



Dear Parents / Carers

Happy Holidays

Assemblies yesterday and today gave me a welcome opportunity to congratulate students for what has been achieved in the four months since September. There's been a lot of work done, of new territory covered, and progress made. I thanked girls too for what they have done for people other than themselves: friends they have supported, events they have made possible, teachers and parents they have made proud. I asked them to value all those little acts of kindness that have brightened someone's day. The behaviours and attitudes that make Woodford what it is.

We are all now ready for the change of pace that the holiday period brings. Should you have a little leisure for reading, I recommend our Autumn Term Newsletter, published tomorrow. It will provide insight into the life of our school community and the activities of the term just concluding. And as we all: colleagues, students and families alike, make the transition from term-time to holiday mode, I take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy and relaxing holiday and a New Year that brings happiness, health and opportunity.

Ms Jo Pomeroy

Headteacher

Reminder

School finishes early tomorrow (Wednesday)

KS3 are dismissed at 2pm

KS4 are dismissed at 2.10pm

There is no Homework Club tomorrow

YEAR 11 MOCKS

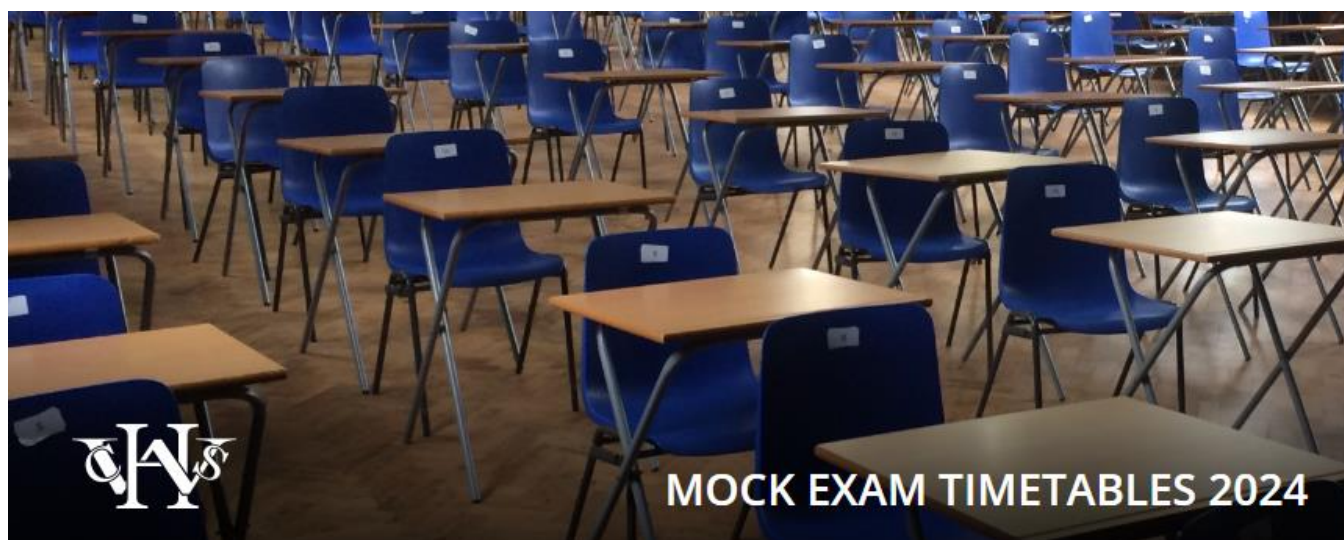
We wish Year 11 luck in their mock exams after Christmas.

They will be on study leave until Tuesday 16th January and should only attend school when they have an examination.

If their first exam of the day is not until 11am, they should not arrive in school before 10.45am. We cannot accommodate students who arrive earlier.

Further details of the exams and expectations around conduct can be found by reference to the Year 11 Mock Exam Briefing, which can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.woodford.redbridge.sch.uk/page/?title=Mock+Exam+Timetables+2024&pid=1889>



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY UPDATE AND REMINDERS

Dear parents, carers,

It is pleasing to see that the whole school attendance stands at **96.2% for Years 7-11** which is some way up on the 94.8% attendance over the same period last year. The school really appreciates your endeavours to help remind, support and cajole your child to school; I am sure they will reap the benefits at the end of the academic year and beyond.

