

# Woodford Weekly Bulletin



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High Rd, Woodford, Woodford Green IG8 9LA

# 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  
 13 February – Year 7 & 11 Form Photos

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





WOODFORD **ROBOTICS**

# ROBOTICS

## Latest Update from Woodford Robotics

Our robotics programme has had an exceptional start this term. The level of innovation, teamwork and resilience shown by the students has been outstanding.



### Breakthrough Research and Innovations

They are already deep into the design and build stages of their robots, learning to solve real engineering and computational problems and developing computational thinking skills that go far beyond the classroom.

### Innovative Mindset

The atmosphere in the Innovation Lab has been energetic and purposeful. It has been inspiring to see how quickly they have grown in confidence, creativity and technical ability.



## Getting Ready for Internal Trials

We'll keep you updated on their milestones and achievements, and we look forward to celebrating their progress with you throughout the year.

### Scan the Code

You will require your daughter's school login to view the page





## AGM 2024 WCHS Minutes

26 November 2024 6.30pm Conference Room

**Present:** Iffat Hayat (Chair), Fathima Rofe (Vice Chair), Marlyn RubyJoseph (Treasurer), Selina Ahmed (Committee member), Gemma Van Praagh (Headteacher), Colin Jenkins (Deputy Head), Jessie Randhawa, Nawal El Makni, Naveed and Anjum Ali, Nadhira Uddin, Sarah Evans

Apologies received for absence, Neha Daga, Ayrine Khalaf, Fozia Nasir

### 1. Chair's welcome and Chair's report.

- Iffat explained the PFA is a registered charity and needs to adhere to Charity Commission guidelines re: governance and how it manages its affairs.
- The PFA is financially strong with a cash book balance of £34,000 as of July 2024.
- From August 23 to July 24, we have raised just over £6,000.
- It's fantastic to see many new parents getting involved, which is especially encouraging given the number of successful events we've hosted that have raised significant funds.
- This support ensures we can continue these efforts. For example, our recent Movie Night for year 7 and 8 was a great success, with 85 tickets sold and £400 raised, thanks to the help of parent volunteers.
- Additionally, our theatre ticket sales generated an impressive £3,000 over the past year. With a huge thank you to Miss Horn, we really hope this continues.
- In recent years, we have made significant investments in the school reflecting our commitment to enhancing the learning environment.
- This year, we are pleased to announce a donation of £15,000.
- The funds will be allocated to the construction of outdoor sheltered seating for students, with additional contributions to various subject departments to further support and enrich their curriculum.
- We had great success at the last House Drama event, with the raffle being a particularly strong fundraiser thanks to the generous donations from our community partners, including Waitrose, Tesco and Gails.
- We want to thank all those who went the extra mile for us.
- We are now looking forward to the School Disco and Christmas concerts which are always fun and will include a raffle.
- PFA roles were explained and it was raised that we have a vacancy for a Secretary.



## 2. Treasurer's report

- YE 2024 summary of fundraising and breakdown as per handouts from treasurer (see attached).
- Issues arising with Jubilee Fund due to poor communication, to be addressed by school and new Communications Officer Nawal. Also Headteacher and Treasurer will complete Jubilee draw at the end of the meeting.
- Funding for now is stable.

## 3. Headteacher's report

- GVP was pleased to see PFA reconvene.
- It was stressed how important PFA contributions parents can make.
- Website needs updating
- International evening will not happen this year due to timing of Ramadhan, and then school exams.
- May have a Summer Fayre instead.

## 4. Election of Officers

- New appointments: Jessie Randhawa to take on Secretary role. Nawal El Makni to take on Communications Officer role, nominated by IH and seconded by SA and FR. Nadhira Uddin, Sarah Evans, Naveed Ali, Neha Daga, Ayrine Khalaf all nominated as Committee members and welcomed by PFA.

## 5. AOB

- Chairs vote of thanks – Special thanks.
- Meeting dates to be agreed by Committee members and posted on the PFA webpage as this has been underutilised.
- New Communications Officer role to publish a monthly PFA newsletter.
- Easy Fundraising to be highlighted in bulletin to parents.

7.45 pm Meeting ended and all thanked for their attendance.



## 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!



## Woodford's Winter's Wish Fulfilled at Inaugural Charity Winter Gala

On the evening of 28 November, the Woodford County Sixth Form community came together to mark the start of the festive season, while raising funds for a charity close to our hearts, Haven House.

