Wanstead High School

ABEUNT STUDIA IN MORES

Year 7 Parent/Carer Handbook 2026 - 2027

Wanstead High School
Redbridge Lane West, London E11 2JZ
Tel: 020 8989 2791
email: whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

Education with Character

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Thank you for taking the time to read this important booklet. We hope it will give you all the information that you need ahead of your child starting at Wanstead High School in September 2026.

Our School Vision

Who we are?

Wanstead High School is a modern, forward-looking school with traditional values maintained over the last hundred years. We seek to provide the best, most inclusive, local education for all our pupils and a thriving and collaborative environment for staff, ensuring no one is left behind. We seek to develop a passion for learning which promotes academic and career success, happiness, personal growth and confidence whilst ensuring everyone is safe and everyone is able to benefit from the right help when they need it.

We all achieve in our learning community by being: **ready**, **respectful** and **responsible.**

What is our vision?

A school that creates….

- A love and passion for creative and collaborative learning - inside and outside of the classroom - which is encouraged to drive progress and ambition within our school: staff, Governors and pupils alike.
- A curriculum on offer that is engaging, relevant, broad and balanced and is implemented equally for every pupil in every classroom.
- The development of character is fostered in all areas of school life and pupils develop to be kind and respectful of others' views and opinions and nobody tolerates bullying or discriminatory behaviour.
- All pupils are challenged consistently to excel in everything they do, from academic study, sport, artistic skill, through to their personal and group behaviour and attendance.
- Pupil, parent and staff voice and strong relationships help to shape our values and development.
- A focus on wellbeing.

Education with Character - what is character education?

Character education is all about helping children grow into kind, responsible, and thoughtful individuals. It focuses on developing positive personal traits—called virtues—such as honesty, respect, courage, and empathy.

These traits guide how children feel, what motivates them, and how they behave. Character education isn't just a school subject—it's part of everyday life at home, in the classroom, and in the wider community.

Through planned lessons and everyday experiences, children learn to understand what's right, make good choices, and act with integrity. They begin to reflect on the kind of person they want to become and learn how to make wise decisions—even when faced with difficult choices.

The ultimate goal of character education is to help children develop practical wisdom—the ability to know what's right and to do it, not just because they're told to, but because they truly understand why it matters.

The school is a member of the Association of Character and in line with the Jubilee character education framework we provide opportunities so that a range of positive character virtues are 'taught, caught and sought'

In 2023, the school community collectively identified five-character virtues which are a priority for us as a school community. They inform our shared identity and are virtues which all members of the community, adult and young person, aspire to each day. Our character virtues are:

- **Curiosity**
- **Integrity**
- **Respect**
- **Service**
- **Teamwork**

Key Members of Staff from September 2026

Senior Leadership Team

Headteacher	Ms E Hillman	e.hillman@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Deputy Head - Teaching and Learning	Mrs E Bray	e.bray@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Deputy Head - Behaviour and Personal Development	Mrs H Martin	h.martin@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Business Manager	Ms S Williams	s.williams@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Assistant Headteacher	Ms D Samuel	d.samuel@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Assistant Headteacher	Ms R Priestley	r.priestly@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Assistant Headteacher	Mr L Wood	l.wood@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Assistant Headteacher	Mr Z Ali	z.ali@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Director of Inclusion	Ms D Cini	d.cini@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Associate Assistant Headteacher & Director of Science	Ms V Thompson	V.Thompson@wansteadhigh.co.uk

Curriculum Team Leaders

Art & Design/Technology	Mr A Yiacoumi	a.yiacoumi@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Computing	Mr B Alom	b.alom@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Drama and Dance	Ms R Walker	r.gullefer@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Economics	Mr G Brodie	G.Brodie@wansteadhigh.co.uk
English	Ms A Malik	a.malik@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Geography	Mr M Hamza	d.leftwich@wansteadhigh.co.uk
History & Classics	Mr P Chartorizhsky	p.chartorizhsky@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Language Support	Ms N Gomez	n.gomez@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Special Educational Needs	Ms E Piorkowska	e.piorkowska@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Mathematics	Ms M Sharee	mailto:m.sharee@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Media Studies	Mr C Sheehan	c.sheehan@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Modern Languages	Ms D Collins	d.collins@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Music	Mr I Sweet	d.collins@wansteadhigh.co.uk
PE	Mr J Sains	J.Sains@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Science	Ms V Thompson	m.thompson@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Social Sciences/RP	Ms E Christofides	e.christofides@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Personal Development	Mr L Wood (SLT)	l.wood@wansteadhigh.co.uk

Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Managers

	Head of Year	Email	Pastoral Support Manager	Email
Year 7	Ms C Lane	c.lane@wansteadhigh.co.uk	Ms N Ahmed	No.Ahmed@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Year 8	Ms R Gullefer	r.gullefer@wansteadhigh.co.uk	Ms S Khan	Sa.Khan@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Year 9	Ms G White	mailto:g.white@wansteadhigh.co.uk		
Year 10	Ms N Jacobs	n.jacobs@wansteadhigh.co.uk	Ms J Seekings	j.Seekings@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Year 11	Ms C Murray	c.murray@wansteadhigh.co.uk		
Year 12	Ms T Van Beers	t.vanbeers@wansteadhigh.co.uk	Ms S Fullerton	s.fullerton@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Year 13	Ms E Horne	e.horne@wansteadhigh.co.uk		

Year 7 Tutors

7 Mallard	Ms I Unegbu
7 Wren	Mr S Rashid
7 Brambling	Mr A Chauhan and Ms M Sharee
7 Kestrel	Ms K Kioi
7 Skylark	Mr G Narang
7 Hobby	Mr K Miah
7 Redpoll	Ms O Ogungbe and Ms S Farooq
7 Gadwall	Ms Z Ammantoola

General Information

Wanstead High School
Redbridge Lane West
Wanstead
London E11 2JZ
Tel: 020 8989 2791

Co-Chair of Governors: Ms E Lake/Mr I Selby
Email: whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk
Website: www.wansteadhigh.co.uk
DfE Number: 317 4021

Times of the School Day

Time	Activity
8.25am	Gates open
8.35am	First warning bell
8.40am	Registration/ Morning Tutor Time / Assembly
9.00am	Period 1
10.00am	Break for KS3 Years 7-9 Period 2 for KS4 & KS5 Years 10-13
10.20am	Break ends for KS3 Years 7-9 Period 2 for KS3 Years 7-9
11.00am	Break for KS4 & KS5 Years 10-13
11.20am	Break ends for KS4 & KS5 Years 10-13 Period 3 for all
12.20pm	Lunchtime for KS3 Years 7-9 Period 4 for KS4 & KS5 Years 10-13
1.05pm	Period 4 for KS3 Years 7-9
1.20pm	Lunchtime for KS4 & KS5 Years 10-13
2.05pm	Period 5 for all
3.05pm	Afternoon Registration
3.15pm	School Ends/After school activities start

Breakfast Club – this is open each morning from 7.30am-8.20am. Latest admission is at 8.15am. Pupils should enter through the main school reception. Supervision is provided by Sixth Formers and we provide a free simple help yourself breakfast bar, including juice and bagels. There is no need to book.

