



January 2026

Dear parent/carers/student

Happy New Year from Wood Green Academy!

As we step into 2026, we embrace a year full of opportunities, growth, and shared success. At Wood Green Academy, our commitment remains strong—to inspire excellence, nurture ambition, and create a supportive environment where every individual can thrive. This year, let's continue to work together to achieve great things, celebrate our achievements, and overcome challenges with resilience and determination. Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Here's to a year of learning, progress, and positivity!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and successful New Year!

Attendance

Thank you for supporting your children in attending school regularly and engaging so positively with their learning. Your commitment reflects the value our families place on education and the importance of being in school every day. We look forward to continuing our partnership to promote excellent attendance and learning.

At Wood Green Academy, we expect pupils to attend school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell to do so. For guidance on when a child is too ill for school, please refer to the NHS advice here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. Regular attendance helps children feel settled, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning, and gain the full benefit of their education. Being on time every day also builds positive habits that will support them throughout their education and into the workplace.

Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing Board operates at a strategic level and is not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. We are responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. We carry out this role by setting the vision for the school, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision, and that the school provides a high quality education for its pupils. This is done by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of its pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the Governing Board.

Governors also need 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to read budget reports and data on school standards.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our

school.

Governors are essential for the effectiveness and success of the school and it is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling role. All school Governors serve a 4 year term. They act as a 'critical friend', working voluntarily to strategically oversee the running of the school. Minutes of all committee meetings are available upon request from the school office.

The main responsibilities of a Governor

As part of a team:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school;
- Holding the leadership to account for the performance of the school;
- Making sure that resources are used well, and that money is well spent.

Requirements

There are no specific qualifications for the role of governor. You just need the right attitude, enthusiasm, and time to devote to the role.

Specific requirements

We are particularly interested in governors with skills in:

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Human Resources
- ✓ Legal
- ✓ Health and Safety
- ✓ Safeguarding
- ✓ Capital projects management

Day and times of most meetings

Full Governing Body and Finance meetings are generally on Mondays and a mix of virtual (3:30pm) and in person (5:30pm)

The time commitment

Approximately 10 days per academic year spent attending meetings, visiting the school from time-to-time and undertaking relevant training.

If you are interested in this extremely important role or require more details, please contact Mrs Kathryn Houldey (Clerk to the Governors) on 0121 556 4131 or via email at Kathryn.Houldey@woodgreenacademy.co.uk by Wednesday 21st January 2026.

Performing Arts News

In performing arts news, the school production of Grease will be taking place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of January.

Lots of students have worked really hard in rehearsals throughout last term and there are two students new to the school show in the lead roles of Danny and Sandy this year. I hope that lots of you will encourage your children to come along and watch the show and that you will join them too. The school production is a great opportunity to come into school as a family and enjoy an evening's entertainment. So if you fancy putting on your dancing shoes and joining us at the Rydel High school hop, I promise you won't be disappointed.

Thanks to all the staff and students working hard to make the show happen and thank you to all the parents supporting them in the background. I hope your children have an unforgettable experience being involved.

Tickets are available on parent pay or will be on sale on the door on the night. £4 for students and OAP's, £5 for adults and £16 for a family of four. I hope to see lots of you there.

ClassCharts

We would like to thank all parents and carers who are using the Class Charts application for smartphones. Please be aware that from this term, and moving forward, Class Charts will be our main form of communication, replacing SMS texts and emails. This will provide you with a "one-stop" location for the following:

- Parents/carers reporting student absence.
- Receiving letters and announcements.
- After-school detention notifications.
- Accessing pupil timetables, achievement scores and attendance.

When using the Class Charts app on a smartphone, please ensure notifications are enabled. If you are having trouble accessing or using your Class Charts account, please email digihelp@woodgreenacademy.co.uk with a description of your issue, and our dedicated IT Team will reach out to support you.

Staying Informed About Online Safety

As technology evolves, so do the ways young people interact online. To help you stay ahead of the latest social media trends and digital developments, we encourage all parents and carers to regularly visit our Online Safety pages on the school website (located in the Wellbeing section). All the featured resources are updated regularly and include practical guidance on emerging apps, online trends, AI and much more. Being informed is one of the most effective ways to protect children in today's fast-changing digital world.

