

Welcome Back to the 2025–26 School Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a restful and restorative summer break. As we begin a new academic year, we are excited to welcome both returning students and those who are joining Woodford County High School for the first time. A new school year always brings a sense of possibility and promise, and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that every pupil feels supported, challenged, and inspired to achieve their very best.

Today, we are sharing our 'Welcome Back' pack with you. It includes key information and reminders about areas such as attendance, uniform, expectations, and important dates, along with useful links and tips to help the year start smoothly. Our aim is to ensure that communication with families is clear, timely, and helpful. Regular parent bulletins like this one will keep you informed and connected with school life, so that together we can provide the best possible experience for your child.

We are very much looking forward to all that lies ahead this year- the learning, growth, and achievements we know our students will bring. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and commitment to our school community.

With best wishes,

Gemma Van Praagh



Term Dates 2025-26

AUTUMN 2025

Term	From	To
Non Contact Day	Monday 1 September 2025	
Non Contact Day	Tuesday 2 September 2025	
Term	Wednesday 3 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025
WCHS Remote Schooling	Friday 19 September 2025	Students studying from home
Half-term	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 31 October 2025
Term	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025
Non Contact Day	Thursday 9 October 2025	

SPRING 2026

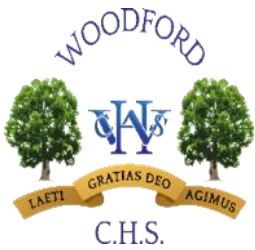
Term	From	To
Term	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026
Half-term	Monday 16 February 2026	Friday 20 February 2026
Term	Monday 23 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
Non Contact Day	Wednesday 4 March 2026	

SUMMER 2026

Term	From	To
Term	Monday 13 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
Half-term	Monday 25 May 2026	Friday 29 May 2026
Term	Monday 1 June 2026	Monday 20 July 2026
Non Contact Day	Monday 20 July 2026	

Please note the following are Bank Holidays:

- Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day)
- Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day)
- Thursday 1 January 2026 (New Year's Day)
- Friday 3 April 2026 (Good Friday)
- Monday 6 April 2026 (Easter Monday)
- Monday 4 May 2026 (Early May Bank Holiday)
- Monday 25 May 2026 (Spring Bank Holiday)
- Monday 31 August 2026 (Summer Bank Holiday)



The School Day

SCHOOL STARTS AT	8.20 am EVERY DAY
7.45 am - 8.20 am	Breakfast Club (Dining Hall)
8.30 am	Registration
8.35am	Form Period/Assembly
8.50 am	Lesson 1
9.55 am	Lesson 2
10.55 am	Break
11.15 am	Lesson 3
12:20 pm	Lesson 4
1.20 pm	Form Time/Assembly (Key Stage 4)
1.20 pm	Lunch (Key Stage 3 Yr 7-9)
1.30pm	Lunch (Key Stages 4 & 5 Yr 10-13)
2.15 pm	Form Time (Key Stage 3, Yr 7-9)
2.20 pm	Lesson 5 (Key Stage 3)
2.30pm	Lesson 5 (Key Stage 4 & 5)
3.20 pm	End of School Day (Key Stage 3)
3.30pm	End of School Day (Key Stage 4 & 5)
3.30 pm - 5.00 pm	After School Clubs

A two-week structure operates



Changes to Parental Communication with the School

Unexpected absence (illness)

To report that your child is unable to attend school **unexpectedly** (e.g. due to illness) please contact the school via absence@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk

Please send an email **every day** that your child is absent **before 8:00am** stating their **full name, form and reason for the absence**. Alternatively you can also phone into the school on the school number 02085040611, in which case we ask that this is done by **8:30am**.

Planned absence

If you are requesting that your child does not attend school for a **planned reason**, please refer to our school Attendance Policy with regards to authorised / unauthorised absence, this should be done in advance via absence@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk or by telephone on the school number 02085040611.

Please include your **child's full name and form, details of the reason for the request** and any **supporting evidence**.

KS3 & KS4 Enquiries

If you need to contact a member of staff regarding your child for any matter, other than absence, please contact the school via admin@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk or alternatively by telephone on the school number 02085040611.

(Please note that the KS3administrator@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk and KS4administrator@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk emails will be retired and no longer monitored from 3rd October 2025)

KS5 Enquiries

If you need to contact a member of staff for your child in KS5 (6th form). Please contact the school via KS5Administrator@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk .



STUDENTS WORKING FROM HOME ON

Friday, 19th September 2025

You are reminded that 11+ testing for 2026 entry is being held on the school site on Friday 19th September 2025.



To enable this, students will work from home on that day via WCHS Remote Schooling.

Care will be taken to ensure new students understand how to access MS Teams and Office 365.

Due to the above, there will be **NO** after school clubs Friday 19th September.

Year 7 Device Access Form – Parent Action Required

Dear Parents/Carers

*To help us plan effectively for the upcoming **Remote Learning Day**, we kindly ask that you complete the **Student Device Access MS Form** with your daughter.*

This will allow us to understand what technology is available to her at home and ensure she is fully supported during remote learning.

Please take a moment to fill out the form using the link provided

Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance and Punctuality



Students should be aiming to be going into their Form Room at 8:20am so that they have time to go to their locker before registration at 8:30am. If your child arrives at the pedestrian gate after 8:30am, she is deemed late for school. She will need her fob to enter the school grounds and will need to attend a 15 minute late detention after school on the same day. (You will be notified of this.) The 15 minute late detention is in on the Lower Ground Floor of the Centenary Building. If there are severe traffic delays the late detention is cancelled.

Mobile Phone—reminders



Students must switch their phones off as they enter the school building in the morning and must leave them in their lockers during the school day. Phones that are carried around in bags are at risk of getting lost or stolen and will be confiscated by staff if they are audible or visible or found in during a bag check. If a student's phone is confiscated, they may collect it from the Main Office at the end of the day. If this occurs more than once you may be asked to come in to school to collect your child's mobile phone from a senior member of staff.

Contacting your child

We ask parents not to make arrangements to call or text their child as this encourages pupils to use their phones during the day which is not allowed. If you have an urgent message (e.g. a change to travel arrangements) please phone the School Office who will ensure that your child receives the message. The School Office telephone number is 02085040611.

Safeguarding at Woodford

At Woodford County High School, the safety and well-being of our students remains our highest priority. We regularly remind students who the safeguarding team members are, and emphasise that every adult in our school from senior leaders to teachers and support staff is here to listen, support, and help. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where every student feels valued and heard.

The Safeguarding Team



Ms Van Praagh

*Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mrs Carron

*Deputy Headteacher
Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mrs Greenfield

*Assistant Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Ms Heeks

*Assistant Headteacher
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mrs Marku

*Student Guidance officer
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mr Mills

*Head of KS4
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Miss James

*Head of KS3
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mrs Baillie

*SEND Coordinator
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*



Mrs Kaye

*Health & Welfare officer
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead*

**Other ways to
get support:**

Redbridge Children's services: 020 8708 5897 (after 5pm and on weekends)

Childline: 0800 1111

Toot Toot - via the school website

School Uniform List Years 7-11

GENERAL ITEMS

- “Woodford Blue” regulation kilted skirt or “Woodford Blue” Trousers (polyester cotton mix or similar fabric, straight leg, mid-rise, full length, plain, no belts, no pronounced external pockets, no embroidery, no visible logos)
- • Blue and white striped regulation blouse (long sleeves needed by 29th September)
- • Navy Blue plain V-neck regulation pullover or cardigan with school logo.
- • Plain blue button-front overall for Science (Year 7 and as replaced for Y8 – 11)
- • Blue & White Striped butcher style apron for Food Technology
- • An outdoor coat, if worn, must be plain navy blue or black fabric (NOT DENIM / LEATHER)
- • A winter scarf, if worn, must be plain navy or plain black
- • Socks should be plain white knee-length for wear with skirts, and navy blue ankle-length (or longer) when worn with trousers
- • Plain white or natural tights
- • Shoes should have flat and broad-based heels and have a strap or laces to ensure that the shoe is firmly fixed to the foot. They should be leather or leather look (not suede or canvas) navy blue or black in colour.
- • Hair should be of one natural colour, neat (tied back where of a length to be so) and the face clearly visible. Hair slides or hair bands, worn for functional purposes, must be navy blue, black or brown (and hair bands no wider than 5cm). All slides and hairbands must be navy blue, black or brown. Hair extensions of any kind must be of the same colour as the student’s natural hair. Beads and other decorative accessories are not allowed.