Requesting absence

Requesting absence for any period of time from school should be directed to the key stage administrators who will then inform you if your absence will be authorised or unauthorised. In the vast majority of these requests, absences will be unauthorised and may incur a fine from the borough, these include for religious pilgrimages and events. When travelling abroad you will also be asked for travel documentation including the date of booking and return flight details. Please do let the school know in advance: simply sending the school information the day before departure does not constitute to an emergency departure. Indeed all documentation will be checked.

Updated procedures for students who are persistently late to school

We have found that punctuality has been improving over the past few weeks with fewer late detentions administered. We are now looking to improve the habits of those students who are **persistently late to school**. As of Thursday 4th January 2024 the following rules will come in to force:

- Where a student has incurred **six** late detentions in a half term they will serve **an additional 1-hour** whole school detention.
- If poor punctuality persists and the pupil reaches **ten** late detentions in a half-term they will then be required to attend school from **08:00 every day for one week**.
- If the student fails to meet this target, it will be extended by one day every time they do so.
- Should the extension exceed two weeks, parents will be called into school for a meeting.

These measures are intended to target those students who are persistently arriving late to school; the overwhelming majority of students do not reach three late detentions per term so six is a high bar.

Take home messages

- **Whole school attendance is up 1.4%** on this time last year, a marked improvement
- Please inform KS administrators in advance where absence from school is sought. All absences abroad will require proof of return flight details, and where applicable other methods of proof.
- **Further sanctions will be imposed in the New Year for students who are persistently late and incur more than six late detentions.**
- If you would like further information on our Attendance policy, [please click the following link](#).

Article by Dr. Cassim Ashraff
Assistant Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

*There are still a few places
Available for after school
Activities,
Starting January 2024.*

- ✧ *Mandarin*
- ✧ *Pop workshop*
- ✧ *Calligraphy*
- ✧ *Sewing*
- ✧ *Monday basic cooking*
- ✧ *Knitting*
- ✧ *Henna*

*Please book on ParentPay
By Friday 5th January
To secure your daughters
place.*



12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

CHARITY DONATION

We are pleased to inform you that the Christmas Party on 14/12/23 organised by Silver Badges has raised an outstanding amount of £701.13.

All proceeds will go to Haven House Charity.



KEEP YOUR BELONGINGS SAFE IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Stay aware of your surroundings when you are out and about in the school holidays.
- Avoid walking with valuables on display such as mobile phones and earpods
- Plan your route and use forms of transport others are using. Perhaps travel with a friend
- Avoid shortcuts and isolated places
- Do not confront a thief or risk your own safety

LOCATE YOUR PHONE IF LOST OR STOLEN

- Record your phone's IMEI number by typing *#06# on your phone keypad and keep a note of it somewhere at home
- Use access codes sent (two-factor authentication codes) to access your data from another device
- KNOW YOUR DETAILS Tracker Apps can help locate your phone, such as Find My Phone and record password details elsewhere, in case you need to provide information to an officer after your phone has been stolen.

Funded by



Department
for Education

London Borough of

Redbridge



Holiday Activities and Food
London Borough of Redbridge
Gearies Children's Centre
Waremead Road, Gants Hill,
Ilford, Essex, IG2 6TF

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Winter Holiday FUN: Thursday 21st December – Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Good News! We are offering your child a free programme of fun and food this Winter.

Your invitation

You are receiving this letter as your child is in a year group ranging from Reception to Year 11 and is eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

Activities on offer

We have a fun-filled programme across Redbridge, ranging from multi sports, arts and crafts, drama, cookery and much more! It is a great opportunity for your child to develop new skills and make new friends. Lunch is also provided at every session!

All activities are delivered by approved providers with a focus on physical fun, nutritional education and learning new skills. Providers also have experience with special educational needs and disabilities.

How to Book

To find out what's on offer please visit Redbridge HAF: <https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/haf>

Alternatively for quick and easy access to our HAF page on your device please scan the QR code below.