Screen Time Awareness

Alongside understanding online platforms, it is equally important to monitor the amount of time children spend on screens. Excessive screen time can affect sleep, concentration, and overall wellbeing. We recommend setting clear boundaries and encouraging regular breaks, especially during evenings and weekends. Simple steps, such as device-free mealtimes or agreed daily limits, can make a big difference. By having conversations with our children about technology, we help ensure a positive and balanced approach. We recommend the wealth of advice regarding children and digital devices provided by the NSPCC: [Children and Technology](#)

Image Sharing

Image sharing, unfortunately, continues to be a global problem for young people. It is essential to talk frankly about image sharing, especially regarding what is often called "sexting", and the sharing of nudes or semi-nudes. Unfortunately, young people sometimes make the misjudgement of sharing revealing images of themselves. This in turn leads to embarrassment and anxiety, as control of the image is lost. Here at Wood Green Academy, this topic is covered in our pastoral programme. However, we would like parents and carers to support an ongoing conversation with your children to ensure that no child is caught in this vulnerable situation. We understand that this can be a tricky topic to introduce. Excellent advice on how to start a discussion can be found in the online safety pages at both the NSPCC and Childline.

[**Talking to your child about the risks of sharing nudes | NSPCC**](#)
[**Sexing and nudes | Childline**](#)

Please also be aware, that in addition to the emotional impact that sharing nudes or semi-nudes can have, under UK law, it is illegal for anyone under 18 to create, send, possess, or forward any sexual images of a minor, even if both parties are underage or in a consensual relationship. This isn't just a private matter; it is classified as child

pornography. Instances of youth sexting are recorded in police databases, even if no prosecution follows, which may appear on enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. This could potentially affect future employment, particularly in roles requiring unsupervised access to children or vulnerable people. We therefore strongly advise parents and carers to regularly discuss privacy, consent, and the risks of digital permanence. Emphasise that once an image is online or shared, it can leave a lifelong digital footprint, impacting their reputation and life chances well into adulthood.

Rewards Programme

We are reaching out to invite local businesses to support our secondary school's Attendance Rewards Programme. By sponsoring prizes or incentives, you can help inspire students to maintain strong attendance while contributing to a positive and encouraging learning environment.

This partnership offers mutual benefits:

- **For our students:** Your support will directly motivate them to achieve consistent attendance and academic success.
- **For your business:** You'll gain visibility in our community and showcase your commitment to education.

We would greatly appreciate your involvement in this meaningful initiative. In return, we're happy to discuss ways to acknowledge and promote your generous support.

If you're interested in sponsoring a prize or incentive, please don't hesitate to contact us at admin@woodgreenacademy.co.uk. Together, we can make a significant difference in our students' futures.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to invest in our community's success.

Safeguarding

This term's Safeguarding Coffee Morning is on the theme of Exam stress. I would like to invite any parents worried about how to support their children's mental health during the exam period to this workshop. Your child can be from any year group including sixth form. This discussion will include practical tips you can implement at home. Everyone is welcome. Please contact your child's year team to book a slot for 26th February 2026 at 9.45am

School Rules and Behaviour

One of the reasons, aside from excellent teaching, that ensures we get excellent outcomes for our students, is the high expectations that we have at Wood Green in terms of student behaviour. Can I thank parents/carers for supporting us with this.

Mobile Phones

Once again please can I thank the vast majority of parents/carers that ensure that their child does not bring their mobile phone to school, however there have been a number of incidents in the last term that we have had to deal with, therefore for clarity, students in years 7 – 11 **MUST NOT** bring mobile phones onto the school site. If there is an emergency safeguarding reason for a student to have a mobile phone on them on the journey to and from school, that parents **MUST** request temporary permission from Miss Donaghie in writing with the understanding that if the request is granted the phone **MUST**

be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

If students are found to be in possession of a mobile phone it will be confiscated and placed in the school safe. Mobile phones confiscated on a Monday or Tuesday will be held in the school safe until the end of the school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 3.00-3.30pm (in the event of school finishing early, phones due to be collected, can be picked up between from the end of school and the following 20 minutes e.g. 12.00 and 12.20pm.). Phones confiscated on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday will be confiscated until the end of the following school week where they can only be collected by parents/carers between 3.00-3.30pm. If, however, the return of the mobile phone falls in a school holiday, the phone can be collected on the first day back to school by parents/carers between 3.00 - 3.30pm with the exception of the summer holiday, in which case the phone can be collected by parents/carers on the first Friday of the holidays between 3.00 -3.30pm.

