

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

25th September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the weekend, I want to thank you and your children for ensuring such a smooth and positive start to the term and wanted to provide you with some key updates and reminders.

Our new Year 7 pupils have been a delight, and we are thrilled to have them as part of our school community. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have settled, engaged so positively with their learning and are getting involved in the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer. We look forward to sharing some of their amazing holiday work and achievements in the Heron Homelink publication at half term.

Across the school, pupils are also showing a significant commitment to learning. In particular, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have made a very strong start and are approaching their studies with maturity and determination as they work towards their mock examinations later this term.

Thursday 1st October - Open Evening

As you know, school will close early on Thursday for Open Evening preparation. Thank you in advance for all pupils supporting with the event and your parental support with that. Pupils will return to registration at 2.05pm for ten minutes to register and receive phones and will be released from 2.15pm from the usual gates. **There is no school on Friday 2nd October.**

EduLink App

Please ensure that the EduLink app is installed only on the phones of parents and carers. We have become aware that some pupils have downloaded the app to their phones, which allows access to functions such as updating personal information. This creates a number of issues and is not the intended use of the platform. If your child has EduLink on their phone, please remove it.

A number of parents and carers have asked why behaviour points on EduLink do not show the teacher's name. This is because we have had to disable comments to ensure that the names of other pupils, which may sometimes appear within comments, are protected. Unfortunately, this also removes the teacher's name. We are liaising with the company to see whether these functions can be separated. In the meantime, if a behaviour point is linked to a particular subject, you can assume it was issued by the teacher for that class on your child's timetable.

Safety Day - Thursday 22nd October

We will be holding a **Drop Down Safety Day and Lockdown Drill on Thursday 22nd October**. During the day, pupils will take part in a lockdown practice and a range of workshops focused on keeping young people safe. These will include contributions from organisations such as BeWise and TfL, alongside other safety-related sessions.

If you work in a profession connected to safeguarding, community safety or supporting young people, and feel you could contribute to the day, or recommend an organisation that may be able to help, please contact Mr Wood directly.

• INTEGRITY • CURIOSITY • RESPECT • SERVICE • TEAMWORK

To enable us to fully brief staff and rehearse procedures before pupils arrive, there will be a slightly later start to the school day, with pupils arriving at approximately 10.00am. However, we will make arrangements for vulnerable pupils, or those whose families may have concerns about a later start, to attend earlier if required. Further details will follow shortly.

In the meantime, please ensure you speak to your child about road safety. A number of pupils are choosing not to use the crossing and walking/running into the roads in the area. Some pupils who ride bicycles to school are not always following safety advice and not wearing helmets. We care about all our children and would hate to see anyone hurt!

Uniform

We are still ironing out some uniform issues and would like to remind you that we have set out clearly the expectations around uniform and, in particular, shoes and there are clear photos and guidance on the school website <https://www.wansteadhigh.co.uk/page/?title=Shoe+Guidance&pid=99>.

This includes ensuring that shoes are worn not trainer style shoes and we do not allow boots. We have shared the absolute need for consistency in behaviour management this year based on our own assurance and pupil and parent feedback and so teachers will be hopefully challenging more and being more equitable. A small number of parents are telling us their child has 'never been challenged before' or 'my child has been wearing these for a year' and this is not helpful to our new standards and drive.

We are still seeing a number of pupils, particularly female pupils, wearing trousers that do not meet our uniform requirements. Trousers must be tailored school trousers and should not be bi-stretch, elasticated, flared or jogging bottom type material. We would be grateful if families could ensure that any uniform issues are rectified as soon as possible. This will help to prevent unnecessary disruption to lessons and avoid the need for staff to contact families individually. Suitable tailored school trousers can be purchased directly from our uniform suppliers or from major high-street retailers and supermarkets, including Tesco and Sainsbury's.

The Building - Redbridge Council Meeting

Finally, I would like to thank, amongst others, **Fiona Law, Georgina Brewis, Emma Shepherd-Mallinson and Jo Blackman** for their contribution to the Redbridge Council meeting last night. From around the 43-minute mark of the recording (link below), they present the petition and hold the Council to account regarding the building project and associated works. It is a powerful example of democracy in action, and we are incredibly fortunate to be represented and supported by such committed parents, carers and local councillors.

It was also wonderful to see former pupil **Adam Joiner** generally speaking so confidently and thoughtfully in the chamber in his role as a local councillor.



<https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/about-the-council/public-meetings-and-scrutiny/full-council-meeting/>

As you know, myself and the Governors have been fighting for many years to challenge the delays in this project and kept you updated with the information we have.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for everything you do to support the school and your children and have a wonderful weekend.

All the best

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Hillman".

Emma Hillman
Headteacher