


# Woodford Weekly Bulletin



Issue No. 542  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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High Rd, Woodford, Woodford Green IG8 9LA

# Happy New Year Woodford!



## A message from the Head

Welcome back to the new term

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable winter break.

It has been a pleasure to welcome students and staff back this week and to see the school full of energy, purpose and optimism as we begin the spring term together.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the school and for the commitment you show to your children's education.

Just before Christmas, I was delighted to receive the letter below from the Leader of Redbridge Council, recognising Woodford County High School's exceptional academic outcomes. I am pleased to share this with you, not only as a celebration of strong results, but as an acknowledgement of the collective effort of our students, staff and families. This recognition reflects the high standards, hard work and shared values that underpin our community, and I am grateful to everyone who contributes to the success of the school each day.

With my very best wishes and hoping you all stay warm!

Gemma



**Via Email**

Miss G Van Praagh  
Headteacher  
Woodford County High School

December 2025

Dear Miss Van Praagh,

**CONGRATULATIONS FROM REDBRIDGE COUNCIL**

We just wanted to get in touch to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to you and the entirety of Woodford County High School for your outstanding academic performance. We know how fortunate we are to have such an excellent school in this borough and are keen to acknowledge and celebrate your latest achievements.

Out of all our secondary schools, Woodford County High School has the highest attainment 8 score. Government data has also shown us that you have ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in England and 12<sup>th</sup> in London for this score.

Your school's academic success clearly indicates the hard work and dedication of your staff, leadership team, students and their families at Woodford County.

Please accept our sincerest congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We would love to organise a visit to hear more about the steps you have taken that has led to such remarkable performance. If this appeals to you, please do get in touch so that we can organise this.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and healthy 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Kam Rai  
Leader of the Council



# Key Dates and Reminders



SPRING 2026		
Term	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026
<b>Half-term</b>	<b>Monday 16 February 2026</b>	<b>Friday 20 February 2026</b>
Term	Monday 23 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026
<b>Non-Contact Day</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 March 2026</b>	

SUMMER 2026		
Term	Monday 13 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026
<b>Half-term</b>	<b>Monday 25 May 2026</b>	<b>Friday 29 May 2026</b>
Term	Monday 1 June 2026	Monday 20 July 2026
<b>Non-Contact Day</b>	<b>Monday 20 July 2026</b>	



22 January—Year 12 Parents Evening

28 January—Year 9 Parents Evening

5 February—Music Recital Evening

9 February—Year 7 Parents Evening

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



# Contact us



To report an absence relating to KS3 and KS4, please email [absence@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:absence@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk)

Any absences 5 days before or after a school holiday will require medical supporting evidence in order to be authorised. If this requirement is not met, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

If you need to contact a member of staff regarding your child for any matter relating to Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4, other than absence, please email [admin@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk)

For Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form), students are expected to call Miss Mamtora themselves on the day of the absence, before 8.30am on 020 8506 2927.



# Lost Property



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

Small items are normally left at the main school reception.

PE kits are in the PE Office.

Thank you



# PRELOVED UNIFORMS

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE STUDENTS WHO'VE HELPED AT SALES EVENTS - YOU ARE TRUE GREEN ENTREPRENEURS!



WE'RE DELIGHTED TO SHARE THAT IN ITS FIRST MONTH, THE ECO COMMITTEE AND PFA'S PRE LOVED UNIFORMS PROJECT HAS RAISED OVER £100. THESE FUNDS WILL GO DIRECTLY INTO GREEN INITIATIVES AT SCHOOL, WHILE ALSO SAVING UNIFORMS FROM LANDFILL. !

THIS PROJECT IS ABOUT MORE THAN FUNDRAISING. BY EXTENDING THE LIFESPAN OF GARMENTS, WE REDUCE THE NEED FOR CONSTANT PRODUCTION AND CUT DOWN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS. TOGETHER, WE'RE PROVING THAT SMALL, THOUGHTFUL CHOICES - LIKE REUSING UNIFORMS - CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE FOR OUR PLANET.

Keep Donating. Keep Buying. Any queries contact:

[PFASecretary@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:PFASecretary@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk)



## Parents

### Can you offer a Year 11 student work experience during the summer?

Help our young people gain real-world skills by creating opportunities in your workplace or community. The placement should be for two weeks (from 29<sup>th</sup> June), however can be flexible. If you are able to accommodate one of our students, please fill in the form below or contact Ms Summers: [summersh@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk](mailto:summersh@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk)

#### [Work Experience Placement Offers – Please Fill Out Form](#)

## 6 Finding Work Experience Tips!

### 1 Questions to ask yourself

If you're not sure what type of work experience you want to do, start by asking yourself a few simple questions:

- What are my interests?
- What types of career paths appeal to me?
- What are my strengths? My weaknesses?
- What hobbies do I have and do any of them relate to careers?



### 4 Plan ahead

Once you've got the dates confirmed, make sure you start looking for placements in plenty of time. Some work experience placements are quite competitive, so getting your application in early will give you an edge over less organised candidates. Researching placement options might also show you some exciting options you didn't know you had.



### 2 Use your network

You can ask friends and family if they know of any employers you could approach, or even if you could do work experience at their workplace.

Look out on Woodford's bulletins for a variety of different opportunities too!

### 5 Don't put too much pressure on yourself

Work experience is a learning activity first and foremost. Committing to a work experience placement doesn't mean you're committing to a career in that industry.

So if you're not sure what you want to do yet, don't panic. Work experience is never wasted as long as you go into it with an open mind and plenty of enthusiasm,

### 3 Apply directly with an employer

If you'd like to work for a particular employer, you can apply directly. First, do a Google search for the name of the company and "work experience". If they have an existing scheme in place, this will direct you to the appropriate webpage. Many large companies have well-defined work experience schemes with a specific application process.

Don't forget that you're not limited to traditional businesses, either. Many charities and public sector organisations also offer work experience placements.



### 6 Follow up on your applications

Work experience placements are competitive. Therefore, it's a good idea to apply for several placements. This will ensure you end up with something that will be beneficial to you.

Also, do not hesitate to contact the employer if you have not heard from them. They might just need a reminder to say yes!



# 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!

- **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!