N.B. For safety, all footwear must be secure and well fitting. Trainers, casual shoes, and boots (of all sorts) are not acceptable in school. In extreme winter weather (snow and ice) WCHS will advise when boots may be worn with uniform.

Jewellery may not be worn except for religious symbols worn out of sight and one plain small gold, silver, pearl, or diamante stud worn in the lobe of the ear. Students should not have piercings done at a point which means the associated jewellery needs to be worn in term time. A clear plastic stopper is the only option in this scenario and it is the student’s / parent’s responsibility to supply this.

Students should not wear make-up, nail varnish or false eye lashes whilst in uniform.

OPTIONAL UNIFORM

- A short-sleeved regulation blouse is available to be worn with the school skirt or school trousers
- • “Woodford Blue” regulation blazer
- • If worn (for religious reasons) a Woodford regulation navy headscarf / hijab (with school logo available from Lucilla Ltd) is required. Students’ faces must be always visible so the niqab is not permitted.

Woodford’s official uniform supplier

<https://www.lucillaschoolwear.co.uk/>

Lucilla Schoolwear Ltd

180 Cranbrook Road Ilford

Essex IG1 4LX

Tel: 020 8554 5133

Email: info@lucillaschoolwear.co.uk

Second Hand Uniform

Good quality clean second-hand uniform can be donated and purchased via the Sue Ryder Charity Shop in Seven Kings, Ilford. Second hand uniform items are sold at very affordable prices (currently £1 per item)

The shop is open Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 4.30PM.



REMINDER

Vaccination UK will be coming to Woodford County to offer the flu vaccine. You can choose between the painless nasal spray or a pork gelatine-free injection.

Vaccination UK will be here on Monday 15th September, Tuesday 16th September, and Wednesday 17th September.

We kindly ask that you complete the consent form so your response is recorded – even if you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine (this will also avoid further contact from the team).

If you **do wish** your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/redbridge>

If you **do not wish** your child to have the flu vaccine, please click here:

<https://london.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/redbridge>

If you have any further questions about the vaccination, please do not hesitate to contact Vaccination UK on 020 3343 2400 (option 3).



LOST PROPERTY

If your child has misplaced something, could you please ask them to check the box which is situated near Reception in the main school building.

There are also a lot of PE items in the PE department and the ground floor open learning area of the CC building. Small items are left at reception.

Thank you



Introducing Drama to the KS3 Curriculum

We are delighted to share that Drama has been introduced into the Key Stage 3 curriculum at Woodford. While only taught once a fortnight, this marks an exciting development in broadening our students' learning experience.

Drama is an academic discipline in its own right, encouraging critical thinking, analysis of texts, and creativity in problem-solving. It complements the study of English by deepening understanding of character, language, and storytelling, while also supporting skills that are transferable across the curriculum: confidence in public speaking, collaboration, resilience, and the ability to think imaginatively.

At a personal level, Drama nurtures self-expression, empathy, and adaptability, qualities which are invaluable not only in the classroom but also in life beyond school. These skills are central to the education of our young people who will go on to lead, influence, and contribute in diverse fields.

We see this addition as a celebration of the breadth of a Woodford education: rigorous, ambitious, and forward-looking, while also nurturing the whole person.

Years 8 & 9 Drama- Unit 1 Protest and Conflict

This term, Years 8 & 9 will explore the theme of protest and conflict through drama. The scheme introduces students to a range of theatrical techniques while encouraging them to think critically about how individuals and societies respond to conflict. Both year groups will be following the same unit as it links directly with their English curriculum.

Students will:

- Develop characterisation skills by exploring opposing viewpoints and expressing emotion through performance.
- Experiment with dramatic strategies such as still image, soundscape, flashback, and teacher-in-role.
- Work with both improvisation and scripted texts, including excerpts from modern plays and Greek tragedy, building their confidence in performance and analysis.
- Learn how to use voice, body language, and staging to communicate effectively to an audience.

This unit also supports the English curriculum. Students make connections between literature and performance, developing empathy with characters, analysing language, and considering how social, historical, and political contexts shape a text. For example, students respond to the poem *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, linking its themes to their own devised performances, and later study elements of Greek tragedy, which reinforces understanding of classical texts encountered in English.

Beyond academic links, the scheme strengthens vital personal skills: collaboration, resilience, creativity, critical thinking, and public speaking. These are attributes that serve students well across all subjects and beyond the classroom.

