Woodford Weekly Bulletin



Issue No. 613
6th November 2026

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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

SPRING 2027		
Term	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Half-term	Monday 15 February 2027	Friday 19 February 2027
Term	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Inset Day	*Friday 29 January 2027*	



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
27 November – Early Closure

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 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.



EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE NOTICE

Important Please Note!

Friday 27 November

SCHOOL CLOSES EARLY AT

12:30PM

Friday 27 November

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to remind parents and carers that, as outlined in the school calendar, the school will close early on **Friday 27 November**. All students will be dismissed at **12:30pm**.



Extended Break

An extended break will take place to ensure that all students have the opportunity to purchase something to eat from the canteen should they wish.

Thank You

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.

House Drama

After many weeks of preparation, our annual House Drama Competition will take place next week. We are looking forward to seeing the hard work and creativity of all students involved.

Students participating in House Drama will need to bring any costumes, instruments and props to school on **Monday for the dress rehearsal**, and will also require them for the **school-day performances on Tuesday and Wednesday**, as well as the **evening performance on Thursday**.
As a large number of students are participating, tickets for the Thursday evening performance will be released in stages. Priority will be given to the parents and carers of participating students to ensure that every family has the opportunity to obtain at least one ticket. Some tickets will be available today, with additional tickets being released on Monday.

Arrangements for Thursday Evening

Students who wish to remain in school at the end of the day may sign into Homework Club. Those staying in school should bring a packed meal for the evening or purchase food at lunchtime. All students are strongly advised to bring a water bottle.
Students will be able to access their allocated House rooms from **5.00pm**. Parents and carers with tickets may also enter the Main Hall and take their seats from this time.
Parents and carers attending the performance are expected to remain for all four productions.
Students may only leave before the end of the final production if:

- They are being collected by a parent or carer who is **not** attending the performance; or
- They have permission to make their own way home.

Students leaving early will not be permitted to join the audience in the Main Hall. If you give permission for your child to leave before the end of the performances, please complete the following form:
Permission to Leave the Evening Performance of House Drama Early 2026

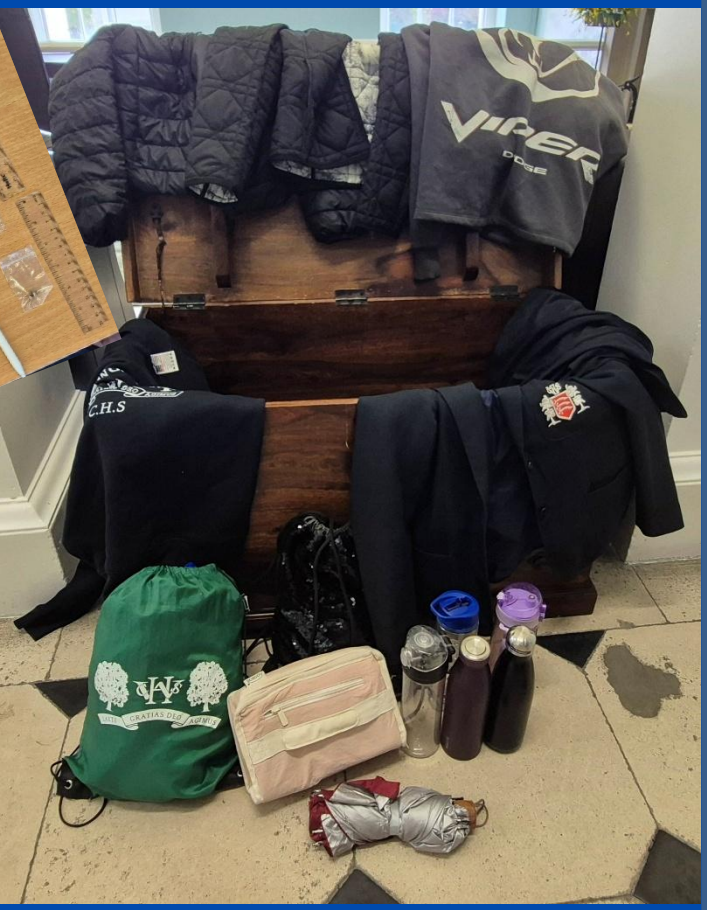
Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported students throughout the preparation process. We look forward to welcoming you and enjoying all four performances next week.

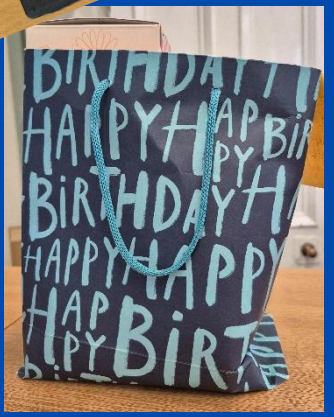
Lost Property...

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.







The 5-PENNY RACE

Congratulations to Highams winners of the 5p race

During last week's 5-penny race we have raised £1,195.11 For Leukaemia Research.
Thank you and well done to everyone who has donated money and taken part.





Leukaemia Research
TOGETHER AGAINST BLOOD CANCER



Cold Weather Days



Cut Your Carbon – November Challenge







CUT YOUR CARBON

Throughout November, we're challenging everyone to complete 9 small carbon-cutting activities at home with friends and family.





- ○ Make 3 evening meals plant-based across the month.



- ○ Make 4 journeys active across the month.



- ○ Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week.



- ○ Have a 'device-free' day.



- ○ Drop your heating by 1°C for a week.



- ○ Substitute 4 baths for 4 showers and limit them to 4 minutes.



- ○ Share 3 pieces of carbon-cutting advice.