Kind regards

Redbridge Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme



Redbridge Winter Holiday Fun

From
DEC to
JAN



Creative Media



Arts & Crafts



Multi-sports

- ✓ Free food
- ✓ Free activities
- ✓ New friends
- ✓ New skills

Is your child in
Reception to Year 11
and in receipt of
Benefit Related
Free School Meals?

Enjoy **FREE** sports, arts & crafts,
drama, cooking and MORE!

scan me



TO BOOK YOUR PLACE -

scan this QR code, visit:

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

or email: haf@redbridge.gov.uk

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Department
for Education

WCHS - ECTT – Term 3

	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Weds</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>
<u>7.50-8.20am</u>					<u>Yr12&13</u> <u>Badminton-</u> STA
<u>Lunchtime</u> <u>1.30-2pm</u>	<u>Volleyball</u> <u>(all)</u> VJA	<u>*Netball</u> <u>- SQUAD</u> <u>Training</u> <u>Only*</u> STA, VJA, HBA, KRU (Fatima)	<u>Football Training</u> Week A = yr7 & 8 HBA Week B = yr9-11 STA <u>Athletics</u> (all) KRI <u>Badminton</u> VJA Week A = yr7&8 (Lekhana) Week B = yr9-11 (Pranathi) <u>Table Tennis</u> KRU From 22/1/24 In the conference room	<u>Yr10 & 11 GCSE</u> <u>Trampolining &</u> <u>Badminton</u> STA & KRU <u>Netball for all</u> (Kosom/Sampriti/ Sara) <u>Cross Country</u> (all) KRI	<u>Prisons Club</u> (Saanvi)
<u>3.30-4.20pm</u>			<u>*FIXTURES*</u>		



WCHS THEATRE SOCIETY

Guys & Dolls

Tuesday 6th February @ 7.30pm

Bridge Theatre

(STANDING ONLY)

This is immersive theatre – you become part of the cast & crew – it's amazing!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR £27.50

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR...

THE LION KING – **ONE TICKET LEFT**—Tuesday 12th March 2024 @ 7:30pm, Lyceum Theatre **£35**

LONDON TIDE – Monday 15th April 2024 @ 7pm, National Theatre (Lyttelton) **£15**

THE LION KING – Tuesday 23RD April 2024 @ 7:30pm, Lyceum Theatre **£30**

THE WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION – Tuesday 30th April 2024 @ 7:30pm, London, County Hall **£27.50**

MAMMA MIA! – Wednesday 1st May 2024 @ 7:30pm, Novello Theatre **£30**

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA – Wednesday 6th November 2024 @ 7:30pm, Dominion Theatre **£30**

The WCHS Theatre Society is a PFA initiative. An adult must accompany lower school students – this is not a school trip and is not supervised. For more information and to book tickets, email Ms Horn in the library.

PAYMENT MADE VIA PARENTPAY. Search for PFA Theatre Society.

library@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk

Funded by



Department
for Education

REDBRIDGE PRESENTS THE

HAF WINTER FUN DAY

FOOD, DRINKS, & GAMES, SPORTS

**FREE FESTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN
RECEIPT OF BENEFITS RELATED FREE
SCHOOL MEALS**

**BOOKING
REQUIRED FOR
ENTRY**

FUN!

29TH DECEMBER

11AM-4PM

**SCAN TO
BOOK**

**VALENTINES HIGH SCHOOL
ILFORD
IG2 6HX**

ALL AGES 4-16



Contact Us: haf@redbridge.gov.uk | Website: www.find.redbridge.gov.uk/haf

WOODFORD PANTOMIME PRESENTS

Robin Hood

and his Merry Men

**1ST-14TH
JANUARY
2024**

written by
**CARTWRIGHT &
HOULDERSHAW**

noda
As adapted by Woodford Pantomime

Sponsored by
**THE STOW
BROTHERS**

Sir James Hawkey Hall Woodford Green IG8 0BG

01992 524371

www.woodfordpantomime.co.uk



LIVE FOR THE MOVEMENT

Sign up today for **FREE**
weekly fitness classes

Calling all girls aged 11-16! Check
out our new **MOVE TOGETHER**
FITNESS CLASSES.

