

Woodford's PFA: The baton is passed on

The positive influence of our PFA in school is visible wherever you look. A friendly and energetic core group provide support to many of the calendared events which give colour and texture to the school year. They ensure a warm welcome for visiting parents, often providing the refreshments that make visits to school more comfortable and enjoyable. They put on events that enable students to socialise together after hours – a really positive contribution to wellbeing. Equally the PFA's fundraising is evident in many areas of the site and many aspects of the school's work. The restrictions necessitated by the recent pandemic put a halt on such activity for a while but the PFA has been active throughout 2022. A priority for the last committee, many of whose daughters have now passed right through the school, was succession planning. I'm really grateful to the team for their determination to raise the profile of the organisation post-lockdown and to ensure it was in a viable state before they passed the baton forward. I add my thanks to those of the new Chair and I wish the newly elected officials well as they assume responsibility. WCHS parents are all, automatically, members of the PFA. If you don't have time to take on a committee post, your practical support at an individual event would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you.

Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher

New Chair of the PFA: Iffat Hayat introduces herself

As the new Chair of the PFA I would like firstly to thank Farina Sharif and the rest of the PFA for electing me into this role. A huge thanks to Farina for all she has done as Chair and the invaluable support she has provided me with over the last few months. I joined the PFA as a committee member at the AGM in March 2022. Since then I have had the pleasure to help run various events to raise funds for the school. My background is of a Secondary school teacher of French and Spanish, and I am currently working as supply teacher. As a Parent at Woodford, I feel very honored to be involved with the school's extra curricular events. My daughter joined the school in September 2021, and she is now in Year 8. When my daughter joined it felt strange, as I did not have the opportunity to see inside the school so it was a cheeky way in for me to have a look around. Raising funds is, of course, the main aim of the PFA, but for me personally, it gives me great joy to interact with the girls and I feel it's very important to spread this message to other parents and encourage them to join the PFA. It is essentially to enhance the girls' overall school experience. I am aware of the challenges involved with taking on the role and I have ideas to develop and fortify this wonderful PFA. The school would greatly benefit now more than ever because of reduced government funding. Hopefully, with the recruitment of more enthusiastic and energetic parents and the implementation of the new ideas and ever-improving organisation, we will ensure a bright future for the PFA of WCHS.

Mrs Iffat Hayat, December 2022



WCHS PFA Annual General Meeting

30th November 2022 at 7pm

Room N1,

Woodford County High School for Girls

Attendees:

Farina Sharif, Chair (FS)

Aneela Ahmed, Vice Chair (AA)

Laetitia Dumbura, Treasurer (LD)

Caroline Roberts, Secretary (CR)

Iffat Hayat, Committee Member (IH)

Fatimah Rofe, Committee Member (FR)

Shaista Dar (SD)

Jo Pomeroy, Head Teacher

Colin Jenkins, Deputy Head Teacher

Apologies:

Rehana Ali

Gavin Cutler

1. The Chair, Farina Sharif, made a vote of thanks to Aneela Ahmed for all her hard work running events, which was seconded by Jo Pomeroy.
2. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
3. FS gave the Chair's report. There had been a request for this meeting to be hybrid. This might be considered in the future, but was difficult to arrange at short notice.
FS welcomed all attendees. She explained that the PFA is a registered charity and needs to adhere to Charity Commission guidelines re: governance of financial matters and election of members into key roles.

PFA arranged many events pre covid /activities that also involve the girls and enhance their experience at WCHS including: Cake sales, Ice lolly sales, Sleep Over, Movie night and Disco night, as well as other things like Boot sales and events for new parents. Funds raised pre covid were on average 11-13k per annum.

Previous years PFA made heavy investment into school - £25k in the Innovation Lab; redecoration of the main hall, Food Tech equipment, instruments for Music department; sports equipment; Greek amphitheatre and the statues for centenary. This year we have given £15k for new resources for Art & Product Design to coincide with the refurbishment of their teaching block Summer 2022.

Supreme effort and commitment from 6-8 PFA volunteers + excellent team effort involving Ms Pomeroy and Mr Jenkins and teaching/support staff and caretakers but sadly over the course of the pandemic this had veered off due to key parents leaving and no new joiners during covid.

Income generation has reduced due to lack of events during covid restriction and smaller active PFA membership (as above). We have also struggled finding parent helpers, but FS was pleased to report that this has now re-gained momentum. An ideas brainstorming session was held with new parent joiners, but we have yet to see any of the ideas taken forward. The suggestion now is that parents only suggest ideas that they're willing to take forward themselves due to limited availability of helpers.

