

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

27th August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and had a chance to spend some quality time with your family. We are thrilled for our pupils and for the school with our public exam results. ***A Level results were (with the exception of the grammar/highly selective schools) again top in the borough for A/A% (a staggering 35%) and overall point score. At GCSE, results were also outstanding with 80% and 67% of pupils reaching a standard (4) and strong grade (5) in both Maths and English. An impressive 41% of entries overall were 9–7 and 43% and 44% of pupils gained a 9–7 in English and Maths respectively. Pupils performed excellently at all levels with many pupils receiving the highest grades and/or making excellent progress.***

I am so proud of all our pupils and it is so exciting to see the pathways and possibilities they are now following. More pupils than ever in the last 5 years have also opted to stay here for the Sixth Form; excited by our results, the opportunities open to them and the quality of pastoral care.

Start of Term

These are the start times for pupils next week on **Thursday 3rd September. There will be no break food on the first day. Photos and biometrics will be taken for Year 7, 10 and 12 on Friday.** You will have a chance to buy these photos as well. Timetables will be given out on day 1 and will then go live on Edulink shortly afterwards:

Year Group	Time	Gate	Notes
Year 7	10.00am gates open for 10.20am start	Top gate - to right of main building	
Year 12	10.00am gates open for 10.20am start	Top gate - to right of main building	Depart at 1.10pm - Top gate Pupils may use either gate on a normal school day
Year 8	11.00am gates open for 11.20am start	Bottom gate - near Leisure Centre	Pupils must use the pavements rather than cross the car park
Year 9	11.00am gates open for 11.20am start	Bottom gate - near Leisure Centre	Pupils must use the pavements rather than cross the car park
Year 10	11.00am gates open for 11.20am start	Top gate - to right of main building	
Year 11	11.00am gates open for 11.20am start	Top gate - to right of main building	
Year 13	11.00am gates open for 11.20am start	Top gate - to right of main building	Pupils may use either gate on a normal school day

• INTEGRITY • CURIOSITY • RESPECT • SERVICE • TEAMWORK

Pupils will have a mix of activities on Thursday and Friday including assemblies and tutor times. Year 7 will finish lesson 3 slightly early for the first few weeks to ensure that they can all get used to the lunch processes.

It is vital that your child starts at the correct time and date to ensure they have the best start to term. Attendance, as in all schools, remains a key area for improvement and we will continue to provide the right balance of challenge and support to ensure that this continues to rise and we exceed the government targets for all groups. We understand that some of our pupils have chronic health issues that make regular attendance at times more difficult, we will continue to support these pupils and families. For the vast majority of pupils the aim is for 97% attendance. Further guidance and advice can be found on the school attendance page. Please ensure you email attendance@wansteadhigh.co.uk if your child is going to miss school for any reason.

Sports Day

The plan is for this to take place for all pupils from Year 8 upwards on **11th September** at Ashton Playing Fields - this is the postponed day from July. Further details to follow and obviously dependent on weather conditions (ironically it may be rain this time!). We will consider the placement of this next year and will look for a possible May event. Year 7 would attend school as normal and have a day focused on routines, expectations and personal development.

Uniform and Equipment

Please ensure that you have read all the guidance on the school website and are aware of the new equipment list. https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/template/files/uniform-clothing-and-appearance/AEAF3BE827FB15A50269547B0586CD66.pdf

Sixth Form pupils are also expected to attend in full Sixth Form uniform/professional wear; full guidance on expectations can be found on the school website (the website will be updated on 2nd September, but the information currently available remains accurate).

As per our Behaviour Policy, pupils may have to miss lessons if they choose not to abide by the rules or we do not have spare uniform to lend. Please don't forget that for this year, we return to full 'winter' uniform after half-term and that tights must be worn, even with summer uniform, if skirts do not reach the knee. ***PE kit is no longer a summer uniform option - this is only for exceptional weather conditions and weather warnings.*** Please try and support PTA fundraising and events as they are keen to start saving towards supporting with air conditioning for some of our site and classrooms.

Mobile Phone Policy

Please note that at the end of the last academic year, we reviewed and updated our school mobile phone policy in line with the latest government guidance. Pupils were made aware of these changes last year, and it is important that you discuss the expectations with them before the start of term.

If a pupil is found with a mobile phone on them at any point during the school day, including before or after school, and the phone is outside of the agreed collection and redistribution arrangements, it will be confiscated for **two weeks, with no exceptions.**

It is also important to note that schools have the legal authority to enforce this consequence. We will remind pupils of the policy and expectations at the beginning of term and continue to reinforce these throughout the school year. Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that pupils understand and follow the policy consistently.

Staffing

We have recruited the following staff for the new term since the last letter and wish them a warm Wanstead welcome.

James Loudon - Classics maternity cover from October 1st. James has worked as an archaeologist before pursuing a career in teaching classics and attended Cambridge University.

