



Woodford County High School for Girls

Bulletin

Issue No. 371 7th September 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

On this gloriously sunny September day it's my pleasure to welcome you back into the WCHS community at the start of a new academic year. I hope your family were in good health over the summer and found opportunities for relaxation and recreation. In no fewer than seven assemblies on Friday I spoke to students about our optimism that the year ahead would allow us to see a gradual return to the fuller school life we associate with Woodford: to events and activities, competitions and visits. I also, of course, rehearsed with them the now familiar Covid-19 safety principles which give us our best chance of a gradual return to something nearing normality. Having shared the updated risk assessment with you and written to you on the subject last week, I won't re-iterate those protocols now.

August saw the publication of public examination results which, for the second year running, were based on Centre Assessed Grades. Students in Years 11 and 13 demonstrated a great deal of resilience and focus in preparing for assessments. The work involved for teachers and school administrators was enormous but the levels of professionalism on which we all rely here saw our process endorsed by the examination boards and an efficient operation in place here mid-summer. Students at both levels were rightly delighted with their results: 81% of entries at A-Level were awarded A* - B grades and 89% of GCSE entries gained grades 9-7.

Students were exhorted on Friday to get into the early good habits this term which will ease their path and put their goals for the year within reach. I thank you in advance for your support of their efforts and I look forward to seeing what, in partnership, we can support them to achieve.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher

Availability of Home Test Kits

The high transmissibility of the Delta virus variant means that, to limit numbers isolating, it is more important than ever to identify cases early, before the infected individual is in school potentially passing the virus on to others.

We therefore seek your assistance and encourage all students to continue twice weekly testing during the remainder of this month. Students will have been issued with a new box of test kits for this purpose following round 2 of mass onsite testing.

We would also ask that you continue to report your test results whether negative, positive or Void to both the NHS via the NHS website <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

In addition, please report the result to the school via our Microsoft form [Lateral Flow Test Home Reporting - STUDENTS \(September 2021\)](#)

Contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are notified you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

All other persons should isolate for the required number of days

Should a member of your household test positive for COVID 19. You should take a PCR test even if you have no symptoms. Students should not attend school whilst they await the result of the PCR Test. If the results are negative, students can return to school but continue to take regular Lateral Flow Tests whilst members of their household with COVID are isolating. If the PCR test result is positive, students should stay at home for the required isolation period.

Sheila Fonseca

School Business Manager

Senior
choir



is back!

**First rehearsal: Wednesday 8th September,
1.25pm in SF1**

*After the first week, rehearsals will be every
Thursday at 1.25pm*

All students in Years 10-13 welcome – bring your
lunch and eat beforehand

**We will be starting by practising our
traditional School Birthday blessing – then
moving onto something new.**

RETURN Your Library Books



LIBRARY

Please return all Library books
borrowed last term. Our records
show that we have a number of
seriously overdue books on loan.

If you are unsure of the status of your
Library account see me in the Library
to discuss.

Many thanks,
Danielle Horn
Librarian
Currently reading Fen



We have witnessed for ourselves and had numerous complaints from members of the public about dangerous, illegal and inconsiderate parking in the roads around the school.

The High Road is a very busy road and drivers not giving due attention to the Highway Code are very likely to cause accidents.

Please be sure not to block access to Haven House or to Lodge Villas off of the High Road.

Please note that there is a yellow line on the High Road.

