdB0WMtHrxnIAZLnnooCHLaZQGUQL1BgpfMi2w/viewform?usp=publish-editor>

We wish you all a safe and restful weekend. Please ensure your children are hydrated and stay in the shade and keep away from open water unless this is in a supervised location. Unless, there is further information sent out, school will return to normal next week with normal uniform rules reinstated. We will risk assess Culture Day and Sports Day next week and update you accordingly.

All the best



Emma Hillman
Headteacher