Library – this is open each morning from 7.30am-8.20am. Latest admission is at 8.15am. Pupils should enter through the main school reception. Supervision is provided by Sixth Formers. There is no need to book.

Assembly – pupils have an allocated assembly day and will attend assembly in place of Tutor Time one day per week.

Term Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 2 September 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026*
(All pupils return to school on **Thursday 3rd September**)
INSET 1 Wednesday 2 September 2026
Disaggregated INSET DAY 2: Friday 2 October 2026
Half-term break: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
INSET DAY 3: Friday 27th November 2026
Christmas break: Monday 21 December 2026 to Friday 1 January 2027

Spring 2027

Monday 4 January 2027 to Thursday 25 March 2027*
Half-term break: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027
Easter break: Friday 26 March 2027 to Friday 9 April 2027

Summer 2027

Monday 12 April 2027 to Thursday 22 July 2027*
Half term break: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Bank holidays 2027	Whole school training days or additional days when school is closed to pupils
Please note the following is a Bank Holiday not included in school holidays above: Monday 3 May 2027	**Wednesday 2 September 2026** **Friday 2 October 2026** **Friday 27 November 2026** **Monday 11 January 2027** **Monday 22 February 2027**

*On the last day of term, pupils will be dismissed at lunchtime

Role of the Form Tutor and Tutor Time

In primary school your child's class teacher would have been your first point of contact and was responsible for overseeing your child's academic well-being and pastoral care. At secondary school, your child's form tutor will assume this crucial role. Your child's Form Tutor will be an important advocate for your child and the central figure in supporting contact and communication between home and school. The primary focus of the Year 7 tutors in September will be on building relationships with their tutor group and ensuring they feel welcomed and settled at Wanstead High.

You will be provided with their tutor's contact details when they start in September, so you will know how to get in touch with them, however, it is important to note that due to the demands of a secondary school environment and structure, you may not have the same level of incidental contact with your child's tutor as you currently do with their class teacher.

Form tutors meet with the children in the tutor group each morning from 8.35am until 9am (and again at the end of the day) where they will firstly check on your child's wellbeing and help to resolve any issue they may have emerged. Tutors will also carry out a number of daily checks such as uniform and equipment before facilitating the school's tutor time curriculum. Although each year group will have different milestones and events that characterise that academic year and inform their tutor time curriculum, overall, the structure and focus of the week is consistent from Year 7 to Year 11.

Year 7 Tutor Time Programme – days and activities may be changed

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year Group Assembly Collective Learning and Reflection	Word of the Week (WOW) Key notices Behaviour Routines and Reminders	Drop Everything and Listen (DEAL)	Skills Builder Careers Activity	Votes for Schools Character Activities Pupil voice and Discussion programme

Once a week, pupils attend a year group assembly, although Heads of Year will often lead this session there will be a range of speakers from across the school each year and the focus may be on an important safeguarding issue, national awareness theme or character virtue. This is also an important forum where we recognise and celebrate pupil achievement throughout the year but more pointedly at the end of each half term in a dedicated achievement assembly.

On Tuesday pupils are introduced to Word of the Week, this is part of our literacy strategy which supports vocabulary development and reading skills. Key notices about the school day, week and enrichment opportunities are shared and tutors may also deliver a '5-minute lesson' relating to a key behaviour expectation or routine, for example expectations in the event of a fire drill or alarm. On Wednesday, pupils participate in DEAL, tutors and confident readers, read an extract whilst members of the tutor group track and listen. The group then explores the text collectively using reciprocal reading strategies. Pupils benefit from the Skills Builder programme on a Thursday morning which uses structured careers focused activities to develop in an age-appropriate way skills which will prepare them not only for success at school but later on in the world of work.

During tutor time on a Friday morning, pupils will engage in discussions on relevant ethical and topical issues which ultimately leads to them as a collective group sharing their views and opinions. This activity teaches pupils the importance of being curious, being informed and being heard.

In order that pupils do not miss any of these important learning opportunities, it is vital that pupils arrive in school by **8.35am** so that they are seated in their tutor base ready for registration at **8.40am** and a prompt start to the planned activities as described above.

School Rules and Expectations

We have three school expectations at Wanstead High School which are in place to ensure all pupils are able to attend school and learn in a safe and calm environment. We ask pupils to:

BE READY, BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE

Linked to these rules are some key expectations that are shared and revisited with pupils on a regular basis.

Pupils must be ready	Pupils must be respectful	Pupils must be responsible
• Have excellent attendance and punctuality to school • Wear the correct uniform smartly and appropriately at all times • Remove outdoor wear before entering class, place on the back of the chair • Have correct equipment for each lesson • Follow classroom and school routines • Arrive at lessons promptly and begin 'Do Now' in 90 seconds • Engage in every lesson - complete activities, participate in discussions, answer and ask questions • Submit good quality home learning on time	• Use good manners to all members of the community - say hello, good morning, good afternoon • Use the terms, Mx, Miss and sir as appropriate • Hold doors open for others - adults and pupils • Listen actively and respectfully when adults and peers and are speaking • Follow all staff instructions without argument or delay • Do not disrupt the learning of others or themselves • Keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves • Be polite and use positive language to all, in person and on social media • Treat all others with kindness and dignity	• Be **PROUD** of your learning • Walk calmly and safely in the corridor, keeping to the left • Keep the community tidy - litter goes in the bin • Act positively and politely in the wider community, to and from school • Contribute to the school community - take up opportunities as an active citizens and pupil leaders • Always seek support from an adult when resolving conflict. • We are a sharing school-Report incidences of bullying and peer harassment to a member of staff • Have no banned items in school (please see list of prohibited list) • Represent the school in a way which reflects our vision and ethos

Please take the time to read through our Behaviour for Learning Policy for further information around behaviour and support. This can be found under the policy section on our school website - Wanstead High School - Policies

Education with Character

Our school motto is 'Abeunt Studia in Mores' which translates as "Studies pass into character."