The Jubilee Fund was the main activity since lockdown but again numbers have dropped. The selling of souvenirs from the centenary has generated some revenue but sales are low and we need to try and sell the merchandise we have within the next six months.

We had a *Meet the PFA* event in September that Chair and Vice Chair hosted and the Headteacher and Deputy Head attended and we were able to deal with what the PFA do and encourage more parents to be more active. We got some support for PFA and recruited some new parents who have been invaluable to the success of the last few events. The House Drama sales / Raffle were purely run by new parents and the movie night has had fresh input that has allowed it to become such a huge revenue contributor.

We have had a very successful team of new parents helping at the year 7 event, at the House Drama, which has a great raffle, and the most recent Movie Night which raised funds of £2000, which has never previously been reached, this was due to some fund matching from other organisations and certainly something we must consider exploring to boost the fundraising going forward.

FS also highlighted that Cake sales are back and the PFA have been supporting the Staff Band -

Elections were important tonight to allow committee members to be selected

Events for next year so far include an International Evening in late February in which we will be collaborating with school to put on a great event.

FS said that she was stepping down this year as she had been in committee since 2018 as Secretary and then Chair. It has been challenging to keep going during the pandemic and she was grateful to Naureen Barlas, Aneela Ahmed, Caroline Roberts Laetitia Dumbura, and more recently Iffat Hayat and Rehana Ali for all the support they have given her as committee members.

FS thanked Ms Pomeroy and all the teachers that have helped put on the events in the last five years and said that we should encourage parents to take on roles in the committee, especially while their children are in the KS3 part of the School, as this is when they get their children most benefits from it. FS will continue to support any parents on the PFA as needed.

4. JP expressed the school's gratitude for the money donated to support building upgrade. It was noted that we still require someone to do the theatre tickets. The librarian Mrs Horn has offered assistance and the PFA will contact her.
5. Treasurer's Report: LD gave the report, covering up to end of July 2022. There has been little activity but the PFA managed to raise approximately £3,000. The activity is now picking up. The Jubilee Fund raised about £1,000 – this is much lower than usual, as it is normally 50-60 parents. Currently we have about 33 parents. We have a challenge occasionally with winners, if people move and don't promptly supply the new addresses. When the time lapse is significant the winnings are invested back into the fund with agreement – this was confirmed by the Committee. Cake sales and ice lolly sales had performed well. LD noted we are insured as a PFA by *Parentkind*. £15,000 was donated to the school this year. At the FYE 2022, we had £18,000 in the bank, which has now grown to £23,000. Sarah Boud had the idea for Art packs and put them together. This has been very popular and made £260 profit, with sales still going. A summer event made £195 profit on souvenir sales, and the House Drama Raffle was very popular, raising more than £300 on its own. £270 was made from refreshment sales on the Open Evening. Up to end of October, we have raised £2,500. Our payments are slow with cheque signing, but now looking at online payments, as we have online access to the bank. The disco ticket sales have done well. The lunchtime concert for Christmas is staffed with volunteers.
6. Jo Pomeroy presented the Head Teacher's statement and acknowledged the difficulties of operating with Covid, which we do not have to do now, and emphasised how the events also brought parents together and provided enjoyable social experiences for the students. This can address the disconnect with school since the pandemic. It adds to the experience of pupils with the events that are run. In December we have concerts and pantomime, and other events. JP talked about some of the other, diverse educational offers in the school at the moment, all the usual on site events and an ongoing and ambitious programme of virtual events. Year 10 had a Product Design initiative, designing and making a chair, and there were other cooking events, and a medical event. Year 13 are planning their Winter Ball. There is high demand for school trips abroad since they resumed in July 2022.
7. Future events – FS spoke about the International Event. CJ has put it on the radar of the staff, and planning will start just after Christmas. The first International Evening in 2020 had been very successful. FS would contact one interested parent, but more volunteers are always needed. In 2023 there will probably be movie nights and cake sales as before. JP said that Aneela in the front office was PFA contact about financial matters, year groups should go to the relevant KS administrator, and Ildiko could help with getting things into the bulletin. PFA items should go out on Tuesdays, so copy should arrive the day before. Meeting dates to be decided.
8. Jubilee Fund Draw was made.
9. Election of officers: Chair nomination: - Iffat Hayat. Fatimah Rofo as Vice Chair. LD is happy to continue as Treasurer. CR remaining as Secretary. Shaista Dar (SD) as Committee Member.
10. AOB – none.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**



Thursday 8th December is WCHS Christmas
Jumper Day!