The Sixth Form Winter Charity Ball proved to be a memorable and successful occasion. Students enjoyed an elegant evening beneath sparkling lights in a beautifully curated winter wonderland setting, complete with festive refreshments and a warm seasonal atmosphere.

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of all who attended, the event raised over £1,500 for Haven House—an outstanding and heartening achievement.

Sincere thanks are extended to Waania, and her committee for their dedication and hard work in organising such a successful event. Their efforts resulted in a significant donation, which Waania presented this week to Maria at Haven House.



# Please find below a copy of an email received from Forever Colours Children's Hospice and a copy of a letter from Blood Cancer UK



Dear Staff and Students of Woodford County High School,

On behalf of everyone at Forever Colours Children's Hospice, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your generous donation of £150, which was raised at your recent prize-giving event.

We are incredibly grateful that you chose to support our hospice on such a special occasion. Your kindness and community spirit will make a real difference to the children and families we care for, helping us to continue providing comfort, specialist support, and memorable moments when they are needed most.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved in organising the prize giving and to all those who contributed. Support from schools like Woodford County High School means a great deal to us and truly helps change lives.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support.

With sincere thanks,

Vikki and the forever colours team



24<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Aneela

Thank you so much for your recent donation of £749.34 relating to funds raised through this year's 5 penny race. We really do appreciate your ongoing support of our work.

I want to keep letting you know how donations like yours are improving outcomes for people with all types of blood cancer and how much your gift is going to help. From year-to-year doctors and researchers are constantly refining treatments to beat blood cancer. Continued support like yours is enabling this change to happen and we've come so far because of people like you. We have been working tirelessly since our founding in 1960. For example, in the last fifteen years deaths from childhood blood cancers have halved as doctors become more skilled in using chemotherapy drugs. More recently, scientists, like the ones you've been funding, have developed tests to more easily identify the 10% of patients who will respond poorly to standard drugs – helping doctors to provide more tailored treatment.

If you have any questions or if there's anything that I can help with, please give me a call on 07818 185192 or email me at [lreddens@bloodcancer.org.uk](mailto:lreddens@bloodcancer.org.uk).

If you would like to receive a postal copy of this thank you letter, please let me know and I will mail one to you. Thank you so much once again for this kind donation.

With very best wishes,

*Lydia*

Lydia Eddens  
Lead Regional Relationship Manager London & Surrey  
[lreddens@bloodcancer.org.uk](mailto:lreddens@bloodcancer.org.uk)  
07818 185192



# PARENT WEBINAR

**Online Safety & Safe Use of AI**



**29 JANUARY 2026  
18.00 PM - 19.00 PM**

[JOIN US HERE](#)



**Join our first online webinar for parents' everyone is invited.**

This online session led by SWGFL explores your child's digital world 🌐 Provides you with an insight into popular technologies.

Learn:

- ✓ How young people use popular tech
- ✓ The massive benefits & potential pitfalls
- ✓ Practical tips and resources for healthy online habits





Elevate Education's Spring Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

### ***How to Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking***

13th January 6:00pm (GMT)

### ***How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)***

27th January 6:00pm (GMT)

### ***How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory***

10th February 6:00pm (GMT)

### ***How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams***

3rd March 6:00pm (GMT)

### ***How You Can Support Your Child During Exams***

17th March 6:00pm (GMT)

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>



# 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!

[Little Kickers Free Trial at Woodford County High School](#)



**Free Trial**

Football classes & Birthday Parties  
For children aged  
18 months - 8th Birthday  
10 members must take notice

Small text at bottom: Email: [info@littlekickers.co.uk](mailto:info@littlekickers.co.uk) Website: [www.littlekickers.co.uk](http://www.littlekickers.co.uk)

# Useful Links

FREE weekly fitness classes for girls aged 11-16



Popular Apps and Games Guide for Parents

The Wellbeing Hub

**TIPS**

The Wellbeing Hub  
— From Wellbeing Tips —

This week's topical content  
Week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January

Top tips for easing back-to-school anxiety by Alicia Drummond, Therapist and CEO of The Wellbeing Hub



The Educational Psychology Service

Call to Action—  
Educational Psychology Video

#breakthestigma



SENDATS Virtual Training

Spotlight on:  
**Dyspraxia** and supporting your child at home.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
7.00 pm

**DYSPRAXIA**

SENDATS Virtual Training: Spotlight on Dyspraxia