- ○ Lower your washing machine temperature to 30°C for 3 washes across the month.



- ○ Opt for a refillable water bottle 3x a week across the month.

Drama Workshops – Frantic Assembly

We welcomed Frantic Assembly for the second of our visiting Drama practitioner workshops, designed to provide the students with the necessary skills, experience and exposure to succeed in their upcoming devising exam. Students were put through a rigorous workout before exploring a range of devising techniques and exercises, demonstrating the simplicity of Frantic's '*building blocks*' approach to creating material, and resulting in some breath-taking work. Actress and Frantic Assembly facilitator, Danielle, commented that it was, '*Amazing what you produced in just 20 minutes*' and that she '*loved the confidence you demonstrated when sharing work*.' She was also struck by the incredible focus our students exhibited throughout the workshop.

Students left the workshop feeling inspired and energised by the experience. Shareen reflected, *'I really enjoyed the Frantic Assembly workshop; it was fun, engaging and helped me develop my teamwork and physical theatre skills. I especially liked learning how movements can be used to communicate emotions and tell a story without words. I also enjoyed doing the lifts and the squeezes, it was quite cool to formulate ideas from that. It also helped me feel more confident when working with others and trying out new things.'* Whilst Heer added, '*I thoroughly enjoyed the Frantic Assembly workshop, which focused on physicality and movement. With the 2 hours that we had, we covered aspects of their productions including lifts (my favourite) and different exercises that link directly to their area of theatre. Using these building blocks, it really helped me understand Frantic Assembly's method of devising, and ways in how their process of creating can be broken into smaller areas. Overall, it was very entertaining and helped me recognise new ways in which physical theatre can be used to communicate emotions, and I hope to apply these techniques to my own devised performances to make them more expressive.*'

Woodford County's inaugural Drama GCSE cohort are now armed and fully equipped to take on the next stage of their course - devising their own pieces of Drama - in preparation for their Component 1 exam which will take place in the Spring term. We cannot wait to see what this highly creative group of students create.

If you are interested in seeing what drama has to offer, why not come along to Drama Club one lunchtime to find out? All year groups are catered for - see the posters around school for more information.

Mrs Mainwaring



Under 13 Football Team





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.

Careers Events for Parents

Investment20/20

Investment20/20, who support young people in finding out about career opportunities in investment management, are hosting a series of webinars to support parents & carers of young people making next step and career decisions to explore school/college leaver opportunities in investment management.

This free 30-minute online session will help parents and carers understand the career options available in investment management to young people after sixth form.

In just ***30 minutes***, parents and carers will:

- Learn about career opportunities in the industry
- Gain a better understanding of apprenticeship and trainee pathways
- Discover options available to those leaving school at the end of sixth form.

Date	Time	Registration link
Tuesday 24 November	11am – 11.30am	Registration - The Investment Association Services Ltd
Wednesday 25 November	4.15pm – 4.45pm	Registration - The Investment Association Services Ltd
Thursday 26 November	6.30pm – 7pm	Registration - The Investment Association Services Ltd

Please note:

- These sessions are not for young people. Investment20/20 works separately with schools to deliver workshops and activities for students.
- When you click the registration link, please choose the option 'skip and proceed as guest'.

Once registered, a confirmation email will be sent, with the Zoom link.

For more information contact : career.events@investment2020.org.uk

Free Online UK Medical Entry Workshop for Year 11/12 Students and Parents

Join Contour MedPrep on Sunday 8 November for a clear guide to the medical school entry process, hear from a live panel of current medical students, and to receive practical advice on staying motivated through preparing for the UCAT and beyond. Visit bit.ly/ucat-cdi to claim your free place. Hosted by Contour MedPrep, the World's most successful UCAT Preparation Program. For any questions, please email medprep@contoureducation.com.au.

Deloitte

Are you a student in Years 9–13 looking to learn more about exciting career paths? Join us for our webinar! Parents, carers, guardians, teachers and anyone supporting a young person with their career choices are warmly invited to attend too.

Join Deloitte, one of the Big Four professional services firms and a leading employer in Business and Finance, for our exclusive Women in Business: Early Careers webinar.

Joining Instructions
Date: Thursday 12 November 2026
Time: 5:30pm-7:00pm

To attend, click here and complete the registration form to reserve your spot.

Joining link: This is a virtual event held on Zoom, the Zoom link will be shared once you have signed up to attend. Please keep an eye on your mailbox so you don't miss it! if you don't receive the link, please check the junk folder of your inbox.

Attendees will:

• Meet our Women in Business and hear leaders, apprentices and graduates share their Deloitte journeys.
• Learn more about the application process and get practical hints and tips to help you succeed.

• Explore our Early Careers programmes and discover which opportunities you may be eligible to apply for:

- **Years 9–11:** Explore Work — a self-paced virtual programme to explore careers and build practical skills.
- **Year 12:** Career Shapers & ASPIRE - insight programme to learn about life at Deloitte.
- **School and college leavers:** Entry Level & Higher Apprenticeships

Free Parent Resource

We are excited to share our FREE online learning session, Understanding and Supporting Anxiety. Led by SENDATS BAPT accredited and BACP registered Play and Creative Therapist – Lee Smith, this presentation guides parents through what anxiety is: how anxiety affects the body, and how they can support their child with anxiety. Parents can access this free training using this link – Anxiety Parent Workshop.



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

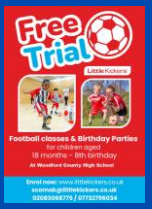




Popular Apps and Games Guide for Parents

Free Parent Webinar Series

elevate education



Little Kickers Free Trial at Woodford County High School

Redbridge Mental Health Support Team Free Webinars