£2.00**

Wear a **CHRISTMAS JUMPER*** with your **non-uniform**
and help raise money for Save the Children

*Christmas Jumper OR Customise a jumper!



** Parent Pay is open! Please donate your £2.00 via parent pay

Hot Chocolate CONES



BUY FOR YOURSELF
OR FOR A FRIEND



ONLY £1.50
FOR THE CHARITY CRISIS

VEGETARIAN
MARSHMALLOWS
&
MALTEASERS
INCLUDED



PURCHASE VIA PARENTPAY
DEADLINE TO BUY: 7 DECEMBER

Once you have made the payment on ParentPay, please fill out the
MS Form by clicking [here](#).

Candy Cane Service

This Christmas, buy a cute candy cane or Christmas sweet cone with your own personalised message, Mean Girls style. Whether it's for your friends, your family, or even yourself, join in this festive fun and buy a candy cane. All proceeds go towards Crisis Charity.



Candy canes are £1.50

Sweet Cones are £2.00

Sit back, relax, and watch it be delivered to your form room...

Customise your candy cane through the MS form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BjIMpZ53ZEe-5UhLJZJqNuFqB5_mSyNCmQXNIw3KIBpUMDdKSTZCSThJOVhXSEJXUk9DWTNFnzM3US4u

DEADLINE: 14TH DECEMBER 2022

PARENT SURVEY

Dear Parent / Carer

Having recently reviewed our uniform policy, (noting changes to our PE Kit to allow parents to shop around), we are now turning our attention to two related matters:

1. procuring a second uniform supplier to support choice and a level of price comparison
2. the feasibility of making second hand uniform available

We are seeking your opinions by asking you to complete a short survey with regard to uniform. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and is available until midnight tonight, Tuesday 6 December

We would also like to invite interested parents to a focus group at the school on Thursday 15 December 5-6pm

Please click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Sheila Fonseca

School Business Manager

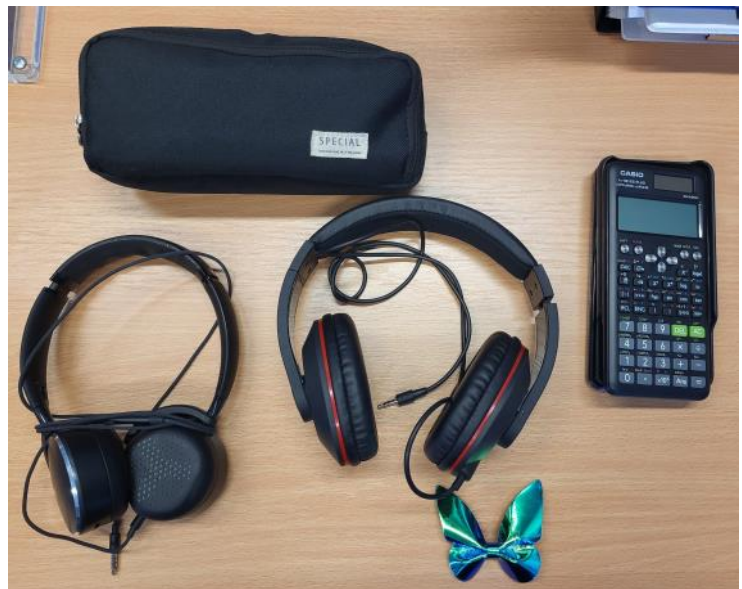


LOST PROPERTY

These items were handed in to reception this week.

If you recognise anything please come and collect it.

Thank you



COATS IN SCHOOL FAQs

There still appears to be some confusion around the issue of coats in school. Hopefully this FAQs sheet will help to answer your questions.

Rules

- Students are allowed to wear coats into school, but must place them in lockers at the start of the day.
- If they wish to wear them at break and lunchtime they are allowed to do so, but must collect them from their lockers at the start and end of both of those periods of time.
- Girls in Key Stage 3 are also allowed to take coats with them to period 5 if their form room is being used for a KS4 or A Level lesson at that time.
- This does not apply to Sixth Form because they have no lockers. Sixth Form students are expected to take off coats during lessons, however.

