Woodford Weekly Bulletin



Issue No. 611
16th October 2026

In this week's bulletin:

1. Home Page
2. Key Dates and Reminders
3. Contact us
4. School is Closed to Pupils on Monday 12 October 2026
5. Sixth Form Open Evening
6. Parent Coffee Morning
7. Lost Property
8. After School Clubs – Places Available
9. Woodford Old Girls Association – 100 Years
10. SEND Update
11. Drama Workshop
12. Year 13 History Walking Tour
13. Free School Meals Update
15. Black History Month
16. Extra Curricular Clubs on Offer
18. Parent & Carers Week: Children's Wellbeing Webinar
10. Parent Volunteers
11. Barracudas Holiday Camp
12. Autumn Term Parent Support Webinars
16. School Facilities Available for Lettings
17. Useful Links

High Rd, Woodford, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA

Key Dates and Reminders…

AUTUMN 2026		
Term	Friday 4 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Half-term	Monday 26 October 2026	Friday 30 October 2026
Term	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Non-Contact Day	Monday 12 October 2026	



21 October – 6th Form Open Evening
21 October – School Finishes at 3pm
23 October – Break for Half Term
12 November – House Drama Event
17 November – Year 9 Options Evening
18 November – Parent Coffee Morning with Ms Van Praagh
18 November – Year 9 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

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

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.



Due to the

Sixth Form Open Evening

school will finish at

3pm

on

21st October 2026





LEARN • BELONG • ACHIEVE

Your Next Chapter Starts Here



Sixth Form Open Evening

21 October 2026

Bigger Brighter Braver

Thinking about Sixth Form?

Join us on 21st October

Discover the opportunities available at our Sixth Form, meet our staff and students, explore our facilities, and learn more about life beyond GCSEs.

- EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES
- INSPIRING PEOPLE
- OUTSTANDING FACILITIES
- A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Please register your interest by clicking on 'Find Out More' below. Please register by 11am on the 19 October 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family.

Find out More >

More than a next step
A brighter tomorrow

ASPIRATION | OPPORTUNITY | BELONGING

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Stronger Together

Parent Coffee Morning

with Gemma Van Praagh

Wednesday 18th November 2026

Conversations. Community. Brighter Futures.



Following the success of last year's parent and carer coffee mornings, we are delighted to continue these events as part of our commitment to open, two-way communication between school and home. These informal gatherings are an important opportunity for us to work together in supporting the best possible education and wellbeing for our young people.

Our first coffee morning of the year will take place at **8am – 8.30am** on **Wednesday 18th November 2026** in the Conference Room at Woodford County High School. Tea and coffee will be available from 7.45am – 8am for anyone who would like a refreshment.

During the session, Ms Van Praagh will share key updates from the school, discuss key topics and initiatives for the year ahead and will also respond to common themes from pre-submitted questions.

The session also provides a relaxed opportunity to meet other parents and carers in your daughter's year group or from across our school community and connect with key members of staff.

Please **click here** to confirm your attendance by **Sunday 8th November** and to pre-submit questions if you want to. Please note that this form may close early once the venue's capacity is reached.

8am – 8.30am
(Tea and coffee from 7.45am – 8am)

Wednesday 18th November 2026

Conference Room
Woodford County High School

We look forward to welcoming you

and continuing to build a strong partnership between home and school.

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.







AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

November/December 2026

Dear Parents,

We have a few spaces left in November's after school clubs, these are now on parentpay for you.

Thank you





Spaces available in:

Mandarin =2 places

Pop workshop=6 places

Arts & crafts= 3 places

Friday beginner cooking yr.7&8= 5 places

Fencing= 3 places

Wreath making= 2 places.

PAST
STUDENTS
STAFF
FRIENDSHIP
ALWAYS

WOODFORD OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
1926 • 2026

A SHARED
HISTORY
A STRONGER
TOMORROW



A CENTURY OF MEMORIES, FRIENDSHIP AND TRADITION

This autumn, the Old Girls' Association celebrated their centenary at Woodford.