More broadly, the motto reflects our belief that education is about far more than acquiring knowledge and achieving academic success. At Wanstead High School, we are committed to helping every child develop into a confident, responsible and compassionate individual who is equipped to lead a happy, fulfilling and successful life. We encourage our pupils to make positive choices, show respect for others and contribute meaningfully to their school, local community and wider society.

Character education is the deliberate and intentional development of the personal qualities, values and virtues that help young people flourish. At Wanstead High School, our approach is informed by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and its *Framework for Character Education in Schools*.

Through our Character Education programme, we aim to nurture the virtues and strengths that enable pupils not only to succeed academically, but also to grow into thoughtful, resilient and active citizens who make a positive contribution to the world around them.

As a school community, we place particular emphasis on five core virtues. These were identified by pupils and staff as the qualities that best reflect our values and aspirations and are central to everything we do.

Integrity Curiosity Respect Service Teamwork

Pupil's character at Wanstead High is caught, taught and sought.

Caught	Pupils develop character through the promotion of our core virtues, via the physical environment and our approach to behaviour and recognition. Staff play a critical role in shaping character through role modelling: maintaining high standards, showing fairness, addressing issues calmly, and demonstrating what positive relationships look and sound like.
Taught	Character is taught explicitly through personal development lessons as well as through our assembly and tutor time programme. Assemblies are used to raise awareness of specific issues, celebrate achievement and enable virtues and character-related themes to be explored as a year group. Tutor time is used to focus on pupils' character development by completing short activities linked to virtues and how we can use them to solve problems and dilemmas.
Sought	Character is sought through chosen experiences that occur within and outside of the formal curriculum. Pupils seek opportunities and experiences that shape their character through our enrichment programme, social action initiatives, pupil leadership opportunities, educational visits and residential trips,

We ask all parents and carers to support and promote our school virtues, helping pupils to recognise that character is not simply something we learn about, but something we practise every day through our words, actions and choices.

Parents and carers can support our Character Education programme by:

- Encouraging their child to demonstrate our school virtues in their everyday interactions and decision-making.
- Recognising and celebrating qualities such as resilience, kindness, integrity and responsibility alongside academic achievement.
- Supporting their child to engage in the wider life of the school through enrichment activities, leadership opportunities, trips and visits.
- Discussing current events, ethical issues and community matters to help develop their child's understanding of citizenship and social responsibility.
- Encouraging opportunities for their child to contribute positively to their local community and develop a sense of social responsibility.

Wanstead High Houses and Interhouse Competition

On admission, pupils are allocated to a tutor group that belongs to one of our eight school houses.

Our House System has deep roots in the school's history. When Wanstead was known as Wanstead County High School, pupils also belonged to Houses. When the school became a comprehensive school in the 1970s, this system was phased out.

We are proud to have reintroduced and modernised the House System, bringing back a tradition that celebrates community spirit, friendly competition, and a shared sense of identity. Each House is named after a bird commonly found in and around our local natural spaces, including Wanstead Flats and Epping Forest:

Mallard, Wren, Brambling, Kestrel, Skylark, Hobby, Redpoll, and Gadwall

Throughout their time with us, pupils take part in a wide range of physical, academic, creative, and scholarly activities, all of which contribute points to their House. House Points are collected and tallied across the school, building an overall total for each House and celebrating collective success.

Methods of Communication and Contact

- **Contacting the school – You should call the main phone (or email) whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk**. Please clearly state who the email is intended for so that it can be directed to the correct staff member to action.
- **Pastoral System –** The school is organised in Year Groups, each with a Head of Year and each tutor group is led by a Form Tutor. Each year also has an attached Pastoral Support Manager, a non-teaching member of staff who will support the pastoral needs of the year group. Please use these members of staff as your first point of contact if you have any initial concerns.
- **Heads of Department can be contacted if there is an issue around a specific subject.**
- **Communication – Letters or messages will go home via Edu link.** The website is the main place to access information about the school, and this continues to be developed. The Heron Home link newsletter from the school to parents is sent at the end of each half-term and celebrates the events of the term. We regularly post news on our socials - @WansteadHighE11.
- **Progress Evenings/Events –** Each year group has a Progress Evening once per year. These continue to be run virtually using a package called School Cloud. This is due to feedback from parents who prefer this way of running these events. Each Head of Year is asked to organise one other event for parents/carers during the school year. For Year 7, this is likely to be early on in the Autumn Term and there will be a chance to meet your child's tutor.
- **EduLink One – Main Parent Information and Communication System**
- **EduLink One** is the main tool that parents should use to receive daily communications and information about their child. A parent guide can be found on our school website.
- The app can be found through a Search on Apple App Store or Google Play Store and install the App to a mobile device – you can have it on multiple devices if you wish.
- You can also access it through your server using the following link:

https://www.edulinkone.com/#!/login

You will be able to review

Attendance: View your child's attendance and punctuality record

Behaviour: View both achievement and consequence points

Documents: View letters, reports for your child and other documents relating to your child.

Catering: This will show you the catering purchases your child has made and the amount of credit on the account. Unfortunately, balances cannot be topped up here, you will need to access the school payment website.

Timetable: Displays your child's lesson timetable.

Contacts: This screen will show you the contact information we have for you and your child. You are able to update these.

Medical Information: Review medical information we hold for your child and contact us with any updates when needed.

Exams Timetables: If your child is sitting public exams, you are able to view their timetable and seating information.

School Attendance

There are proven links between good attendance and a range of positive outcomes for pupils and for this reason we encourage pupils and their families to aim for a minimum attendance of **95%**. Pupils with attendance of 95% and above typically leave both primary and secondary school with significantly better exam results than those with less regular attendance.

The DfE published research about the link between attendance and attainment in an assessment in March 2025. This can be accessed here - The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year

In addition to academic outcomes, we know that pupils with regular attendance are also much more likely to flourish socially and emotionally.

We know for some pupils with chronic physical and mental health conditions that attendance can be impacted. We are here to support you and your child, your first point of contact in this regard should be your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

We are committed to supporting all pupils to achieve the best possible attendance, if a pupil's attendance falls below **95%**, our Attendance Team will write to parents/carers to make them aware that attendance has dropped below this important level. If attendance falls below **92%**, a further letter will be sent offering support and encouraging parents/carers to reach out if there are known barriers or challenges.

Should a pupil's attendance fall below **90%**, they are classed as **persistently absent**. At this point, our Educational Welfare Officer will contact parents/carers to discuss any barriers that may be affecting attendance and to explore any support that may help improve regular attendance.