Rationale

- Carrying or wearing coats around the school site is both cumbersome and unnecessary.
- Coats in classrooms sets the wrong tone.
- They can be very obstructive, particularly in small rooms, and hinder the orderly conduct of lessons.
- Items that are not allowed (eg mobile phones) are more easily concealed within them than in normal school uniform.

Other Points That Have Been Raised

1. **Girls do not have a dry, warm place to sit to eat their lunch.** All girls do, in fact, have access to the canteen at break (on their allotted days) and lunchtime to eat their food, including lunch brought from home. We encourage them to eat outdoors when the weather is fine and in the warmer months. If that is the case, and the canteen is full, we may insist they do so, but this does not apply in winter or in wet weather.
2. **They do not have time to collect their coat and then go to the canteen at break for food.** Breaks are indeed short, but they should not need to collect their coat because they can stay in the canteen to eat their food at this time.
3. **Girls feel cold in certain parts of the school without coats.** I am not sure why this would be the case because the school is well-heated and the weather to date has been very mild. At times of heightened Covid we may need to ventilate rooms, even when it is cold outside. At these time, girls are normally allowed to wear coats. This is also the case when there are problems with heating because of temporary radiator malfunctions etc.
4. **They cannot always collect coats from their lockers.** Girls are allowed access to form rooms at the start and end of break and lunchtime. Key Stage 3 students may not have access at the end of the day if a KS4 or A Level lesson is taking place in their form room. On those days they are allowed to carry their coat with them to period 5.

5. **They do not have time to collect coats at break.** It takes no more than a few minutes to get from any part of the school to another. If they are not going to the canteen (where they do not need a coat) they have ample time to collect it and return it without being late to their next lesson.
6. **Girls have to eat outside without their coats on.** This is incorrect. See Point 2 above. Indeed we encourage them to stay in the canteen and eat the food they have purchased at break-time.
7. **It is unreasonable that they do not have access to their coats throughout the day.** There is no reason for them to need their coats apart from when they are outside for prolonged periods. See Rationale.
8. **They need them for protection when moving from one lesson to another.** There is no reason why they need to wear them around the corridors when transiting from one lesson to another because the buildings are heated. Even when transiting between buildings, the time they are outside is very limited and does not pose a risk to health or cause major discomfort. We do make exceptions in heavy rain and when it is very cold.
9. **They are not allowed to wear coats in PE when it is outdoors.** This is standard practice in all schools as far as I am aware. They will be participating in physical activity in these circumstances, so a coat would be both a hindrance to that activity and unnecessary because engagement in the activity will keep them warm for the majority of the lesson. Furthermore, there is sufficient flexibility in the uniform code for girls to be allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms, long-sleeved tops, vests etc when taking part in PE lessons outdoors.
10. **No exceptions are made for health conditions.** This is incorrect. If a student has a known health condition which requires them to stay inside, then an exception will be made. They will require a note from the school nurse, however, because it is impossible for all staff to keep abreast of every student's health condition. If this applies to your daughter, please ensure she follows it up with her form tutor.



INVESTIN

AMBITION BEYOND EDUCATION

info@investin.org | +44 (0) 203 488 5089

DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

We are delighted to inform you that **Woodford County High School** is an InvestIN Partner School! The school joins over 1,200 others across the world who share our commitment to helping students bridge the gap between school and industry and maximise their potential.

Who is InvestIN?

InvestIN empowers students with the knowledge and experience they need to make the right choices about their future careers. We offer students aged 12-18 the opportunity to learn from top industry professionals through interactive activities, invaluable site visits, networking opportunities, career coaching sessions and much more.

Our career experience programmes

- We deliver immersive career experiences across 19 different industries, from the ever-popular Medicine and Law but also in industries such as Video Game Design, International Development, and Art.
- These are available in both a live online or in-person format and range from 1 to 15 days in length throughout the year.
- Our Summer Experiences, in particular, offer a 360-degree immersion into some of the world's most illustrious careers. Students will learn from top professionals through interactive simulations, experience days, site visits, exclusive networking opportunities, personalised career coaching and much more. Before 31st December, your child can benefit from an exclusive 15% off any Summer Experience by use of the code **SUMMER15** at registration!
- Students also gain a certificate of attendance, which are widely recognised and help boost CVs and UCAS applications.
- When they register, students are invited to join our state-of-the-art tech platform, AmbitionX, so they can really enhance their future prospects by experiencing an unlimited number of live online programmes and masterclasses, tracking their progress as they go.

