Woodford Weekly Bulletin



Issue No. 612
23rd October 2026

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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



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
26 November – Prizing Giving



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 Sixth Form (Key Stage 5), parents are required to call Miss Mamtora on 020 8506 2927 before 8.30 am on the day of absence.
Alternatively, parents may email 6formattendance@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk before 8.30am on the day of absence.



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

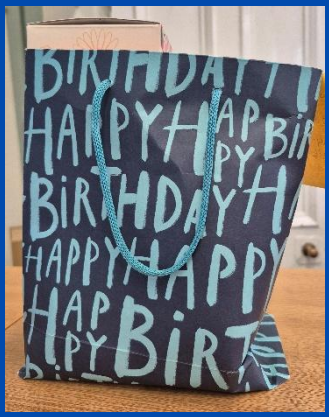
and continuing to build a strong partnership between home and school.

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.







Design & Technology



The Design & Technology team would like to share a project that our Year 9 students have been working on this term.

As part of a Pavilion Design Enterprise Project, students were challenged to design a pavilion for the WCHS grounds.

Working to a realistic design brief, they followed a design process similar to that used at GCSE, developing ideas, producing scale models and presenting final prototypes.

We have shortlisted seven outstanding pavilion designs - please see the next two pages showing the seven finalists' prototypes.

We have also invited a guest judge (Gamma) to select the winning design.

We will reveal the winning design after half term.

Design & Technology Year9
Autumn term 2026

PAVILION DESIGN COMPETITION
SHORTLISTED FINALISTS



No. 1



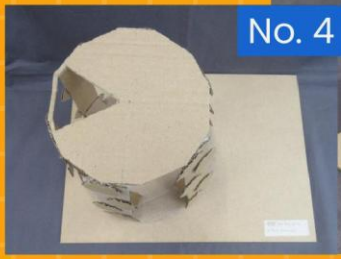


No. 2



No. 3





No. 4



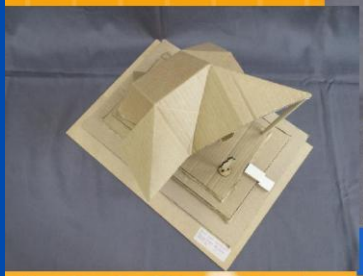
Design & Technology Year9

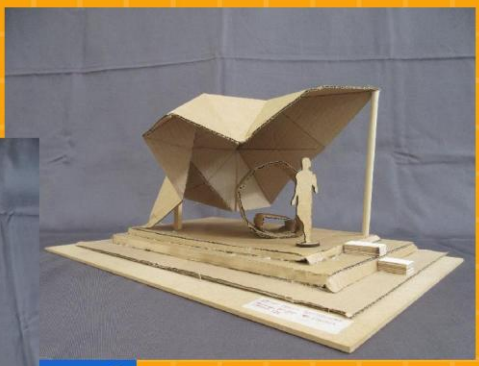
Autumn term 2026

No. 5

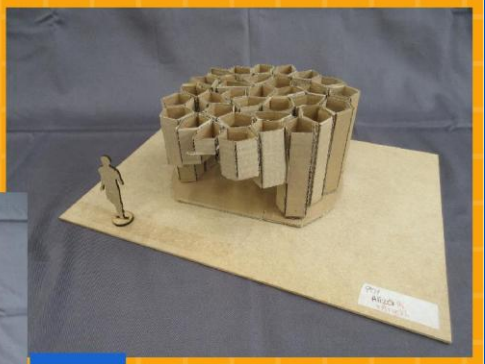








No.6





No.7

Cold Weather Days



PFA Donation

Great News!

We are pleased to confirm that the PFA has transferred **£600** to the school's account.

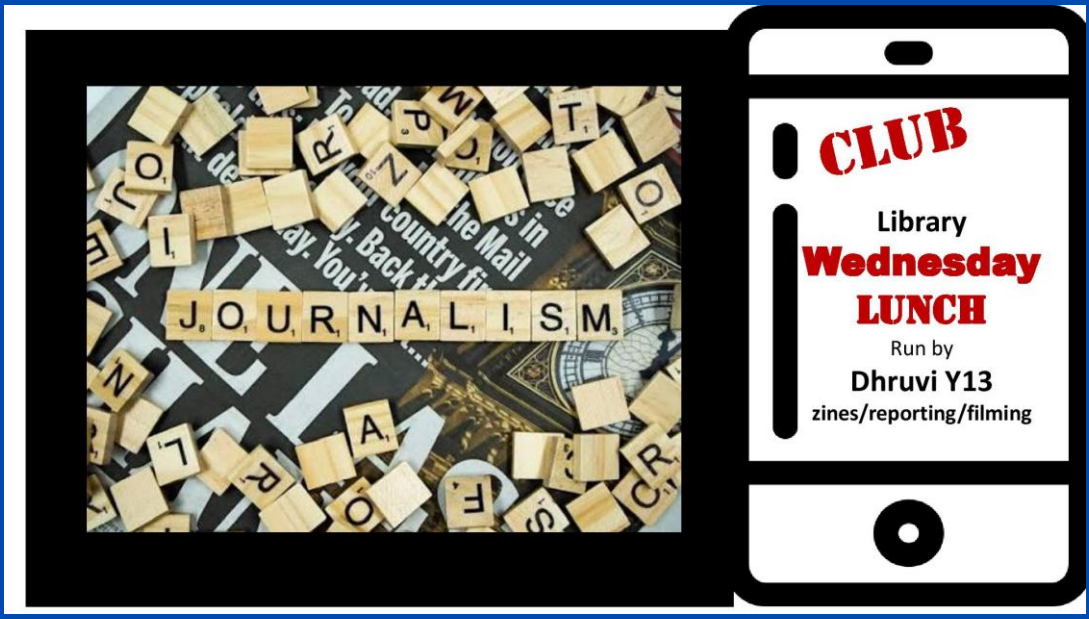
These funds were raised at the Summer Showcase and we are delighted to hear they will be put towards the **Art** and **Food** department.





New Lunchtime Club

Journalism Club has launched in the school library this week. Led by a sixth form student who was selected to take part in a Yale run training course for aspiring young journalists. Dhruvi (Y13) aims to share her passion for real news with the group. All students interested finding out more about getting published are welcome to join her in the school library, Wednesday lunchtimes.



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.

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

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

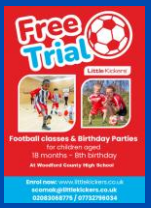




Popular Apps and Games Guide for Parents

Free Parent Webinar Series

elevate education



Little Kickers Free Trial at Woodford County High School

Redbridge Mental Health Support Team Free Webinars