Punctuality

Pupils must arrive at school by **8.35am** in the morning ready for a prompt start at **8.40am** when the register is taken. Pupils who arrive after **8.40am** will be given a late code on the register and parents and carers notified that pupils have been issued with a **same day 30minute detention** after school from 3.15pm until 3.45pm. Please support your child in planning their journey into school, ensuring that adequate buffer time is given to the journey to allow for rush hour traffic and any minor disruption to public transport e.g., a bus is slightly later than the published timetable, that may occur.

If a pupil is late three times in one week, they will be placed in late detention on a Friday afternoon from 3.15pm until 4.15pm. Pupils who arrive after 9.10am without a valid communication by their parent or carer will be given a U code which counts as half a day absence and this will in turn impact their overall attendance figure.

Absence from School

It is a parent/carer's responsibility to ensure pupils attend school regularly and to also inform the school when a child is going to be sent and the reason why. If your child is unwell, please call the pupil absence line on the first day of any absence before 8am where possible.

If the absence continues for more than one day, a call should be made each morning that you are absent from school. Depending on the length and frequency of absence the Attendance Team or your child's Head of Year may request medical evidence to support authorisation of the absence.

We would also like parents/carers to be aware that if attendance falls below **90%**, any further absences will be recorded as **unauthorised** unless suitable medical evidence is provided. In addition, medical evidence is required for illness-related absences occurring during the week immediately before or after a school holiday or closure, regardless of a pupil's overall attendance percentage.

We value working in partnership with families and encourage parents/carers to contact the school if they have any concerns about their child's attendance or would like to discuss any support that may be available.

If your child has a long-term medical condition or additional need and circumstance that impacts their attendance to school, please get in contact with the school so that we may support you and your child.

The school has a separate telephone number for reporting pupil absence which is 020 8530 8904. Please notify us of your child's absence prior to 8am where possible.

As a safeguarding measure, if a child is absent from school and we have not received prior notification, then the school will notify the parent/carer via a text alert system called 'Parent Call'. This alert goes to parent/carers mobile number and landline and will be sent as soon as possible following attendance checks in period 1 lessons, if you receive this alert, please call the school number and request to speak to a member of the school attendance team. If we do not hear from you the team will continue to attempt to make contact with parents/carers and then emergency contacts across the school day.

Breakdown of Attendance Rates (across an academic year)

Attendance %	Days absent	Impact on learning
100%	190 days in school - 0 absences	0 lessons missed
95%	180 days in school - 10 absences	Approx. 50 lessons missed
90%	171 days in school – 19 absences	Approx. 100 lessons missed
80%	152 days in school – 38 absences	Equivalent to nearly a whole school term

Planned Absence

For planned authorised absence a request must be made to the Headteacher via the google form found here **https://forms.office.com/e/a0jh6fmPkQ** and on the attendance page of the school website, these should be completed at least 15 school working days in advance of the absence, where possible. This includes absence for trips abroad, extracurricular activities and religious observance.

Further information and guidance around attendance can be found on our school website on the dedicated attendance page **Wanstead High School - Attendance** and in our attendance and punctuality policy which can be found under the policy section **Wanstead High School - Policies**.

- **Please find the DfE Working Together to Improve Attendance document here**

  https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

- **DfE roles and responsibilities for school attendance can be found here**

  https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf301e253aee7aafdbdfea/Summary_table_of_responsibilities_for_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

Helpful NHS guidance on illness and absence from school.

- **A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school term**

  https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/03/a-parents-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year/

- **Is my child too ill for school?**

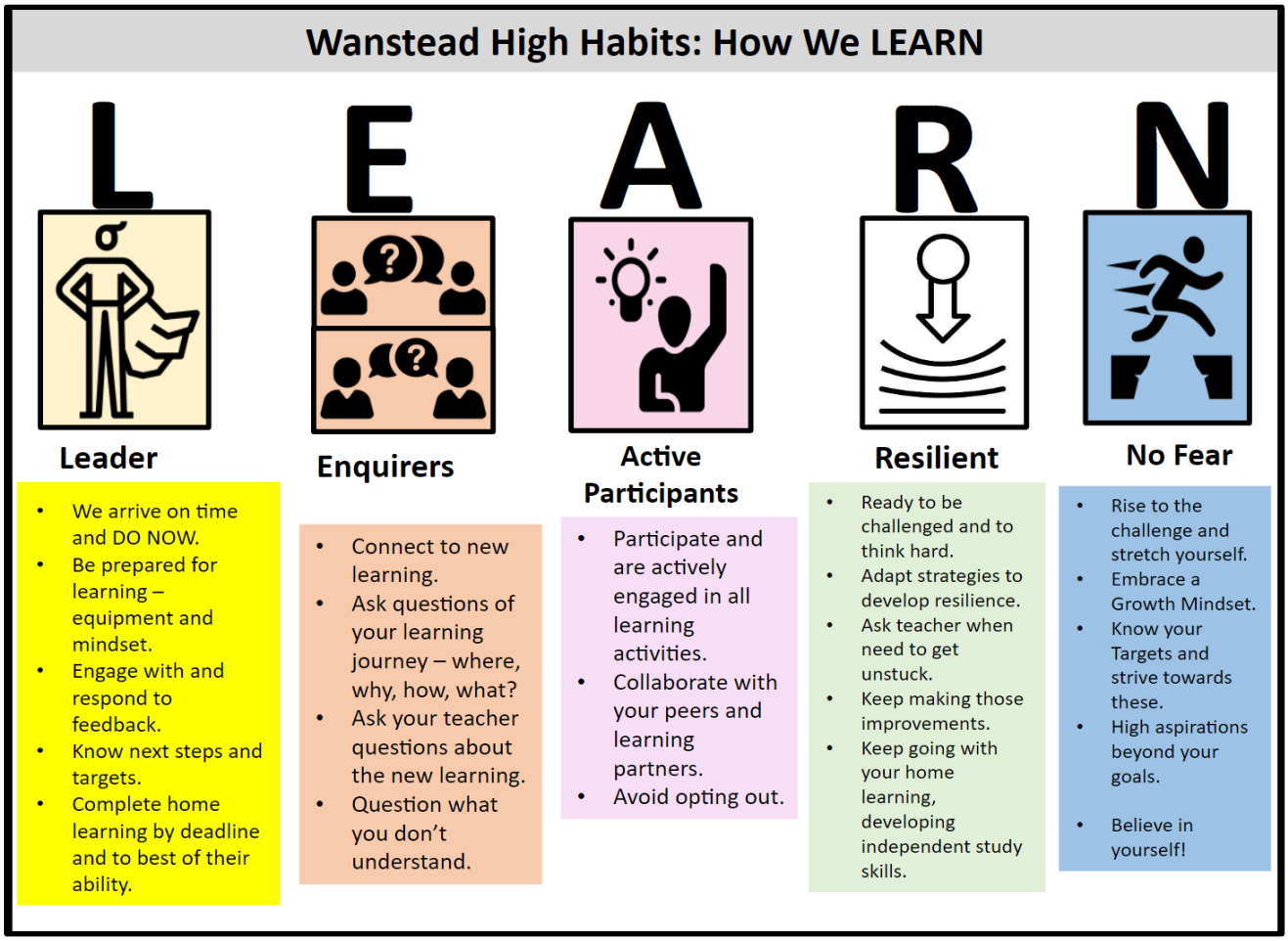
  https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool

  https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Teaching and Learning

The Wanstead High Habits on How We Learn provides our pupils and teachers with an aide memoire on the habits that make for effective teaching and learning. We use **L E A R N** as a structure for our learning habits.

L E A R N is drawn from research on teacher effectiveness and the science of how pupils learn.



- Through our curriculum we aim for pupils to be developed as **leaders** of their learning, from the basics of ensuring they are on time to each lesson, prepared with the right equipment and mindset for learning, to developing their metacognition - their ability to think about their approach to learning and how they will tackle the task ahead and problem solve.
- We encourage our pupils to **enquire**. For this our teachers will always ensure that learning intentions are shared and are clear, so that pupils know what they are learning and why. Teachers will always question our pupils to engage them in thinking and to check their understanding.
- We aim to keep pupils **active** in their learning, therefore they will be involved in a variety of activities through the curriculum, this includes pair work, small group work, discussions as well as independent work. Keeping the learning environment inclusive we endeavour to ensure that no learner is left behind and therefore avoids opting out or not taking part.
- It's important that we develop **resilience** as pupils will be challenged through the curriculum. We want our pupils to be ready to be challenged and to think hard every lesson, to embrace a healthy struggle in their learning process and to draw on the skills enabling them to know where to find the help, to keep making improvements.
- A **No Fear** approach is instilled as we want all of our pupils to rise to challenges, set aspirational goals and have ambition in their learning and progress.

Home Learning

The type of home learning and independent tasks set by each subject varies and it will be reviewed in 2026-27. The key principle behind home learning is for our pupils to develop their independent learning habits, an essential part of developing their metacognition. Therefore, home learning tasks will in the main:

- Complement the teaching and learning in the classroom.
- Allow pupils to consolidate, practise and revise content and skills learnt in lessons.
- Prepare pupils for future learning (content to study).

Home learning is set on Google Classroom and this platform supports pupils with recording, managing and organising their work around their due dates. However, pupils can also have access to hard copies of home learning tasks in some cases. Resources for each subject are also accessible via Google Classroom with curriculum overview and intent for each subject on the website.

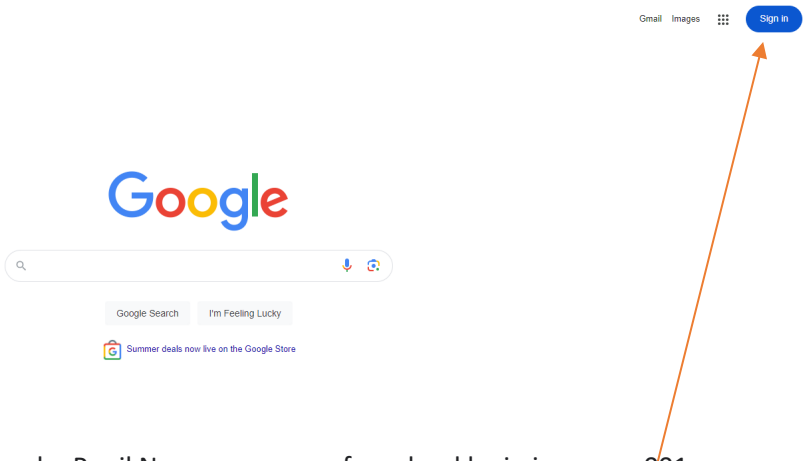
Some examples of home learning are as follows:

- Preparation for a future lesson.
- Online learning and quizzes.
- Research or presentation-based tasks.
- Revision for a formal assessment or for a low stakes test.
- Reading for comprehension.

Some subjects such as Maths use on-line portals (Sparx) to support learning or in Art, pupils may be set a project-type homework. Completed home learning tasks will be acknowledged by their teachers and used in lessons. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that all home learning tasks completed independently are inclusive, meaningful, purposeful and impactful.

Google Classroom

Your child will be provided with login details within the first two weeks of term. Parents will also be provided with logins (which use personal email addresses provided). A How to Guide on GC will be sent out each term on how to best use the Chrome Web Browser. Please Click on the **"Sign in"** button on the top right corner of the browser window. This will take you to the **"Sign In"** page.



For example, Pupil Name username for school login is: sname001

So, Google Workspace Account login details are: **sname00@elearning.wansteadhigh.co.uk**

You enter these in the section highlighted in red.

You need to ensure the Wanstead domain is used: @elearning.wansteadhigh.co.uk

Please press "**next**" and ask your child to enter their school password.

Assessment

Pupils will undertake key assessments during a challenge cycle each term. Details will be set out at the start of each term.

School Uniform: Clothing and Appearance

How we present ourselves can be a way of communicating our feelings and values. Being well presented and smart supports self-confidence, identity and pride. High standards of uniform and personal

appearance can make a valuable contribution to the self-confidence of individual pupils and the

professionalism of the school community as a whole.

A shared uniform supports the principles of equality and unity, it encourages a sense of belonging

and identity as a pupil of Wanstead High School. It also prepares pupils for working life, many careers require uniforms or clear professional dress codes.

All uniform is gender neutral.

For the year 2026/2027, Summer uniform can be worn from September until the October half-term and in the Summer term. We will continue to review this.

