



Woodford County High School for Girls

Bulletin

Issue No. 374 28th September 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

Initial information: Covid-19 vaccination first dose to be made available to 12-15 year olds in the U.K.

You will be aware of the government's decision last week to offer one dose of the Covid-19 vaccination to young people aged 12 – 15 years. The vaccinations will be offered to students in their secondary schools in the same way as other school age vaccinations are. The *School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS)* will be managing the consent process for the NHS and parents will be provided with a contact number by them in case of any queries prior to the vaccination day. All parents or those with parental responsibility will be asked for consent. It is important that this decision should be made jointly with the child concerned and that the child, as the potential recipient of the vaccination, is well informed. The wishes of the child, should they differ from the parent / guardian, will be heeded and in such a circumstance the health care professional will actively seek to reach agreement between parent and child. Further information both about consent and about vaccination roll out will be provided to parents when available. Of course, injections will be administered by trained health care staff.

We have limited information in school at present and what we have is subject to change. However given the media focus on this matter currently it seems appropriate to give you a broad outline of what we anticipate. The NHS information leaflet for children and young people is attached

This 12 – 15 vaccination programme is to be rolled out in two stages. Woodford students (like the majority of students nationally) will be offered the vaccination in Phase 2 of the programme which is scheduled to start, at the earliest, from 11 November 2021. To be eligible for the vaccination, students need to be 12 or older on the day vaccines are offered here. (There will be a follow-up offer made to any children who miss the first vaccination at school e.g. because they have not yet turned 12 or because of ill-health on the day. It is anticipated that this will be delivered outside of school settings.)

The main purpose of the COVID-19 secondary schools' vaccination programme is to provide protection to the children who are vaccinated and to reduce the disruption to face-to-face disruption this winter. It is hoped that high uptake will reduce the chance of outbreaks of Covid-19 in school and greatly reduce absenteeism due to Covid-19 infection / isolation.

Further detail will be provided to you when made available to us. In the meantime, I'd ask you to start discussing the matter with your child.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jo Pomeroy

Headteacher

Please see attachment 1

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 COID are isolating. If the PCR test result is positive, students should stay at home for the required isolation period.

Sheila Fonseca
School Business Manager

USE OF PRIVATE TUTORS

We are aware that many parents choose to use private tutors for their daughters while they are studying at the school. This is not a practice we would encourage for the academic subjects we teach, although we appreciate that in certain circumstances it may be useful.

Whilst there are many good tutors, and it is clearly for you as parents to make this decision, there are a number of educational reasons for avoiding using tutors for regular academic subjects if possible:

- Many tutors focus on how to pass examinations rather than the teaching of a subject in its broader sense. This narrow approach impoverishes the curriculum.
- Students who are tutored in subjects outside school are often less focused in class, which is not only detrimental to their own studies, but can also be a distraction for others.
- Tutoring takes up time that might be more constructively utilised elsewhere – for example in taking part in extra-curricular activities, completing homework for non-tutored subjects or simply allowing pupils some “down time”.
- It can damage enjoyment of the subject: girls simply get fed up with over-exposure to a subject.
- It can create an unhealthy over-reliance on tutoring. This makes it more difficult for girls to develop their independence, which is an absolutely vital attribute as they progress through the school and then go on to university.
- It inhibits creativity. Because of the narrow focus of much tutoring, those who are over-reliant on it find it difficult to think laterally and problem solve.
- Many tutors are not especially expert in their subject. We frequently have to deal with girls who have been taught something that is simply wrong. If this is not detected early it can be difficult to get them to “unlearn” it.
- We have a well-rounded curriculum taught by expert teachers. In the vast majority of cases, tutoring is simply unnecessary.

Should you decide that you would still like to employ a tutor for your daughter, please note that the school cannot make any recommendations. We also do not allow our own teachers to tutor girls who are studying here even if they do not teach them.

If you employ a tutor you must, of course, assure yourself of their suitability to work with children and of their qualifications for the task in hand. Attached to this letter is some safeguarding guidance from the London Borough of Redbridge which you might find useful.

Yours faithfully,

C. Jenkins,

Deputy Headteacher

WWW.WOODFORD.REDBRIDGE.SCH.UK

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@WCHS_UK



@WoodfordCHS_UK

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

While most parents allow their child to use Discord, they may not be aware of the risks. This is because the platform is designed to be used by gamers and is not intended for children. It is important to be aware of the risks and to take steps to protect your child.



SEXUAL IMAGERY

Discord has a large community of users, many of whom are adults. This means that there is a risk of sexual imagery being shared on the platform. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cyberbullying, which is a form of bullying that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



HIDDEN CHARGES

Discord is a free platform, but there are some hidden charges. For example, there is a charge for premium servers, which are servers that have more features. It is important to be aware of these charges and to take steps to protect your child.



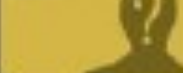
RISK OF CYBERCRIME

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cybercrime, which is a crime that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



STRANGER DANGER

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to stranger danger, which is a risk of being harmed by a stranger. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



Top Tips to Protect Your Child



1 BEWARE OF WHAT'S SHARED

While most parents allow their child to use Discord, they may not be aware of the risks. This is because the platform is designed to be used by gamers and is not intended for children. It is important to be aware of these risks and to take steps to protect your child.



2 IMPROVE SECURITY SETTINGS

To help protect your child, make sure they set strong passwords. You should also make sure they set strong privacy settings. This will help to protect their account and their information.



3 CHECK THEIR FRIEND LIST

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cyberbullying, which is a form of bullying that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



4 REPORT & BLOCK SUSPICIOUS USERS

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cybercrime, which is a crime that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



5 BEWARE OF NSFW CONTENT

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cybercrime, which is a crime that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



6 SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

Discord is a social platform, which means that users can interact with each other. This can lead to cyberbullying, which is a form of bullying that takes place online. It is important to be aware of this risk and to take steps to protect your child.