Year 7 Drama- Storytelling

This term, Year 7 will be introduced to Drama through the theme of storytelling, one of the oldest and most universal forms of theatre. The scheme begins by helping students build confidence in performance, establish drama conventions, and develop the qualities of a good storyteller.

Students will:

- Explore a range of storytelling traditions, from fairytales and myths to epic tales from Ancient Greece.
- Develop key dramatic skills including freeze frame, narration, ensemble work, soundscape, and choral performance.
- Work both collaboratively and independently to devise and perform their own stories, experimenting with transitions, characterisation, and voice.
- Gain experience in adapting and retelling stories, using creativity to bring characters and worlds to life on stage.

This unit connects with the English curriculum by deepening students' understanding of narrative structure, character, and genre, as well as reinforcing skills in oracy and interpretation. It also introduces them to epic literature such as Homer's *Odyssey*, giving them cultural and historical context that enriches their wider studies.

Through Drama, Year 7 students also develop essential personal skills: confidence, teamwork, imagination, empathy, and communication. These skills will support them across all subjects and help them to grow as resilient and articulate learners.

Units in the Spring and Summer Terms:

	Spring	Summer
Year 7	Monologues: This unit introduces students to the powerful form of the monologue. They study a range of monologues from a range of texts, developing their understanding of how writers use them to deepen our understanding of characters' inner-lives.	Shakespeare: 'The Tempest' This unit will give students the opportunity to explore the play they will be studying in English in further details. They will explore characters, themes, motif and some of the historical and social contexts of the play in their drama lessons.
Year 8	Shakespeare: 'Macbeth' This unit will give students the opportunity to explore the play they will be studying in English in further details. They will explore characters, themes, motif and some of the historical and social contexts of the play in their drama lessons.	Monologues: This unit introduces students to the powerful form of the monologue. They study a range of monologues from a range of texts, developing their understanding of how writers use them to deepen our understanding of characters' inner-lives.
Year 9	The Empress: This unit will give students the opportunity to explore the play they will be studying in English in further details. They will explore characters, themes, motif and some of the historical and social contexts of the play in their drama lessons.	Shakespeare: 'Much Ado About Nothing' This unit will give students the opportunity to explore the play they will be studying in English in further details. They will explore characters, themes, motif and some of the historical and social contexts of the play in their drama lessons.

P.E.—Extra-curricular timetable—Term 1



	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Weds</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>
<u>Before School</u> <u>7.50-8.20am</u>				GCSE Badminton HBA	
<u>Lunchtime</u> <u>1.40-2.10pm</u>	Netball Squad Training y7&8 VJA & HBA	Badminton VJA WEEK A = yr7 & 8 WEEK B = YR9,10 &11 Netball Squad Training y9&10 STA & KRU	GCSE Club (yr11) STA & VJA & KRU & HBA & KRI	Dance STA This starts: 2/10/25 Trampolining KRU YR8-11 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY) XC KRI	Netball for ALL —6th Formers
<u>Afterschool</u> <u>3.30-4.30pm</u>			*FIXTURES* GCSE Netball – 6 th formers		



Music Extra-Curricular Timetable Autumn 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Brass Ensemble (Jubilee room 1) 13:45 - 14:15 Mr Thomas	Junior Choir (SF1) 13:30 - 14:10 Ms Evans	Jazz Band (SF1) 13:40 - 14:15 CBO and MC	Ukulele Club (Jubilee room 2) 13:40 - 14:15 Student led	Orchestra (SF1) 13:40 - 14:15 IBO and MC
	Guitar Club (SF1) 13:40 - 14:15 MC	Kalimba Club (Jubilee room 2) 13:40 - 14:15 Student led		Junior Band (SF1) 13:30 - 14:15 MC and IBO	
		Senior Choir (Main Hall) 13:40 - 14:15 CBO		String orchestra (SF2) 13:40 - 14:15 CBO	

If you are having instrument lessons this term and/or are doing GCSE music, you must attend at least one staff-led music club.

CHARITY DONATION

Please find below a copy of the letter received from MIND.



Woodford County High School
High Road
High Road
Woodford Green
IG8 9LA

21/07/2025

Dear Woodford County High School,

Thank you for fundraising for Mind, we think you're great!