Required items Years 7 - 11		Description
Burgundy school blazer with school badge	-	Blazers must be worn to and from school unless in summer uniform. They must be worn at all times around the school site and in lessons unless given permission by their class teacher in class or by a whole school announcement during periods of extremely hot weather, when they may be carried or left at home in exceptional circumstances.
Lanyards	-	When you arrive at Wanstead High School you will be given an ID card and lanyard to wear around your neck. These items must be purchased from ParentPay before arriving at the school. These are handed out in Tutor Time in the morning and pupils return them to tutors in the afternoon. It is imperative that you wear the lanyard at all times. You will also be given a copy of your timetable which fits into a plastic wallet attached to your lanyard.
School tie	-	All pupils must wear a school tie unless in Summer uniform. Ties can be purchased from school via ParentPay or from our uniform retailers. A pupil's year group is identifiable by the colour of the stripe on their tie, as well as coloured lanyard. The Heron should be visible with 4 stripes below it.
White plain school shirt	-	Top button must be done up. Shirts can be long or short-sleeved and must be tucked in.
Black tailored school trousers or black tailored school shorts	-	No sweatshirts, no crew necks, no cardigans and no logos apart from school badge. Pullovers do not have to have the school badge if worn.
Black leather shoes with black soles and black laces	-	Please see examples later in the booklet for what is acceptable. No Dr Marten boots, no boots, no trainers, no high heels, no canvas shoes, no coloured laces (except when sold in school for LGBQT+ awareness). Nike Air Force or similar are not a suitable school shoe.

School Uniform: Clothing and Appearance

Required items Years 7 - 11		Description
Plain black tights	-	No patterns and tights must not be torn or ripped. Must be worn with our school skirt.
Outdoor coat (optional)	-	Appropriate coat suitable for school. Unzipped whilst in the school building. Hoodies or tracksuit tops may not be worn instead of a coat.
Religious headwear	-	Should be plain black, burgundy or white.
Hoodies and other non-uniform jumpers or coats	-	Hooded sports tops or 'hoodies' are not permitted and will be confiscated. Only a black v-neck jumper may be worn in school, this does not have to be logoed. Dance or Drama hoodies are only allowed for extra-curricular activities.
Hats, Ski Masks, Balaclavas, Face coverings	-	It is not permitted for any pupil to wear any form of cap or hat in the school building. A woollen hat can be worn to and from school and at break/lunchtimes when the weather is cold. Ski masks, balaclavas and face coverings should not be worn, to, from or within school.

Summer Uniform (for Summer Term and September to October half-term only)

Pupils are able to wear the Wanstead High School burgundy polo shirt in place of a shirt, tie and blazer during the above times. Pupils can also wear plain black ankle or knee length socks instead of tights but skirts must rest on the knee. Pupils can choose to wear a blazer with the polo shirt but not a polo shirt and jumper. For religious or documented medical reasons, a small number of pupils can wear a plain black long sleeved top underneath.

Jewellery	-	Jewellery worn to school should be safe and appropriate. Pupils may wear up to two small stud earrings in each ear and one small nose stud may also be worn. Hoop or drop earrings of any size are not permitted. No other body or facial piercings should be displayed. Pupils may wear a watch; smart watches are not permitted in exams or assessments.
Make Up	-	Make-up needs to be subtle and nail varnish can be worn. Heavy make-up, false eyelashes and fake or acrylic nails are considered inappropriate for school and a distraction from the purpose of school, they are not permitted in Years 7-11.
Hair	-	Extreme hair styles or those associated with any kind of anti-social activities or groups are not permitted. These change from time to time and the Headteacher reserves the right to specify what these might be at any point. The patterned shaving of hair or eyebrows is forbidden. Wanstead High School has adopted the Halo Code. This means our school champions the right of staff and pupils to embrace all Afro- hairstyles. We welcome Afro-textured hair worn in all styles including, but not limited to, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals, weaves, wigs and headscarves, as long as they are in line with school colours and hair colour guidance. This does not include durags or bonnets which are not appropriate in school.

Children coming to school in unacceptable uniform will be supplied with the correct uniform from the Reflection Centre. Pupils are asked to leave a deposit (an article of minor value) whilst school property is being borrowed.

School Uniform: Clothing and Appearance

In cases of financial need, parents can apply to the school for assistance towards the cost of school clothing.

School PE Kit

Required Items Years 7 - 11 -

- Wanstead High School PE polo shirt with logo
- Wanstead High School Fleece with logo
- Wanstead High School Rugby top with logo

WITH

- Wanstead High School PE shorts with logo, with plain black socks
- Wanstead High School track bottoms with logo
- Wanstead High School PE leggings with logo
- Plain black non banded sports leggings
- Plain black non branded shorts, with plain black socks
- Plain black non branded tracksuit bottoms

Optional Additional Items:

- Plain black base layer

Pupils that are unable to take part in their Physical Education lesson should provide evidence from a parent or carer.

Pupils that are unable to follow the PE kit requirements will not be permitted to take part in the practical PE lesson and instead will continue their education by taking on a role such as official, coach, recorder or assessor.

Below is the school policy for pupils who do not meet the PE kit requirements:

M0 - No or incorrect PE kit - reasonable adjustments can be made for some pupils with additional needs.
M0 – Unable to participate – appropriate evidence seen.
M1 – No or incorrect PE kit – 'non-participation' lanyard given.
M2 – Persistent no or incorrect PE kit - twice or more per half term.

Hair - Long hair must be tied back securely during all practical PE lessons and sporting activities where it could present a safety risk. This reduces the risk of hair obscuring vision, becoming caught in sports equipment, or causing injury to the wearer or others during physical activity.

Footwear - Pupils must wear suitable trainers that are securely fastened and appropriate for the activity and surface. This reduces the risk of slips, trips, falls, and foot or ankle injuries by providing appropriate grip, support and stability.

Suitable trainers should have a secure fastening, an enclosed toe and

heel, and a sole that provides adequate grip for indoor and outdoor PE activities. Fashion footwear, canvas pumps with minimal support, boots, sandals and shoes with heels are not suitable for practical PE lessons.

Jewellery - Jewellery must be removed before practical PE lessons or pupils will not be able to take part. This follows AFPE guidance and ensures there is no risk of cuts, abrasions, snagging and impact injuries to both the wearer and others.

Shoe Guidance Table

Acceptable Shoes

Shoes must be black shoes, below are examples of acceptable shoes.

Unacceptable Shoes

The following 'trainer' like shoes are not acceptable. Many companies have these under their 'return to school' range. Please avoid any of these hybrid trainers typically made by Adidas.

Trousers and shorts - must be black formal tailored.

Wind breaker jackets which are similar to hoodies are not appropriate.

Leather or denim jackets are not appropriate.