So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 11th Feb, Thurs 12th Feb or Fri 13th Feb, it will not be returned until Monday 23rd February 2026 (between 3.00 – 3.30pm) as per our policy. EXCEPTIONS to this policy will not be made and ANY student that refuses to hand in their mobile phone when asked to, will be issued with a Permanent Exclusion. This sanction has been consistently applied where in the rare occasions this has happened in the past.

Student Achievements

Remembrance

On Tuesday 11th November we commemorated Remembrance Day.

Students attended in a range of uniforms and paraded to the Newton Foyer, where a poem was read by Robert Henslock (Nightingale), Mr McEwan played the Last Post and Mr Topham laid a wreath to commemorate all those who have lost their lives in conflicts.

Students on-parade were:

Robert Henslok (Nightingale), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Faye Wilkes (Nightingale), Lucy Stewart (Da Vinci), Jack Doughty (Nightingale), Aoife Langley (Da Vinci), Nell Jurdison (Shakespeare), Jessica-Lyn Hudson (Shakespeare), Eira Williams (Shakespeare), Mikyle Zeb (Parks), Layla-Rae Lloyd (Da Vinci), Mathea Mungai (Da Vinci), Olivia Edis (Ali), Jada Sam (Parks), Lilia O'Neil (Shakespeare), Kiana Poorani (Parks), Hayden Tranter (Da Vinci), Bethany Winn-Sanders (Shakespeare), Willow Rae-Hunter (Ali), Arabella Thompson (Ali), Lexi Webster (Da Vinci).

House

We have introduced an additional level of student leadership to develop skills and drive the House system forward. New Form Captains and House captains have been selected by students vote and they have already shared their thoughts on House competitions and challenge activities for students.

Selected Form Captains and Vice Captains are:

Ali Form Captains:

Junior Pearce (Ali), Aden Foster (Ali), Khloe Wiley (Ali), Sophia Chowdhury (Ali), Adam Hussain (Ali), Zak Kaliray (Ali), Renee Day (Ali), George Garmston (Ali), Asa Fletcher (Ali).

Form Vice Captains:

Codey (Ali), Alfie Jones (Ali), Fletcher Woodcock (Ali), Maddison Burns (Ali), Corey Edge (Ali), Teddy Fletcher (Ali), Louie Hopkins (Ali), Aaliyah Shaikh (Ali), Teddy Fletcher (Ali), Louie Hopkins (Ali), Aaliyah Shaikh (Ali), Willow Peniket (Ali).

Da Vinci Form Captains:

Huzaifa Ehtaishan (Da Vinci), Faizan Hussain (Da Vinci), Lauren Whitehouse (Da Vinci), Amolkdeep Dhanju (Da Vinci), Kaya Burzawa (Da Vinci), Danyaal-Islam Mahmood (Da Vinci), Pavan Singh Gill (Da Vinci), Ekamjot Singh (Da Vinci).

Form Vice Captains:

Libby Kempson (Da Vinci), Olivia Stevens (Da Vinci), Tamsin Gwilt (Da Vinci), Finley Batchelor (Da Vinci), Keya Patel (Da Vinci), Mohammed Rafi (Da Vinci), Betsy-Mae Lloyd (Da Vinci), Rocco Divattimo (Da Vinci), Molli Wheale (Da Vinci).

Nightingale Form Captains:

Raihan Chaudhury (Nightingale), Muhammad Qureshi (Nightingale), Joe Bird (Nightingale), Jack Doughty (Nightingale), Zak Poyser (Nightingale), Jax Greenhough (Nightingale), Thea Duffield-Bagby (Nightingale).