Mohanta Das - SEND TA - previously a TA at Wanstead via an agency

Saba Anjum - SEND TA

Brian Aidomon - SEND TA

Aimen Nibou - Cover Supervisor - Joins us as an experienced cover supervisor

We sadly say goodbye to Ms Rina Malah, Receptionist and for the time being, Ms Lydia Griffith will manage reception for most of the day. We also say goodbye to Miss Farah Chouhdry, Learning Mentor. The pastoral team will support pupils on Miss Chouhdry's caseload in the first instance.

Statutory Allergy Guidelines

All staff will receive training on the new allergy responsibilities at the start of term and Ms Cini will be our Designated Allergy Lead. Separate correspondence will be sent to parents/carers whose children have allergies and our Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy will be made available on our school website shortly. For pupils who use auto adrenaline devices (EpiPens/Jextpens/Neffy) we ask that pupils carry two devices on their person, and if possible an additional device can be kept in the medical area. The school holds spare devices in the event of an emergency. Key staff for any allergy queries are:

- Ms Donna Cini d.cini@wansteadhigh.co.uk
- Ms Shelly Smith (Lead First Aider) s.smith@wansteadhigh.co.uk
- Mrs Janice Adam-Saib (Pastoral Administrator) J.Adam-Saib@wansteadhigh.co.uk

We will be moving to a trial process where staff will go to classrooms if a child reports a medical issue rather than children being sent to the medical area.

Building Update

Many of you will be aware that the promised August updates about the new building timescales did not materialise and we remain unclear about when this will be complete. I have made my thoughts on the matter very clear to all the key people and, in particular, have stressed that, whilst we understand the reasons for prioritising the education building, we cannot be left with a hole and building site for years whilst the LA decide if they can afford a pool. This cannot be another Broadmead Bridge situation. I frustratingly still await a response from my latest correspondence. I am talking regularly to Calvin Bailey MP and know a number of parents are piling the pressure on by sending letters and FOI requests. You may wish to sign this petition organised by members of the parent community.

<https://moderngov.redbridge.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=247&RPID=98201516&HPID=98201516>

I will update you as soon as I can and we are due to meet again in September. It is also frustrating that the information on Redbridge's website is misleading.

Survey 2025-26

Thank you to all those who completed the survey - the information is highly useful. In summary, parents largely see the school as a caring, inclusive and well-led community where children are happy and supported. The biggest priorities for improvement highlighted are the need for more staffing stability and teaching quality in Science, stronger communication with parents, more consistent behaviour implementation of the Behaviour Policy and resolution of the building-related issues. Whilst there is some very positive feedback re SEND, there are still some areas for continued development. Some parents would appreciate more challenge for higher ability pupils, although data shows we are making huge improvements in outcomes. We are aware of these issues and will ensure they continue to be addressed as part of the updated 2025-27 development plan.

Pupils also completed a survey and their feedback outlines a number of key strengths including the number of enrichment opportunities, clubs, trips, performing arts, wellbeing support and individual teachers and they can identify safe people to speak to if they have concerns. Year 7 and 8 feedback was particularly positive.

Numerous positive comments recognise individual staff members for their kindness, support and effective teaching. Pupils also have some concerns about the consistency and effectiveness of the implementation of the Behaviour Policy and also raise issues about the building work, number of supply teachers and how we communicate with them.

We will send further information about the next steps for our Communications Strategy and will be hopefully working with Parentkind to help us develop the best policy and practice around communication to support the whole community.

School Fund

Our voluntary School Fund enables us to provide additional opportunities, resources and facilities that enhance pupils' educational experience beyond the school's core budget. Recent contributions have supported careers education, library resources, science learning, sports activities and facility improvements.

We suggest an annual voluntary contribution of £60 per pupil for the main school and £45 per pupil for the Sixth Form. Every contribution, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated and directly benefits our community.

Payment Reminders

We would like to remind parents/carers of the following annual curriculum contributions:

- Key Stage 3 Food and Design & Technology (DT): £25
- Key Stage 4 Food Technology: £40 (for pupils who have chosen Food Technology as an option subject)

We would also like to remind parents/carers of the one-off payment of £5.00 for a school lanyard and ID card for all new Year 7 pupils.

If you have not yet made these payments, please do so at your earliest convenience. Your contributions help support the delivery of practical lessons and ensure pupils have the resources and equipment required for their learning.

Please also don't forget to support our Year 12 pupils, Megan and Laura, if you can as they try and raise money to attend the John Locke academic conference and dinner in October - details on ParentPay -

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=11432>

I cannot wait for our pupils to return and we look forward to welcoming our new pupils in Year 7, 12 and our new staff. This is a wonderful place to work and I am confident that the school will continue to go from strength to strength as we continue to develop and work through our 2025-27 School Development Plan.

All the best



Emma Hillman
Headteacher