How to register

- You can register your child for any programme by visiting our website, www.investin.org, or by scanning the QR code below.
- Your child can benefit from 10% off any of our opportunities by inserting the school's unique Partner School discount code **WOODFORD10** at registration.
- It has been fantastic to see students from **Woodford County High School** leave InvestIN programmes an **average feedback score of 8.7/10** to date, and we are excited to support your school community further this academic year.

Support for parents & guardians

InvestIN is dedicated to supporting teachers and parents help young people make the right career decisions for them. On our website, you can find a range of careers resources, including blog posts, competitions and free events for parents, so that you can keep the conversation going at home. We also offer our Partner Schools access to complimentary employability skills workshops, featuring follow-up resources for both students and parents.

For more information, you can reach out to us via info@investin.org for all general enquiries.

We look forward to working with more students at Woodford County High School and providing opportunities for your child to maximise their potential!

Best wishes,

LILLY WALKER

Partner Development Associate

investin.org

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★





**HOLIDAY ACTIVITY
& FOOD PROGRAMME**

Winter Holiday Fun



Is your child in Year
Reception to Year 11
and in receipt of benefits-
related Free School Meals?

Redbridge's HAF programme
is delivered by approved providers
and offers **physical fun, nutritional
education** and an opportunity
to **make new friends**.

Activities include **multi sports,
arts and crafts, drama, cookery**
and much more!

Every child attending gets
a free meal every day.

**Wednesday
21 - Friday 23
December 2022**

To find out more and book
your place - scan the QR code
below or visit:

<https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/haf>


Booking is essential for all
activities, so **book early** to
avoid disappointment!


For any queries, please email:
haf@redbridge.gov.uk




'GET INTO' TECH, DIGITAL, & IT

**Year 9-13's come and join us for an evening with
the some of the top brands in the industry...**

 **Beal High School, Ilford & Live streamed**

 **Thursday 8th December**

 **17:00-19:30**

Sign up now

**Bring your
parents &
friends along!**

- ★ Network with professionals
- ★ Learn more about the industry
- ★ Q&A session
- ★ Prizes to be won

**Scan me to secure
your place!**



Deutsche Bank



Sign up today: <https://pathwayctm.com/event/get-into-tech-digital-it/>



REDBRIDGE EDUCATION AWARDS

supported by Lead Sponsor **Parker Smith Inclusion**

**Celebrating individuals
who are shaping
extraordinary futures**

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we settle into the new school year, I am thrilled to announce on behalf of Redbridge Council, the launch of the first ever Redbridge Education Awards! The awards are an amazing opportunity for you to say **thank you** to a teacher or member of staff who you think deserves to be recognised and celebrated for all that they do for young people in Redbridge.

With 14 award categories to choose from, there is something for everyone. If you can think of an individual or team who has made a positive impact on your child's learning, development, or extracurricular activities, now is the time to give them something back!

If the person or team you nominate are shortlisted, they will be invited to a spectacular awards ceremony to be held in Wanstead next April 2023 – it will be a night to remember!

Making a nomination couldn't be easier, simply head to www.redbridge.gov.uk/redbridge-education-awards or scan the QR code at the top of the page. Please also encourage your child to make their own nomination!

If you have any questions or need assistance making a nomination, please speak to a member of staff, or contact educationawards@redbridge.gov.uk.

Thank you.

P.E. EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Weds</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>
<u>Before School</u> <u>7.50-8.20am</u>	All Years – Badminton Sports Hall KST	All Years – Volleyball Sports Hall VJA			Badminton for y12 & 13 ONLY STA
<u>Lunchtime</u> <u>1.30-2pm</u>	All Years – Basketball Sports Hall VJA	Football for y7&8 Sports Hall/Field STA & TL	<u>Running Club – led by</u> <u>Rachael Yr13 student</u> KRU Netball for ALL (courts) <u>Football for y9,10 7 11</u> <u>only</u> STA & TL	Badminton Sports Hall VJA STA – Y9-13 Trampolining All Years – Athletics Sports Hall/Field KRI	<u>Trampolining – Y7&8</u> KRU
<u>Afterschool</u> <u>3.30-4.20pm</u>	A.S.C self defence Sports hall All years – Games (dodgeball / kickball etc.) Courts KST	A.S.C JIU JITSU Sports hall	Netball Training/Fixture (courts) INVITE ONLY STA VJA KRU KRI Boxing External Coach A.S.C	A.S.C DANCE Dance Studio	Prisons - led by Lilla Yr11 student 3.45 – 4.10pm Supervised by Ms Gribble Years 9, 10 & 11