All items of logoed uniform can be purchased from:

Carolina School Outfitters - [https://carolinaschooloutfitters.co.uk/wanstead-high-school-114-c.asp Fashion Stop https://www.schoolwearunited.co.uk/wanstead-high-school/](https://carolinaschooloutfitters.co.uk/wanstead-high-school-114-c.asp)

Speed Stitch - https://speedstitch.co.uk/product-category/schools/wanstead-high-school/

Pre-Loved Uniform - For uniform items, please visit our pre-loved uniform site: **Pre-loved Uni-form**

Pupil Lanyards

When pupils join the school in Year 7, or are admitted mid-year, they are issued with a school lanyard, which is colour-coded according to their year group. Attached to the lanyard is the pupil's ID card and a plastic wallet containing their personal timetable.

All pupils are required to wear their lanyard and ID card at all times while on the school site. This enables staff to identify pupils quickly and easily, supporting the smooth running of the school and helping to maintain a safe and secure environment. As an important part of our safeguarding procedures, lanyards and ID cards help ensure that all members of the school community can be readily identified and that any unauthorised visitors can be recognised promptly.

A charge of £5 is made to cover the cost of the initial lanyard, ID card and timetable wallet. Should a lanyard or ID card be lost, damaged or defaced, a replacement charge of £5 will apply. All payments should be made via the ParentPay system.

Catering

Starting April 2024, Wanstead has partnered with Innovate to provide nutritious and healthy break food and lunches for all pupils. The daily offerings are available from the main dining hall and the external food pod.

Healthy Break Food and Lunches

- **3-Week Lunch Menu**: A varied menu cycle that includes vegetarian and vegan options daily.
- **Main Meal Deal**: A main meal with a dessert or a drink for £2.80.
- **Additional Offers**: Meal deal offers and grab-and-go items are also available.

For a detailed menu and price list, please visit our website.

Free Breakfast Bar

There is a free breakfast bar available to all pupils who have to or like to get to school early.

Location: **6th form block**

Time: **7.45am – 8.20am (last entrance 8.15am)**

Menu: **Porridge, toast, juice**

Sixth Form Café

The 6th form has a dedicated café with its own menu, offering similar meal deals and pricing as the main dining options.

Parent-Pay System

Wanstead operates a cashless catering and payment system, enabling parents and pupils to manage and pay for school snacks and lunches seamlessly.

- **Account Activation**: Upon enrolment, each family receives an activation letter to set up their account.
- **Account Management**: Parents can add funds to their child's account, which the child can use to pay for food.

Biometric Payment System

- **Biometric Payments**: Pupils can pay using their fingerprint, provided parental consent is received at the start of the academic year.
- **Alternative Payment**: If consent is not given, a lunch card will be issued. Lost cards can be replaced for £5.00, payable via the school shop.

Biometric Information

iDStore FAQs

Data Security in iDStore

Centralised Detention

We operate a **centralised detention** system at Wanstead High School, these run each afternoon **Monday to Friday** from **3.15pm until 4pm**. These are supervised by Middle Leaders and Pastoral Support Managers.

Any staff member may place a pupil in centralised detention for disruptive behaviours or persistent behaviours including lesson disruption, lack of home learning, lateness to school or lesson. The law does not require parental consent to place a pupil in detention, but Staff are required to record the detention via Edu Link software, parents/carers are given 24 hours' notice via Edu link push notification. Parents/Carers can see all behaviour consequences issued to their child via Edu Link One.

Staff must also notify the pupil, and they will also be reminded in both am and pm registration on the day of their detention.

If parents/carers would like to discuss the reason for the detention with the teacher who issued it in more detail, they can contact the member of staff via the school's email address or telephone number.

If pupils miss a detention, they are given a further opportunity to complete the detention during the week. If pupils fail to complete the detention, they may be given an internal exclusion.

Mobile Phone Policy

Key Stage 3 and 4 Policy:

Pupils are not permitted to have a mobile phone on their person at any time during the school day, including during school trips and visits (unless explicitly authorised as part of the trip or visit arrangements).

• All pupils in Years 7 to 11 are required to hand in their mobile phones during morning registration (8:40am–9:00am), or immediately upon arrival if they arrive after this time. Mobile phones are banned during the school day
• Mobile phones will be returned to pupils at the end of the school day during afternoon registration (3:05pm–3:15pm), or at the end of detention if one has been issued.

• This policy applies to all types of mobile phones, regardless of make or model, including smart phones and basic phones designed solely for calls and texts (often referred to as "brick phones").

On arrival at school, pupils must ensure that their mobile phones are:

• Switched off.

• Stored securely in their bags.

Following redistribution, phones must again be:

• Switched off.

• Kept in bags.

These expectations remain in place until pupils have left the school site. Mobile phones must not be used, seen, or heard at any point outside of the designated hand-in and redistribution times. Expectations, along with associated consequences and sanctions, apply as soon as pupils enter the school site until they leave.

Key Stage 5 Policy: Our current policy in the 6th form is that pupils are allowed to use mobile phones responsibly within the 6th form centre only. If mobiles are misused or used in other areas of the school site, then the phone will be confiscated and again pupils may be required to hand it in each morning.

Consequences of Non-Compliance In line with our Behaviour Policy

If a pupil fails to hand in their phone, or if they are using it for any reason except for handing it in and packing it away at redistribution, then the following consequences will apply:

- **Mobile Phone Confiscation**: If a mobile phone is seen or discovered on a pupil during the school day, staff will confiscate the device immediately. The phone will be held in school for **a period of two weeks**, with no exception. Parents/carers are responsible for making suitable alternative arrangements if they rely on the device for communication or tracking purposes before and after school. Parents/carers will be required to collect the phone at the end of the two-week period. If a phone is confiscated shortly before the start of a school holiday, the device will be retained by the school for the duration of the holiday period.
- **Centralised Detention**: Pupils will also be required to attend a centralised detention. During this time, they will complete a reflective booklet designed to help them understand the reasons why mobile phones are banned in school and the benefits of the policy for both the individual and the wider school community.

Refusal to Hand Over Devices

If a pupil refuses to hand over their mobile phone or attempts to avoid detection by hiding it on school premises or passing it to another pupil, the following sanctions will apply:

- First instance: Internal exclusion.
- Repeated incidents: Fixed-term suspension.

Repeated refusal to follow policy

Where there is a repeated pattern of behaviour, the school reserves the right to:

- Ban the pupil from bringing a mobile phone onto the premises entirely.
- Require, as part of a risk assessment, that the pupil undergo bag checks and screening upon entry.

Handling Phones for Others

Pupils found handling or holding mobile phones on behalf of others will be subject to the same sanctions: Internal exclusion and Fixed-term suspension.

Banned and Prohibited Item Lists

Please note that pupils are not allowed to bring the following items on site, if pupils are suspected to be in possession of them, they may be searched as per the school policy and may face appropriate sanctions. If pupils are found in possession of confiscated items they will be confiscated and returned to parents/carers. The school is not able to accept any responsibility for these items whilst on the school site.