We would like to say a huge thank you for raising a fantastic £233.61 for Mind which we received via a cheque payment. Your enthusiasm and dedication will go a long way in helping us make sure everyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for support and advice.

Just £10.00 can enable one of our trained members of staff to answer a call on our Mind Infoline. They provide essential information to anybody about mental health problems when it is needed most. The Mind Infoline is a lifeline to many. We really hope this allows you to see how special and important your support is.

You have been brilliant; I have been able to get more information from you in 5 minutes, than I have over the past 6 months. Thank you so much.
(Mind Infoline caller)

If you loved fundraising for Mind, we would love you to support us again in the future. We have so much to offer from monthly Facebook challenges, skydiving, crafting, running events, and much more. For more information about how to get involved again, please see www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/

Once again thank you so much for your support.

Best Wishes,
Community Fundraising team
community@mind.org.uk

If you would like to update your personal details or change the way we communicate with you please contact us at: Mind, 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ | 020 8215 2243 | supporterrelations@mind.org.uk

Mind (The National Association for Mental Health)
2 Redman Place, London,
E20 1JQ
t: 020 8519 2122

Mind Infoline: 0300 123 3393
mind.org.uk
supporterrelations@mind.org.uk
mindforbettermentalhealth
MindCharity

We are Mind. We're here to fight for mental health and to make sure that everyone gets the support and respect that they deserve.
mind.org.uk/privacy
Registered charity in England (no. 219830) and a registered company (no. 424348) in England and Wales





SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

13:30 – 16:30

Double Up!

Double Reed Woodwind Taster Day

Ages 8–17 **No experience needed!**

Try the Oboe, Bassoon, Flute & Clarinet!

Explore new instruments in a fun, friendly session led by expert teachers.

Possibility of continuing with weekly lessons

£5

Registration
Fee

Sign up at:
vrcl.uk/double-up



**John Savage Centre,
Fencepiece Road,
Ilford IG6 2NB**

School Facilities Available for Lettings!

Looking for the perfect space for your next event, class, or rehearsal?
We are pleased to offer **availability in our Dance Studio and Conference Hall** for external hire!

Facilities Available:

- **Dance Studio** – Ideal for dance classes, fitness sessions, and rehearsals.
- **Conference Hall** – A spacious venue perfect for meetings, training sessions, and community events.

 **Available Hours:** 17:30 – 22:00

For more information on availability and pricing, or to make a booking, please contact <https://schoolhire.co.uk>.

Don't miss this opportunity to secure a fantastic space at your school!



Conference Room



Dance Studio



LIVE FOR THE MOVEMENT

Sign up today for **FREE**
weekly fitness classes

Calling all girls aged 11-16! Check
out our new **MOVE TOGETHER**
FITNESS CLASSES.

Good for both body and mind
our specially designed classes
will help you to build strength,
confidence and get you moving.
It's the perfect opportunity to
have fun with friends.

[Find out more](#)

MOVE TOGETHER

Join our next class at...

Time:

Date:

Location:

nuffieldhealth.com/movetogether



Would you like to talk to someone?

Do you need some support with creating a daily routine for your child?

Are you concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing?

Are you struggling to motivate your children at home or manage sibling relationships?

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) are here to support you.

We have a **dedicated telephone helpline for parents/carers** where you will receive advice and guidance from a professional

Educational Psychologist.

The EPS helpline is available for all parents and carers - your child does not need to be known to the EPS, does not need to have a special educational need or additional support within school.

We welcome calls from all parents and carers.



EPS Helpline

Telephone: 07741 331 009

Opening hours: Every Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Webpage: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/educational-psychology-service/>

FIND: [Educational Psychology Service](#)

@Redbridge_aep Twitter account.



Call to Action—Educational Psychology

Please click on the link to access the “Call To Action” video from the Redbridge Educational Wellbeing Team (REWT) and the Redbridge Mental Health Support Team (MHST), who work with students and staff here at Woodford. This video is specifically for parents and carers and is part of their “break the stigma” campaign.

[Click here to access video](#)



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

- 15—17 September—Years 7-11 Flu Vaccine
- 16th September—Year 10 Introduction to KS4 (17:00-18:15)
- 19 September — 11+ Testing, Students Studying from Home
- 29 September—School Birthday (106th)



REMINDER

Please remind your daughter to bring in her lanyard, locker key and fob to school every day.