Please be sure not to stop as soon as you turn into Charter Road (from the High Road) as this blocks traffic back



*There are still a few places
available for after school ac-
tivities, starting next week:*

Calligraphy-Year 8- 2 places

Henna Art Year 8 -3 places

Drama Year 8 -1 place

Dance Year 8- 1 place

Arts & Crafts 4 places

*Cakes & Cookies Year 8- 3
places*

*Basic Cooking Year 8 4
places*

Please book by the 10th Sep-



Music Extra-curricular Timetable



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Community Choir IBO (SF1) 13:30-14:20	Junior Band IBO (SF1) 13:50- 14:40	Jazz Band KHN (SF1) 13:25-14:15 GCSE/A-level support IBO (SF2) 13:25- 14:05	Senior Choir KHA (SF1) 13:25- 14:05 Junior Choir Conference Room 13:50- 14:40 Theory IBO (SF2) 13:30-14:20	Orchestra IBO (SF1) 13:30-14:20
After school	String orchestra IBO (SF1) 15:45-16:30 Brass Ensemble (SF2) 15:45-16:15	Chamber groups IBO (SF1) 15:45-16:30			

Music activities will be starting on the week of Monday 13th September apart from Senior choir which will start rehearsing on Thursday 9th. I would highly encourage people to attend as we have a wide variety of ambitious works, with all involved performing at our Christmas Concert on Thursday 7th December.

A brief description of musical activities:

Community Choir: This is open to all regardless of experience and will concentrate primarily on aural learning, involving spirituals and Christmas Carols this term.

String Orchestra: Open to all string players from grade 3 level and tackling classical repertoire.

Brass Ensemble: A visiting brass specialist from the Redbridge centre will be taking these, open to all brass players.

Junior Band: This ensemble is an excellent introduction to music at the school, available to all instruments and appropriate from novices up to roughly grade 3 equivalent standard.

Chamber groups: These are small ensembles which the music department will supervise and coach alongside proposed initiatives from students. I highly encourage anyone interested to speak to a member of the music department ahead of time to allow for planning.

Jazz Band: Mainly for years 10-13 instrumentalists, grade 4/5+ level - woodwind, brass, and rhythm section players (guitar, piano, bass, percussion) We play a range of swing, funk and pop tunes; encouraging learning to improvise confidently.

GCSE/A-level support: This is an ongoing class to aid any students taking the GCSE or A-level music course.

Senior Choir: A choir for all students in years 10-13, singing a wide variety of music from pop to jazz to classical. The Senior Choir performs at some of the school's traditional events – including the School Birthday coming up soon.

Junior Choir: A specialist vocal coach from the Redbridge Music Centre will be attending to lead this. It's an excellent opportunity for those in years 7-9 to attend regardless of prior experience.



School Photos

Dear Parents

School photos will be taking place Friday 10 September, for years 7, 10 and 12. Please ensure your daughters come to school, neat and tidy with their hair off their face, in correct uniform, including long sleeve shirt, correct hairband and correct hijab where applicable and no incorrect jewellery.

Once the photos have been processed, they can be ordered **online** using the ID number on the form given to your daughter.



Year 8

HPV Immunisations



Vaccination UK will be in school administering the first **Year 8** HPV Immunisations will now take place on:

WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2021.

PLEASE READ: Vaccination UK will contact you, if no form is received.

There is a section on the form for you to give or not give consent. By not returning the form, this will not be considered as not giving consent, hence the UK Vaccination team will contact you if no HPV form is received.

Please ensure your daughter hands in her consent form no later than 9th September.

ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION

What Parents need to know about DISCORD (Communication app)



What is Discord?

Discord is a chat room app commonly used by gamers, it is used to talk to other players while playing games. Users can send direct messages swap tips and advice with other players in game-specific servers (similar to online forums). Some games, like Fortnite and PUBG, have official verified Discords for fans to talk about the game.

Most significantly, you do not have to download an app to use it as it can be accessed via any browser and is free to use.

This is being shared with you to make you aware that the Discord social networking tool is geared towards adults, not children and young people.

[Click on this link for more detailed information from Defend Young Minds](#)

[Parents' Ultimate Guide to Discord](#)



Official
age rating

Rita Del Giudice
Network Manager



With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.



What parents need to know about **DISCORD**



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of inappropriate content being shared. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



SEXUAL IMAGERY

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of sexual imagery being shared. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cyberbullying. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



HIDDEN CHARGES

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of hidden charges. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cybercrime. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



STRANGER DANGER

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of stranger danger. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



Top Tips to Protect Your Child



1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED

With over 14 million daily users, Discord is one of the most popular communication tools for gamers. It allows you to create or join what are known as 'servers', where different users can talk in groups via text message or voice call. There is also the option to send direct messages and make video calls.

Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS

To help protect your child, make sure they are using a secure password. You should also ensure they are not sharing their password with anyone else.

Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cyberbullying. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.

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4 REPORT & BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cyberbullying. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.

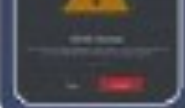
Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cyberbullying. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.

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6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are young. This means there is a risk of cyberbullying. Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.

Parents should monitor their child's activity and ensure they are not exposed to anything inappropriate.



7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING

Parents should encourage their child to turn on safe messaging. This will help protect their child from receiving inappropriate messages.



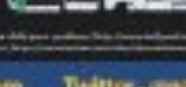
8 MEET OUR EXPERT

Meet our expert, a professional with experience in online safety. She will provide advice on how to protect your child from online risks.



9 GET MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website for more information on online safety. We have a range of resources to help you protect your child.



10 FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube for the latest news and advice on online safety.



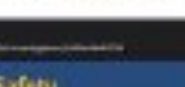
11 CONTACT US

Contact us if you have any questions or need help. We will be happy to assist you.



12 THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this guide. We hope it has been helpful. Please visit our website for more information.



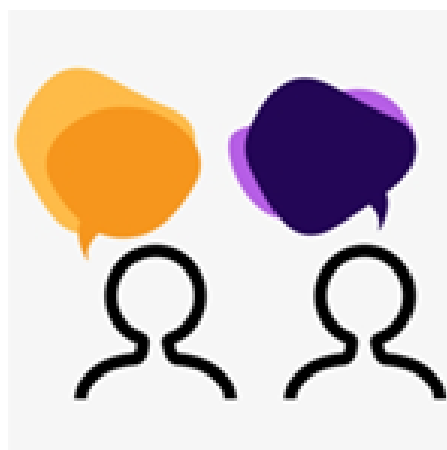


Educational Psychology Parent Helpline

Would you like to talk to someone about difficulties that you or your child are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic? Do you need some support with creating a daily routine for your child? Are you concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing? Are you struggling to motivate your children at home or manage sibling relationships? The Educational Psychology Service are here to support you.

The Redbridge Educational Psychology Service have a **dedicated telephone helpline for parents/carers** where you will receive advice and guidance from a professional psychologist.

The EPS helpline is available for all parents and carers - your child does not need to be known to the EPS, does not need to have a special educational need or additional support within school. We welcome calls from all parents and carers.



EPS Helpline

Telephone: 077 41 3 31 009

Opening hours:

Every Wednesday 10am - 4pm

Webpage: <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/schools/educational-psychology-service/>



FIND: [Educational Psychology Service](#)

@Redbridge_aep Twitter account.

Dates for the Diary

AUTUMN 2021		
Term	Friday 3 September	Friday 22 October
Half-term	Monday 25 October	Friday 29 October
Term	Monday 1 November	Friday 17 December
Non Contact Day	Friday 8 October	
SPRING 2022		
Term	Tuesday 4 January 2022	Friday 11 February 2022
Half-term	Monday 14 February 2022	Friday 18 February 2022
Term	Monday 21 February 2022	Friday 1 April 2022
Non Contact Day	Tuesday 8 March 2022	
SUMMER 2022		
Term	Tuesday 19 April 2022	Friday 27 May 2022
Half-term	Monday 30 May 2022	Friday 3 June 2022
Term	Monday 6 June 2022	Friday 22 July 2022
Non Contact Day	Wednesday 29 June 2022	



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 29 September—School Birthday (102nd)
 Monday 11 to Friday 15 September—House Charity Week (Newton)
 Tuesday 19 October—Sixth Form A Level Options Day
 Tuesday 19 October—Sixth Form Open Evening