

# Wanstead High School

## Education with Character

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Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for all your support this half-term; it has been a very successful half-term despite the on-going pressures of not only the new build, but also the Science roof work which is now complete. Please do read the Heron Homelink, with you early next week, to discover all the wonderful things that have been taking place this term inside and outside of the classroom. We are delighted that Year 7 have been such a positive addition to school and are an amazing year group who have made a great start. The mobile phone collection system in Key Stage 3 has reduced social media incidents in school by nearly 60%. This letter contains some important information so please read carefully and this will also be on the website.

### Return to School

**Pupils should return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 11.10am for a prompt 11.20am start for Period 3.**

This is to allow time for some important EpiPen training for all staff, as well as some feedback from our recent Ofsted Readiness Review. The School Improvement Partner stated the following in this review, which means the hard work of staff is really starting to have impact:

*'The Headteacher, ably supported by a knowledgeable leadership team continues to inspire the school community to focus on the next improvement steps for the pupils within the school. The strategies developed are ensuring that a systemic approach to providing effective challenge in classrooms is embedded. The approach the school is taking is meeting their school improvement priorities. Whilst this continues to be work in progress, leaders are working on the right things at the right time and in the right way.'*

*'Seeing the further developments each time I visit is really heart-warming - you sure are changing the culture and there is evidence of high expectations in a number of areas across the school and will not be long until there is a consistent approach everywhere'.*

If you are concerned about the later start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, please do complete the Google Form: ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQq98Kpp9CfPF\\_1AKqQuptg4PukUg85sjz1H00RSD44spiA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQq98Kpp9CfPF_1AKqQuptg4PukUg85sjz1H00RSD44spiA/viewform?usp=sf_link)) **by 31<sup>st</sup> October** to state that you would like your child to come into school at the normal time and, if so, they should come in via main reception for 8.35am. **Only complete the form if you wish to have this support.** They will be supervised and should bring a reading book or something to do. There will be no breakfast club or break food on the first day back.

### New Entrance and Exits

After another detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and, although we originally wanted to keep the younger pupils away from the car park at the Leisure Centre entrance, we now need to make some changes to improve the flow of pupils and ensure there is no more crowding. We will be painting yellow lines on the pavement in the car park to ensure pupils remain there. From Monday afternoon, once all pupils have been informed, these are the new gate arrangements. This will be reviewed regularly. Pupils should arrive in the morning as normal and then will be told in school and so will leave from the new gates and use these from then on. I appreciate this is another change but all pupils need to stick to this arrangement to ensure safety and risk control. Please be mindful of the ANPR in the Leisure Centre car park (only 5 minutes waiting time). At drop-off and pick-up times, no cars should ever park on the zig zag lines outside of school.

<b>Main Entrance (Redbridge Lane West)</b>	<b>Leisure Centre</b>
Year 8	Year 7
Year 10	Year 9
Post 16*	Year 11
	Post 16*
*May use either gate	

### **Redbridge Lane West: Traffic Alterations for 3 Weeks**

Cadent Gas has been granted permission to complete vital works starting on 27/10/2024, lasting for 3 weeks on Redbridge Lane West. Whilst this will NOT affect entry and car parking at the Leisure Centre, there will be some road closures/disruption and parking bay suspensions, which may result in increased congestion outside the school. Please see the attached map for details of the changes.

### **Front Entrance**

Due to increasing concerns about security and recent incidents in the community, we continue to consider the front entrance to the school. Various tools have been stolen from Trade vans and this is also not adequate security to safeguard our children. We have tried to gain funding from Redbridge Council for much more robust fencing but they have not provided us with this. We will have to consider what we can do internally with our budget and will keep you updated, but this is very likely to mean you cannot park in the front forecourt anymore once we have considered the next steps. Apologies for this but this is not normal in schools and our children's safety comes first.

### **Food**

We will trial a system after half-term of selling food that may otherwise go to waste at a cut price in the Hall after school. We will inform pupils of this and review how this goes – hopefully this will help support the cost-of-living crisis and also reduce waste. We know we have a lot to do to improve recycling and re-using and continue to push Redbridge Council to provide us with more support.

### **Uniform & Equipment**

Please ensure all uniform issues are corrected over half-term. Please ensure pupils have any acrylic nails removed before they return and piercings are in line with school policy. This includes no sleepers or hoop earrings as a health and safety precaution. There is new guidance about jewellery in PE and we will absorb this and let you know of any changes in the future. Please check the acceptable shoe list on the website also and a reminder that black jumpers must be v-necked. Pupils should not wear coloured or 'bed socks' over tights, unless they are white or black and skirts must not be rolled up and should be knee-length. Sixth Formers must wear their lanyards at all times.

Having full equipment enables pupils to fully participate in their learning and enables them to produce work of the highest quality and presentation. Pupils must be fully equipped for the lessons they have each day. We would expect all pupils to have an appropriately sized functional school bag and the following equipment as a minimum expectation: 2 pens, 1 pencil, 1 ruler, 1 eraser, a scientific calculator, a reading book of choice. Optional equipment used in some subjects includes a glue stick and colour pencils.

### **Local Community**

We have received further reports tonight of pupils being approached by groups of youths in the community and reports of weapons. As per yesterday's letter, please stay safe and follow the guidance given and report anything to the police as well as informing us and providing us with the CAD number of the police report.

### Staff Updates

We wish a fond farewell to **Ms Siobhan O'Malley-Butler** who has retired from her position as Attendance and Admissions Officer. We wish Siobhan an exciting new chapter in her retirement and we will all miss her. We will update you with details of staffing in MFL shortly as we still have a temporary teacher. We advertise jobs on the socials, so please feel free to forward these to your own friend networks.

### Key Dates

Key dates are on the website but I would like to draw your attention to the following dates:

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Options Evening
	Year 11 and 13 Mocks start (Art starts the day before)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Challenge Cycle 1 Ends
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Post 16 Open Evening
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Winter Concert
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 10 Progress Evening (online)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Mock Results Year 11/13
w/b Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Reports to parents/carers

Don't forget to follow the socials @WansteadE11 to keep up to date with school news.

Have a safe and enjoyable half-term and good luck to all Year 11s and 13s with the upcoming mock exams. On-going thanks to our PTA for all their support and the fabulous quiz last term.

All the best



**Emma Hillman**  
Headteacher