Launched in 1926, the group of past students and staff, continues the proud tradition of remembering their school days, by parading the banners made by students during their time at the school.

Although the last textiles teacher, Rosemary Dishington, left in 2011, the tradition of making school banners continued with the maths teacher, Suzanne Bradnum, until the school's centenary in 2019.

The banners are kept in the school library archive, along with a trove of historic photographs, compiled by Rosemary Davis, past chair of the OGA.

The library mantlepiece display highlighting the history of the school, was curated by present day students, Haya (Year 8) and Melody (Year 10).

GENERATIONS
CONNECTED
BY
WOODFORD

TRADITION
INSPIRATION
COMMUNITY
FOR THE
FUTURE

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



SCHOOL ARCHIVE DISPLAY
A rich history, carefully preserved



CENTENARY GATHBRING
Sharing stories, celebrating connections



A LASTING TRADITION
Banners made by students, for generations



RETURNING TO WOODFORD
Old Girls, always part of the story

HONOURING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT • INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

Woodford County High School for Girls
Old Girls' Association Centenary Celebration
1926 – 2026

Once a Woodford Girl
Always a Woodford Girl

WCHS SEND Updates

TERMLY SEND REVIEW MEETINGS

Working Together to Support Your Child

Please see below the dates for the upcoming **Termly SEND Reviews**. These virtual meetings provide an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with the SEND Team to discuss how the first term has gone and review the support currently in place.

Appointment booking information will be sent out over the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out for your letter.

Review Dates

Year Group	Date
Year 7	Tuesday 1st December 2026
Year 8	Thursday 26th November 2026
Year 9	Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 10	Thursday 26th December 2026
Year 11	Thursday 5th November 2026
Year 12	Thursday 3rd December 2026
Year 13	Thursday 12th November 2026

SAY IT RIGHT

A Parent's Guide to Reporting and Banning in Online Games

Learn about:

- Community guidelines in online games
- How to explain rules to your neurodivergent child
- What to do if your child is banned because of language they use online

Read the guide:

https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Internet-Matters-Neurodivergent-children-bans-guide-June-2026.pdf

DRAMA WORKSHOP



Drama Flying High with The Paper Birds

This week saw our inaugural Year 10 GCSE Drama students welcome the first of their visiting theatre practitioner workshops. On Thursday, The Paper Birds, flew in for a devising workshop, in preparation for the students creating their own examined pieces in the coming months. Our students approached the work with focus, curiosity and passion, creating some absolutely beautiful pieces of incredibly engaging work in a short space of time. The Paper Birds are a successful female-driven theatre company, making social-political theatre that strives to give a 'voice to the voiceless'. The Paper Birds facilitator and actress, Saher Shah was brilliant in bringing out the best in our students, drawing on their sense of play and positive, have-a-go attitudes. In two weeks, we open the studio doors to physical theatre company, Frantic Assembly and we can't wait to see the work they produce.

Interested in seeing what Drama and Theatre Studies A-level might look like? Pop by the Drama Studio or come and see us during Sixth Form Open Evening.

Mrs Mainwaring



History Walking Tour

Year 13 Historians enjoyed a brilliant, albeit a bit cold and crisp, walking tour of London last week led by none other than our retired Deputy Head Mr Jenkins. The tour began in Tower Hill and saw us visit 17th century churches, the Monument which marks the start of the Great Fire of London, Leadenhall Market, St Pauls Cathedral and St Bartholomew's Hospital.

It was a really enriching day with students able to revise the content learnt in Year 12, as well as exploring extracts from Samuel Pepys' diary and studying the architecture of the 17th century to bring their studies to life.

We hope students enjoyed the day as much as Mr Jenkins and Mrs Verrall!



Free School Meals (FSM)

Due to recent government changes, **Free School Meals (FSM)** entitlements are now checked for each academic year. All families wishing to check their eligibility for Free School Meals must submit a new application under the updated eligibility criteria.
If you have already filled this application after September 01, 2026 then ignore this notice, otherwise please continue reading.