Form Vice Captains:

Muhammad Ali Muhyiddeen (Nightingale), Khadijah Begum (Nightingale), Della-Marie Salt-Ebanks (Nightingale), Mehreen Hussain (Nightingale), Hamze Masudi (Nightingale), Oliver Shermer (Nightingale), Adam Atkinson (Nightingale).

Parks Form Captains:

Kyle Freeman (Parks), Aimee Whitehouse (Parks), Chloe Moore-Parsons (Parks), Alex Ball (Parks), Waseem Hussain (Parks), Tatenda Honondo (Parks), Noah Gettings (Parks), Hafiza Jannat (Parks), Maddie Clews (Parks).

Form Vice Captains:

Pheobe Grew (Parks), Matilda Hanney (Parks), Maya Napiorkowska (Parks), Finley Skeldon (Parks), Millie-Mae Wheale (Parks), Amelia Brazier (Parks), George Cull (Parks), Mia Livesey (Parks), Gabriel Logan (Parks).

Shakespeare Form Captains:

Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Yusuf Halim (Shakespeare), Tahmid Islam (Shakespeare), Shamirr Jaimandi (Shakespeare), Mohammed Aanas (Shakespeare), Joshua Welsh (Shakespeare), Amelia Hanney (Shakespeare), Mohammed Muhaimin (Shakespeare).

Form Vice Captains:

Anjali Patel (Shakespeare), Ronny Cooper Griffiths (Shakespeare), Seren Francis (Shakespeare), Samirah Akter (Shakespeare), Aryan Sehmar (Shakespeare), Harrison Chambers (Shakespeare), Kayla Ugwuegbu (Shakespeare), Damanvir Singh (Shakespeare).

Students and staff have identified fun House competitions they would like to engage in over the year. The competitions will involve all departments so that all students can have some success. All activities will link into the House system to raise its profile further.

Full Hour Friday saw a collapsed lunch at the end of the half term with the Year 11 Pop 1 v Pop 2 football match raised over £100. The World Series between the populations has two more matches to go – hopefully leading to a decider on the final game.

Year 7 took part in reward football matches and other years enjoyed the extended lunch at the end of an intense half term.

Positive feedback was received, and the plan is to hold additional Full Hour Fridays at the end of future half terms.

Emoji Staff Name Quiz, Staff Who am I? and the Christmas Quiz have proved very popular. Students had to work out staff names from emojis and identify staff in their younger years – this brought much excitement and competition.

The year group leaderboard is currently looking like this:

Year 11 Miss Measure (Ali 1) 230 points

Year 10 Mr Price (Parks 2) 380 points

Year 9 Mrs Norton (Nightingale 2) 430 points

Year 8 Mr Postans/Miss Khan (Shakespeare 2) 280

Year 7 Miss Lascelles (Parks 1) 210 points

Year 7 Boys Football Team

The Year 7 football team played their West Midlands Cup game against Moseley this half-term. With the league on a winter break due to the clocks going back, this was their only competitive action of the half-term aside from competitive sessions during training.

During the game, they started brightly and looked the better side during the first half, but conceded three sloppy goals at the start of the second half to give Moseley a big advantage, they improved again and started to get a foothold in the game, and two goals got them back in it, but despite their late push, sadly it was in vein and they bowed out of the cup at the first hurdle. Many lessons will be learnt from this game and hopefully the team will come back stronger in the league when the winter break finishes after Christmas.

Team from: Archie Eades (Shakespeare), Sam Ferguson (Shakespeare), Niall Cooper (Parks), Tobyn Maycock (Nightingale), Jack Edwards (Da Vinci), Ethan Hall (Nightingale), Grant Nicholls (Nightingale), Jacob Patel (Parks), Ezekial Ayoola (Ali), Andrew Asante-Afoakwa (Nightingale), Noah Kirk (Ali), Jenson Arnold (Ali)

Girls Football

Congratulations to our Yr7&8 and Yr9&10 girls' football teams on an excellent and successful term of fixtures. Both teams have shown outstanding commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship, representing the school with pride throughout the season.