7 TURN ON SAFE MESSAGING

You should encourage your child to turn on safe messaging. This will help to protect their account and their information.



Meet our expert

Dr. Jane Widdows is a leading expert in child psychology and has worked with a number of children's charities. She is a member of the British Psychological Society and has published research on child psychology.





Woodford County
High School for Girls

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS BROCHURE November – December 2021

KNITTING, COOKING, ARTS & CRAFT, VOCAL COACHING, DRAMA & MORE.

Dear parents, please keep an eye out for the new brochure, coming out at the end of this week.

Year 7 will have preferential bookings before the rest of the school.

Activities will payable via parentpay, on a first come first served basis, and early booking is advisable.



Thank you

Ms Dawson

After school clubs co-ordinator.



Music Extra-curricular Timetable



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Junior Choir Conference Room 13:50- 14:35	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 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			

These music sessions will be on weekly, girls should bring their own instrument and no registration is required for the sessions.

REDBRIDGE MUSIC SERVICE

Remind your child to check their music timetable for their lessons , the timetables have been sent out. The information is also on the notice board by the hall and in the Jubilee rooms.

Music activities will be starting this week 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:

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.

Theory: These sessions provide a great boost in confidence for those who wish to understand the theoretical side of music not only to supplement music classes across all years, but also for aiding instrumental progress. Coaching will be based on ABRSM graded books, and will include anyone wishing to do their grade 5 theory exam, which is required for instrumental grade 6 and higher.

Orchestra: This is the main instrumental body of the school and is open to all relevant instruments of grade 4 equivalent standard or higher.

Redbridge Music Service – Individual Music Lessons

Can parents please remind their daughters to check their lesson timetables and to make sure they attend their lessons.

All students have been given their timetables

They are also on display on the RMS noticeboard by the Main Hall, in the Jubilee Rooms and on the notice board by the music rooms.

Should they have any problem locating these they can speak to Mr. Ehigie in the office or email music@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk

Please be aware that timetables are not given out to parents.

Thank you

Ms. Wightman

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Parents **MUST NOT** drop their children off or pick them up by pulling into the main entrance gate at the front of the school. This entrance is for staff and school visitors only and not a drop off zone.

Parents are also stopping on the yellow zig-zag markings and double yellow lines on Woodford Green High Road which causes traffic problems on this very busy main road.

Parents **MUST NOT** wait, park or block access to and from neighbouring residential roads in particular Lodge Villas on the Woodford High Road.

Additionally parents are parking on the double yellow lines on The Charter Road and have even been observed pulling entirely onto the pavement at the junction of this road and Chingford Lane.

If you cannot safely drop or pick up your daughter on The Charter Road, parking is available at Sir James Hawkey Hall around the corner on The Terrace.

We appreciate traffic can be very busy at the start and end of the school day, but **for the safety of all students, staff, parents and local residents, parents MUST park safely and considerably in marked bays or where parking restrictions otherwise allow.**



WHAT IS LYG33?

LYG33 is an exciting project designed to empower young Londoners, giving them a voice to influence the future of London Youth Games and other key issues impacting young Londoners and sport.



WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for young people aged between 14-21 from across London's 33 boroughs, who will be selected from a range of different backgrounds to represent the city's rich diversity. Whether you have competed or volunteered at London Youth Games, or maybe you have heard about the Games and would love to be involved – we are looking for you!

HOW DO I APPLY?

You will need to fill out a short application [here](#). Applications are open until Friday 24th September. We will be in touch with everyone who applies on the week beginning 4th October.

WHAT WILL LYG33 DO?

As a member of LYG33 you will attend sessions (virtually and face-to-face) to discuss different elements of London Youth Games. There will also be rewarding experiences with inspirational speakers, opportunities to attend special events and the chance to take your feedback right to the top.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Lucy on lucy@londonyouthgames.org. We look forward to receiving your application.



"When I grow up, I want to be a superhero!"

London Borough of
Redbridge



Foster for Redbridge

0208 708 6068

fostering@redbridge.gov.uk

Kalimba Club



Learn to play
the kalimba, no
previous
experience of
music needed!

For: All years
When: Tuesdays,
13:30-14:00
Where: SF2
First session:
Tuesday 14th
September



Run by Rakhi and Karis (11D)

In the new Kalimba Club, you can learn how to play the kalimba- a small instrument of African origin- also known as the 'thumb piano'. No prior experience is needed and beginners are welcome! It will run on Tuesday lunchtimes every week and we will play music of all kind, beginning with the "Lord of the rings" theme.

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

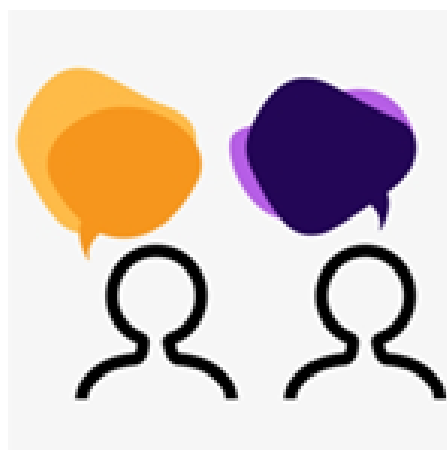


Educational Psychology Parent Helpline

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 October—House Charity Week (Newton)
 Tuesday 19 October—Sixth Form A Level Options Day
 Tuesday 19 October—Sixth Form Open Evening
 Thursday 21 October—Music Recital Evening