If you receive certain benefits, applying ensures your child receives free school meals. Additionally, successful applications secure extra Pupil Premium funding for our school to support teaching and resources.

Key Details

- Annual Renewal: Eligibility checks are now carried out annually, so you must reapply every year.
- Changes in Circumstance: Please notify us or the local authority if your financial situation changes.
- Data Security: Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential and used solely to assess eligibility.

What you need to do

Please complete all sections of the FSM Application Form by October 20, 2026. If no form is received by this extended deadline, FSM eligibility check will not be done for this academic year.

Free School Meal Checker Consent form 2026-27 – Fill out form

Important Information

- Please fill information only for the children attending Woodford County high School
- If you have children attending other schools, you will need to contact each school directly and complete their individual application process.
- Please use your information as recorded on your Universal credit account to avoid any data mismatch.

Your Details

Please enter the details of the resident parent or carer when applying for Free School Meals.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE



London Borough of Redbridge

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR FAMILIES

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, Free School Meal eligibility is expanding to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings.

All children in reception or Years 1 or 2 are entitled to universal free school meals.

From September 2026, children attending a full-time state-funded nursery class, as well as children in Year 3 and above, will be eligible for free school meals if they live in a household receiving Universal Credit.



All children in receipt of free school meals will now be rechecked annually. You may be required to provide further information to your school on request.

To Qualify

To qualify for free school meals, you must get one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Asylum seeker support (Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of New Style Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with No Recourse to Public Funds

Children aged between 16 and 18 who are getting Universal Credit in their own name can also get free school meals.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you should still let the school know if you get any of the qualifying benefits, as the school can get extra funding called pupil premium. This supports the education of your child.



How to apply

Contact your school, where you will be asked for the following information:

- Your National Insurance number
- Your surname
- Your date of birth
- Asylum seekers documentation (if applicable)

Your school will then check eligibility.

What happens next



Once checked your school will confirm if you are eligible and when your child's free school meals will start.

Other help you can get

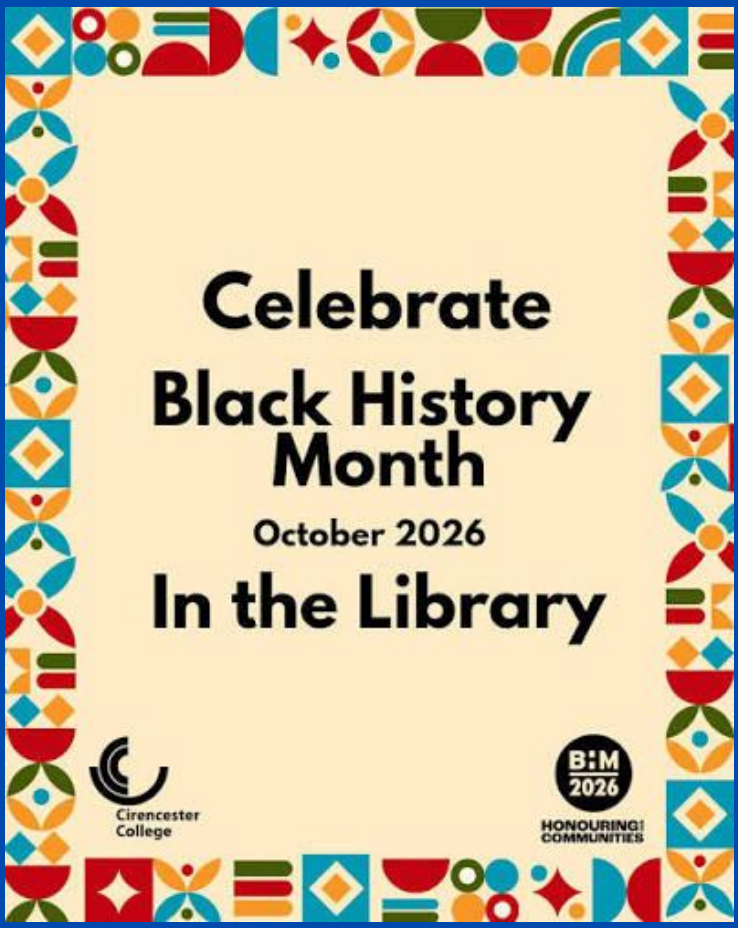
- your child may be able to get help with travel costs
- you may be able to get support with a Council Tax Reduction
- cost of living advice