Good for both body and mind
our specially designed classes
will help you to build strength,
confidence and get you moving.
It's the perfect opportunity to
have fun with friends.

Find out more

MOVE TOGETHER

Join our next class at...

Time:

Date:

Location:

nuffieldhealth.com/movetogether



Educational Psychology Service Parent Helpline

Would you like to talk to someone?

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 (EPS) are here to support you.

We have a **dedicated telephone helpline for parents/carers** where you will receive advice and guidance from a professional

Educational 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: 07741 331 009

Opening hours:

Every Wednesday 10am - 4pm

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

FIND: [Educational Psychology Service](#)

@Redbridge_aep Twitter account.



Support for residents struggling with the cost of living



Please see the message below from The London Borough of Redbridge:

Please can you send the following links to families which will support them with the cost of living:

[Cost of Living \(redbridge.gov.uk\)](https://redbridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

[Cost of Living - Cost of Living payment \(redbridge.gov.uk\)](https://redbridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)

[Cost of Living - Foodbanks \(redbridge.gov.uk\)](https://redbridge.gov.uk/cost-of-living-foodbanks)

There is the [Ilford Community Grocery](https://communitygrocery.org.uk/ilford/) - we urge every family in need to join the Ilford Community Grocery, 25-29 Clements Rd where residents can buy food at 80% discount:

For the longer term you may be interested in buying your groceries at the Ilford Community Grocery. Join this grocery for £5 a year and you can buy 12 items for just £5. It is located at 25-29 Clements Rd, Ilford.

It is open Monday through Friday 9:30am - 4:30pm.

More details: <https://communitygrocery.org.uk/ilford/>



PREGNANCY YOGA

MONDAY 7:30 - 8:30PM

DANCE STUDIO, WOODFORD COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL

BOOK YOUR SPOT: [YOUSEFIYOGA.COM](https://yousefiyoga.com)

Make this Christmas the most memorable one yet



Foster for Redbridge

020 8708 6068

fostering@redbridge.gov.uk



Make this Christmas the most memorable yet. Change a Life. Foster for Redbridge.

325 Redbridge children need to spend time in foster care each year.

"I love watching the difference I can make to a child. I love watching them succeed in life and to know I have made a difference to their life".

Sarah, 50 and Kazim, 56—Foster Carers for Redbridge

"The thing I love most about fostering is seeing the progress children and young people make during the time they are with us. From surviving to thriving. I also wish I was told what fun fostering is and the sense of community you feel when meeting with other foster carers for support, friendship and advice. You really aren't on your own."

Tracy, 55 and Wayne, 54—Foster Carers for Redbridge

Like all of our Redbridge foster carers, you could quite literally change a child's life.

Please call 0208 708 6068 or email fostering@redbridge.gov.uk for more information or visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringschools> to book onto our next Virtual Information Session.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

AUTUMN 2023		
Term	Wednesday 6 September 2023	Friday 20 October 2023
WCHS Remote Schooling	Friday 15 September 2023	Students studying from home
Half-term	Monday 23 October 2023	Friday 27 October 2023
Term	Monday 30 October 2023	Wednesday 20 December 2023
Non-Contact Day	Thursday 12 October 2023	

SPRING 2024		
Term	Thursday 4 January 2024	Friday 16 February 2024
Half-term	Monday 19 February 2024	Friday 23 February 2024
Term	Monday 26 February 2024	Thursday 28 March 2024
Spring Break	Monday 1 April 2024	Friday 12 April 2024
Non-Contact Day	Wednesday 6 March 2024	



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

20 December—End of Term
 4 January—Year 11 Mocks Begins
 17 January—Year 7 Parents Evening
 23 January—Year 12 Parents Evening
 8 February—Music Recital Evening
 12 February—Year 9 Parents Evening
 16 February—HPV Single Dose—Year 8
 16 February—Year 7, 8, 9 & 11 Form Photos
 5 March—International Evening
 6 March—Non-Contact Day
 21 March—Spring Concert



REMINDER

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