Prohibited Items (dangerous and/or offensive)	Banned Items
- Knives or weapons, - Alcohol, - Illegal drugs including edibles - Stolen items - tobacco and cigarette papers - Fireworks - Pornographic images - Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used: - to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).	- Mobile phones, ear pods/phones, electronic and recording devices such as smart watches and IPADS - Sugary, Fizzy, energy Drinks, Large juice cartons, chewing gum and Junk Food including large bags of sweets, biscuits, nuts all any food type containing nuts - Aerosols and sprays - Make up, nail polish, fake eyelashes, fake nails - Large hoops, diamanté earrings, drop earrings, Facial piercing jewellery and bangles - Items brought on site with intention for sale e.g., Food, sweets, clothing, games - Vapes, E-Cigarettes, lighters, matches - Undeclared or un prescribed medication, Legal highs and drug paraphernalia - Stink/Water bombs - Hoodies, bandanas, durags, multi-coloured hair bands, ski masks, balaclavas, caps and helmets - Replica weapons or pointed articles such as a compass or any object that could be used with intention of harming or intimidating another person

Pupil Leadership

We offer a wide range of leadership opportunities for pupils throughout their time at the school. All pupils in Years 7 and 8 are allocated a day as office helpers and may also apply to become school librarians.

In addition, pupils can apply for a variety of leadership roles, including:

- Transition Ambassador
- Anti-Bullying Ambassador
- Subject Ambassador
- Eco-Activist
- House Captain
- Prefect (Year 10)

We also have a School Council, with each year group electing two representatives to represent the views of their peers and contribute to the development of the school community.

By the time pupils reach the Sixth Form, they will have had access to a broad range of leadership experiences and opportunities, preparing them to apply for positions on the Sixth Form Leadership Team. This includes a variety of senior leadership roles, including the prestigious positions of Head Pupil.

Extra-Curricular Activities

During the time your child is at Wanstead High School they will be given the opportunity to take part in many outside school activities. These take place at lunchtime or after-school.

A large number of pupils take part in our programme of music and drama activities and we organise a series of concerts, productions and arts events throughout the year. Visits to plays, concerts and art galleries are arranged.

As pupils progress through the school, some departments will organise trips to areas of particular interest. Over the last two years, the MFL department have taken pupils in Year 9 and 10 to both Paris and Barcelona, as well as Year 9 pupils visiting the First World War battlefields in Belgium. Closer to home, there have been visits to the Houses of Parliament, the Old Bailey, museums and places of interest such as Greenwich and St. Albans.

We encourage our Year 9 pupils to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and this year over 100 pupils engaged and all passed the expedition. Many go on to do Silver in Year 10 and 12.

We aim to support disadvantaged pupils with access to these experiences and further details will be provided for each activity.

Instrumental Lessons

Parents who wish to sign up for music lessons who do not already learn an instrument with Redbridge Music Service at primary school should use this link.

https://visionrcl.org.uk/theatre-and-music/redbridge-music-service/music-service-sign-up/

WHS Equipment List

ABEUNT STUDIA IN MORES

Be correctly equipped each lesson. Always present with pride.

Please note that for safety reasons compasses and scissors are not permitted.

Basic Equipment and Essentials

Basic Essentials 2 writing pens (black or blue)

1 green pen • 1 glue stick • 2 pencils • 1 ruler • 1 eraser • Pencil sharpener • Calculator (scientific) • Whiteboard pen

Reading book Books for the day's lessons

Optional Extras: Highlighters, colouring pens/pencils

Wanstead High School - Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

The PTA is the official body representing the combined involvement of the parents and staff in the school. Its aims are to compliment the professional expertise by promoting goodwill and mutual understanding to the benefit of the school community. All parents with children at the school and staff are automatically members of the Association.

Dear Wanstead High School families,

The new PTA Committee was voted in formally on Monday 6th October 2025, and have successfully begun their efforts in fundraising and supporting Wanstead High School. To make their initiatives successful, they will need enthusiastic support and contributions from families and the local community. If you're interested in helping out or have ideas to share, please don't hesitate to get in touch—every bit of support makes a difference!

In the meantime, we would like to introduce the team:

Tina O - Chair
Tina is a Year 11 and Year 7 parent, and a Counsellor in a local NHS Trust, with a background in international relations. Tina hopes to give back to the local community as much as possible and help develop new initiatives and opportunities for our children.

Helen W - Deputy Chair
Helen is a Year 7 parent, and an HR and Business Strategy Consultant. Helen wants to give back to the community and will be lending her commercial and people expertise to the new PTA.

Fiona L - Secretary
Fiona is a Year 7 parent and previously taught History at WHS for 10+ years. She now works for Google in the education and AI team, and is delighted to be able to re-join the WHS community in a new capacity.

Harbinder (Daisy) D - Deputy Secretary
Daisy has twins in Year 8, and has a background in sales, marketing, finance and operations.

Lee H - Treasurer
Lee has two boys in Years 11 and 9. He has a background in fashion and is very excited to join as Treasurer.

Victoria A – Deputy Treasurer
Victoria has two daughters at WHS, in Years 8 and 13. She is a fashion stylist and personal image consultant who has run her own business for over 20 years. Having been actively involved in PTAs for the past eight years at the primary school level, Victoria loves contributing to school events and bringing her organisational and budget management skills to the team. She's passionate about supporting the school community and helping to drive creative, effective fundraising initiatives.

The PTA committee will be assisted by **Serena B** (Social Media Lead); **Tess M** (Events Lead) and **Lucy F** (Pre-Loved Uniform Lead) as well as communications and support led by Year Group Representatives:

Year Group	Rep 1	Rep 2
Year 7	Abi S	Lisa G
Year 8	Joanna H	Suzy E
Year 9	Melissa H	Carly E
Year 10	Dennis W	Alex K
Year 11	Louise R	Claire H
Year 12 and 13	Alex H	Victoria A

How can you help support the Wanstead High School PTA?

1. Join the **PTA News/Updates** WhatsApp group for meetings, ideas, events, to offer help

2. Follow the WHS PTA on **Instagram** https://www.instagram.com/whspta/
3. Email ideas, questions, and offers of help to the PTA Committee via Secretary fiona@ptawansteadhigh.co.uk

The PTA Committee

Finally

If there is anything you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask. We know that moving to secondary school is a new and exciting experience but it can sometimes be a little daunting.

We will always do our best to make sure pupils and parents are well informed and supported throughout the move from primary to secondary school and beyond.