FIND OUT MORE

For more information on who can get free school meals see GOV.UK visit www.redbridge.gov.uk search Free School Meals or scan the QR code

Black History Month

The school library is celebrating Black History Month 2026, by highlighting prominent black authors held in the school collection. Students can borrow books written by these authors for up to three weeks. Requests for titles not held in the library can be directed to Ms Liebeskind, the school librarian.



A-Z of school library authors:

Nicola Adams
Ngozi Adichie
James Baldwin
Malorie Blackman
Esi Edugyan
Jessica Ennis
Bernardine Evaristo
Percival Everett
Andrea Levy
Nelson Mandela
Toni Morrison
David Olusoga
Lem Sissay
Alice Walker
Benjamin Zephaniah

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Try something new!

	Time	Club	Year(s)	Location
Monday	13:45 – 14:15	Junior Band	KS3	SF1
	13:45 – 14:15	Art rooms open	KS3	AT1
	13:30 – 14:00	Badminton	KS3	Sports Hall
	13:30 – 14:00	Volunteering in library	KS4	Library
	13:45 – 14:15	Brass Ensemble	All	Jubilee
	13:45 – 14:15	Carnatic Ensemble	All	SF2
	13:30 – 14:00	Dance for All	All	Dance studio
	13:40 – 14:10 (Week B)	Law & Debate Club	All	N6
	13:30 – 14:00	VEX Robotics	All	Innovation lab
Tuesday	13:45 – 14:15	Junior Choir	KS3	SF2
	13:45 – 14:15	Senior Choir	KS4 & 5	SF1
	13:20 – 14:15	Art rooms open	KS4 & 5	AT1
	13:30 – 14:00	Creative Writing club	All	Library
	13:30 – 14:00	Cross country	All	Field
	13:30 – 14:00	Football	All	
	13:30 – 14:00	Islamic Society	All	N6
	13:30 – 14:00	VEX Robotics	All	Innovation lab
	15:30 – 17:00	Art rooms open	KS4 & 5	AT1
Wednesday	13:45 – 14:15	Y7 Choir	Y7	Hall
	13:55 – 14:15	Astronomy Society	Y7 & 8	Lab 3
	13:30 – 14:00 (Week A)	Drama	Y8 & Y9	Drama studio
	13:30 – 14:00	Food and Nutrition	Y9*	SG9
	13:30 – 14:00	Volunteering in library	KS4	Library
	13:30 – 14:00 (Week B)	Drama	KS4	Drama studio
	13:30 – 14:00	GCSE PE	KS4	Sports Hall
	13:30 – 14:00	Model UN	KS4 & KS5	SF8
	13:30 – 14:00	Eco Club	All	AT5
	13:45 – 14:15	Jazz Band	All	SF1
	13:30 – 14:00	Crochet Club	All	N4
	13:30 – 14:00	VEX Robotics	All	Innovation lab
	13:45 – 14:15	Ukulele	All	SF2

Get involved!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Try something new!

Make friends • Learn new skills • Have fun!