A special mention goes to the Yr9&10 girls, who are currently top of the Sandwell Schools' Football League, a fantastic achievement. With several important fixtures still to come after the February half term, the team will be looking to maintain their strong form and finish the season on a high.

Well done to all players involved and thank you to the staff who continue to support and develop girls' football in our school. Keep up the great work!

Yr 7&8 Girls Football Team:

Renee Day (Ali), Aoife Langley (Da Vinci), Betsy-Mae Lloyd (Da Vinci), Gracie Sheppard (Parks), Lucia Williams (Parks), Evie Williams (Shakespeare), Faye Wilkes (Nightingale), Lexie-Lei Styles (Nightingale), Tavleena Takhar (Shakespeare), Millie Hickman (Nightingale), Brooklyn-Mia Caville (Da Vinci), Tiffany-Rose Taylor (Parks), Lola Bingham (Nightingale), Nancie Grace Eivors (Da Vinci), Lillie-May Sadler (Shakespeare), Emily Modrak (Nightingale), Alexia Wise (Ali), Sienna Davies (Parks), Jayla Cooper (Da Vinci)

Yr 9&10 Girls Football Team:

Eboni Timmins (Da Vinci), Diana Banas (Ali), Brooke Crumpton (Parks), Layle-Tia Bradshaw (Shakespeare), Sigourney-Rai Aston (Parks), Poppy Davies (Da Vinci), Charlotte Bagdi (Parks), Shaan Daly (Da Vinci), Daisy Robinson (Ali), Evie Grainger (Shakespeare)

Elite Performers

Sixth Former Lillie Hales (Ali) has been selected in the England Women's U18 squad. This is a massive achievement and we look forward to hearing from Lillie after attending training camps and matches.

The following players continue to develop their footballing talent at professional football clubs:

Paigan Follows (Parks) at Wolves, Charlie Kelsey-Beasmore (Shakespeare) at Port Vale, Diego Bragoli (Da Vinci) at Walsall and Andrew Asante-Afoakwa (Nightingale) at Wolves.

We also have players who have been selected to play for West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools' FA representative teams: U14 - Ryan Hall (Parks), U15 - Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), U16 (captain) - Aden Foster (Ali), Ruaan Joe (Parks)

As stated in the last newsletter, Year 7 student Georgia Brannigan (Shakespeare) was selected to represent the United Kingdom at the **Xpirit Dance World Cup** in Cancun, Mexico. She had a really enriching experience, made even better by winning multiple trophies and medals, and being crowned World Champions!

Georgia was the first solo dancer chosen to open the competition, which was a huge responsibility and a real honour. As one of the youngest dancers representing Phoenix Company and Team UK, she handled it so professionally that she was awarded one of the (huge!) team trophies to take home, in recognition of being "everything you want and look for in a dancer, both on and off stage". Well done Georgia from all at Wood Green Academy!

Sporting Aptitude

Testing for September 2026 has now taken place. There were a number of talented students who applied.

2025 entrants attended Open Evening to promote wood Green Academy and share their initial experiences with Year 6 students:

Jayden Beacham (Nightingale), Lola Bingham (Nightingale), Elijah Blundell (Ali), Georgia Brannigan (Shakespeare), Jayla Cooper (Da Vinci), Sienna Davies (Parks), Jack Doughty (Nightingale), Jack Edwards (Da Vinci), Nancie-Grace Eivors (Da Vinci), Ronnie Harrison (Ali), Junaid Khaled (Parks), Noah Kirk (Ali), Tobyn Maycock (Nightingale), Isabella Pajaj (Shakespeare), Harry Patel (Shakespeare), Jacob Patel (Parks), Frankie Scott (Da Vinci), Aaliyah Shaikh (Ali), Finley Skeldon (Parks), Jonas Smith (Nightingale), Kayson Warner (Shakespeare), Alexia Wise (Ali), Maxwell Woodhouse (Parks).

School Calendar

Just a reminder that the school calendar is on the school website and has all the Academy's key dates and activities listed: <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/school-calendar/>

Many thanks



Mr J Topham
Headteacher