

Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

16th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: School Safety Day - 22nd October 2026

At Wanstead, we take pride in our safeguarding practice and work hard to ensure that our community is safe, healthy and happy. As you know, on Thursday 22nd October we will be focusing on a number of important safety issues across the school. We will also be conducting a full fire walk-through and our second lockdown drill in light of recent guidance and statutory expectations, including Martyn's Law. These exercises are particularly challenging at present due to the ongoing building works, but it is important that we get them right.

We will also be welcoming external partners including the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London (TfL), WizeUp and BeWize to deliver sessions to year groups throughout the day.

To enable us to train staff and ensure all new colleagues are familiar with our procedures, pupils will have a slightly later start to the day. Pupils should arrive by 9.15am through their usual gates, which will open at 9.00am. They will attend an extended form period where they will be briefed on the day, including the lockdown drill that will take place in the afternoon.

Due to the logistics of the day, there will be only limited break-time food available from the Pod for all year groups. We recommend that pupils have a substantial breakfast before school.

The following sessions will take place during the day:

- Year 7: Online Safety (Police)
- Year 8: Online Safety (Police)
- Year 9: Safety on London Transport (TfL)
- Year 10: Knife Crime Awareness (Police)
- Year 11: Safety in Relationships and Contraception (BeWize)*
- Years 12 & 13: Contraception and Financial Safety (BeWize and WizeUp)

** The content for Year 11 is age-appropriate and forms part of the statutory guidance for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). The session will be delivered by BeWize, a Redbridge-affiliated organisation that we have worked with for many years. It is designed to support young people in making informed and responsible choices and includes information about contraception.*

Families have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education elements of RSE. If you wish to withdraw your child from this session (Year 11 only), please complete the form below by 3.00pm on Tuesday 20th October. Alternative arrangements will be made.

<https://forms.gle/XXLMd7DqwdtkKPb27>

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In the afternoon, all pupils will take part in a lockdown drill. This is not intended to cause anxiety, but to ensure that pupils understand the procedures in place to keep them safe and what is required of them in such a situation. The drill will begin with a short video explaining the process. We recognise that some pupils may find this unsettling and staff will provide additional support where needed. If you have any concerns, please do get in touch.

If your child needs to attend school at the normal start time on this day, please email whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk. We will be able to provide supervision for a very small number of pupils who require it, if needed. Please note that there will be no Breakfast Club on this day.

We look forward to a successful and productive day.

A reminder that following half term, there will also be a later start for pupils. On the first day back, pupils should arrive for a 10.20am start and gates will open at 10.00am. There will be no Breakfast Club or first-break food provision available that day. If your child needs to attend school at the normal time, please let us know as again we have capacity for limited supervision.

Yours faithfully,

Lloyd Wood

Assistant Headteacher