	Time	Club	Year(s)	Location
Thursday	13:30 – 14:00	Y7 Drama Club	Y7*	Drama studio
	13:30 – 14:00	Classics Club	KS3	H5
	13:20 – 14:15	Art rooms open	KS4 & 5	AT1
	13:30 – 14:00	Film Club	All	Library
	13:45 – 14:15	Guitar Club	All	SF2
	13:45 – 14:15 (Week B)	Mindful Colouring	All	SF6
	13:30 – 14:00	Netball for all	All	Netball courts
	13:45 – 14:45	String Orchestra	All	SF1
	13:30 – 14:00	VEX Robotics	All	Innovation lab
	15:30 – 17:00	Art rooms open	KS4 & 5	AT1
Friday	13:30 – 14:00	Science club	KS3	Lab 10
	07:50 – 08:20	Badminton	KS5	Sports Hall
	13:20 – 14:15	Art rooms open	KS4 & 5	AT2
	13:30 – 14:00	Volunteering in library	KS4	Library
	13:30 – 14:00	Badminton for KS4	KS4	Sports Hall
	13:25 – 14:15	Chess Club	All	CC10
	13:30 – 14:00	Hunger Games Club	All	N6
	13:45 – 14:45	Orchestra	All	SF1
	13:30 – 14:00	VEX Robotics	All	Innovation lab
	After school	Institute of Research in Schools	Y10	Lab 1

Get involved!

Become a parent volunteer for the WCHS Futures Fair

Wednesday 18th November 2026 10:00am - 3:20pm
Main Hall

Calling for parent volunteers!

Students of year groups 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 will have the opportunity to participate in a futures fair to meet employers, universities, apprenticeship providers and post 16 providers.

We already have a variety of different careers and organisations confirmed attending, however if you are interested in volunteering to talk to students one-on-one about your career path and exciting moments so far, please do get in touch!

According to a survey, there is a high interest in the following sectors:

- Medicine, Doctors & Surgeons
- Psychologists & Psychiatrists
- Architecture
- Careers in tech
- Animal care
- Researchers
- Business, Accounting & Finance
- Law
- Engineering
- Creative careers
- Green careers / Environment
- Dentistry

If you are interested, please complete the following form or email summersh@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk with details about the career/sector you could represent, or if you have any further questions.

Redbridge Mental Health Support Team presents...

PARENT AND CARER WEEK: CHILDREN'S WELLBEING WEBINARS

Your monthly parenting digest. Hear from mental health professionals about how to promote your child's emotional health and welllbeing.

REGISTER NOW!

INTRODUCTION TO THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Find out about Mental Health Support Teams in schools, what we do, what help is available, how we work within schools and how to access the service.

TUES 20.10.26 7-8PM

NERVOUS TO SPEAK – TALKING IN SOCIAL SITUATIONS

What can you do to help your child or young person if they find it difficult to speak in social situations? We will be discussing why this might happen and sharing some ideas about what you can do to support your child.

WED 18.11.26 7-8PM

HELPING YOUR CHILD BELIEVE THEY CAN DO IT

What can you do if your child or young person starts to believe they cannot do things? In this webinar we will be looking at ideas from the field of Growth Mindset and sharing tips and tools to help you support your child in how they think about their abilities.

TUES 19.01.27 7-8PM

SCAN ME!



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SIGN UP CLICK HERE,
VISIT WWW.REDBRIDGE.GOV.UK AND SEARCH 'MHST'
OR GO TO LINKTR.EE/REDBRIDGEMHST

London Borough of Redbridge
#BREAKTHESTIGMA

October Half Term Holiday Club at WCHS



Autumn Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

Click here to Register



In the Autumn Term, we'll cover:

1. **How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated**
   - 15th September @6:00pm (BST)
2. **How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time**
   - 29th September @6:00pm (BST)
3. **How You Can Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**
   - 13th October @6:00pm (BST)
4. **How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**
   - 10th November @6:00pm (GMT)
5. **How to Help Your Child Study with ADHD**
   - 24th November @6:00pm (GMT)
6. **How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child**
   - 15th December @6:00pm (GMT)

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 our school!

Useful Links

FREE weekly fitness classes for girls aged 11-16





Popular Apps and Games Guide for Parents

Free Parent Webinar Series

elevate education



Little Kickers Free Trial at Woodford County High School