Music Extra-curricular Timetable: Autumn 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Junior Choir (SF1) 13:30- 14:10 Brass Ensemble MTH (SF2) 13:45-2:15 Kalimba Club (Conference room) 13:45-14:20	Junior Band IBO (SF1) 13:30- 14:10 Musical Theatre club (Conference room) 13:40-14:15	Jazz Band KHN (SF1) 13:40-14:15 String orchestra IBO (Conference Room) 13:40-14:15 Carnatic Ensemble Jubilee Room 1 13:40-2:15	Senior Choir KHA (SF1) 13:40- 14:15 Theory and GCSE/A-level support IBO (SF2) 13:40-14:15	Orchestra IBO (SF1) 13:40-14:15 Guitar and Ukulele Ensemble (SF2) 13:40-14:15
After school		Chamber groups IBO (SF1/2) 15:45-16:30			

Jazz band is a group for wind, brass and percussion players of grade 4/5+ standard. We primarily play big band music, but there are opportunities to learn improvisation skills and perform solos within ensemble playing. We perform at concerts and events like the summer showcase.

Junior choir is our main choral ensemble for years 7-9, run by Yolanda Thompson from Redbridge Music Centre. It is also an excellent group to participate in for new students in year 7, reinforcing musicianship skills required during the curriculum. No previous singing experience is required and so the group gives great confidence to those looking for a friendly environment to develop their abilities while also producing high-quality performances for concerts.

The **orchestra** is the main music ensemble of the school which plays music from the classical repertoire plus arrangements and film music. All string/wind and brass instruments are welcome and entry requirements are for students, are to be at least grade 4 standard.

String orchestra is a group for all string instruments for students at least grade 3 in standard. We will be tackling some 20th-century Russian repertoire this term.

Junior band is an excellent group for younger musicians, from those just beginning on an instrument up to grade 3 in standard, to engage in an ensemble playing a variety of musical arrangements. All types of instruments are welcome, regardless of previous experience. Again, this is an excellent opportunity for younger musicians to build up confidence in performance and develop skills which also strongly support their curriculum work.

The **brass ensemble** welcomes students from beginner to advanced level to take part playing music for the end-of-term concerts. This group is particularly appropriate for musicians who have previously done the year 8 brass projects as part of the curriculum lessons, and is an excellent next step in developing their instrumental skills. Instruments can also be provided by the tutor so please do come even if you do not own an instrument.

The **senior choir** is an excellent ensemble for years 10-13 which tackles more challenging and diverse repertoire for performance in concerts and other functions. Again, as with other groups, new-comers are always welcome in this friendly and supportive environment.

Theory and **GCSE/A-level support** provides theory tuition at all levels for those wishing to build up their theory knowledge. GCSE and A level students are also supported in their studies for example in coursework or revision.

Chamber groups – This is an opportunity for self-led student groups to run rehearsals with the support of music staff when required.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

AUTUMN 2022		
Term	Monday 5 September 2022	Friday 21 October 2022
Half-term	Monday 24 October 2022	Friday 28 October 2022
Term	Monday 31 October 2022	Tuesday 20 December 2022
Non-Contact Day	Friday 7 October 2022	

SPRING 2023		
Term	Thursday 5 January 2023	Friday 10 February 2023
Half-term	Monday 13 February 2023	Friday 17 February 2023
Term	Monday 20 February 2023	Friday 31 March 2023
Non-Contact Day	Tuesday 7 March 2023	

SUMMER 2023		
Term	Monday 17 April 2023	Friday 26 May 2023
Half-term	Monday 29 May 2023	Friday 2 June 2023
Term	Monday 5 June 2023	Friday 21 July 2023
Non-Contact Day	Wednesday 28 June 2023	



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

6 December—Years 7 & 8 School Disco
8 December—Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Concert
12 December—Year 13 (2020-2021) Certificate & Social Event
15/16 December—School Christmas Lunch
20 December—End of Term—School Finishes at 2pm for KS3 and 2.10pm for KS4

REMINDER

Please remind your daughter to bring in her lanyard, locker key and fob to school every day.

