



June 2025

Dear parent/carer/student

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and rewarding half term break. We have now entered the final half term of the academic year, and the external examination period is in full swing. Our students are demonstrating commendable dedication, focus, and resilience as they work towards their goals. We wish them every success as they continue with their exams.

Miss School, Miss Out

If a child misses just one day a week, over the course of their school career they will miss two years of schooling and their chances of achieving their potential will be at risk.

If you need any help or support, please do get in touch with us by speaking to your child's year team in the first instance.

Ofsted

As you will be aware, our school recently underwent an Ofsted inspection on 8th and 9th of April. I am delighted to share that the inspection was a great success. Our students were exceptional, confidently sharing with inspectors the positive experiences and outstanding work taking place across the school. Their enthusiasm and pride in being part of the Wood Green family truly shone through. The official inspection report has now been published and is attached along with this newsletter.

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.

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 Friday 13th June 2025.

The Hidden Costs of Smartphones: What Every Parent Should Know

In today's hyper-connected world, it's easy to assume that giving our children access to smartphones is simply part of growing up. However, more and more research is showing that phones can cause real problems for children and teenagers—especially those under 16.

In his book *The Anxious Generation*, author and psychologist Jonathan Haidt explains how things started to change around 2012. That's when most teenagers began spending more time on screens than hanging out in person. Since then, rates of anxiety, depression, and loneliness have gone way up—especially for girls.

At our school, we've seen this ourselves. Over the past year, we've had to deal with several issues involving social media. These include bullying in group chats, students being left out, and the sharing of upsetting or inappropriate content. These incidents often happen outside of school, but they have a big impact on friendships, learning, and wellbeing during the school day.

Why is this happening? Smartphones and social media are designed to keep people hooked. They can make young people feel left out, judged, or anxious. And they often get in the way of sleep, real friendships, and face-to-face conversations.

Jonathan Haidt suggests that children should not have smartphones until at least age 16. Instead, he recommends giving them more time to play, talk, explore, and grow without the pressure of being online all the time. He also says that parents and schools should work together—so no one feels left out for not having a phone.

What you can do as a parent:

- Wait as long as you can before giving your child a smartphone.
- Set limits on screen time and talk openly about how social media makes your child feel.
- Create screen-free times and places (like at meals or before bed).
- Talk with other parents so you can support each other.

We know this isn't easy. But taking action now can help protect your child's mental health and confidence.

To learn more, we strongly recommend this short video:

► ["Why Jonathan Haidt Says Smartphones Are Making Teens Unhappy"](#)

Let's work together to give our children back the safe, connected, real-world childhood they deserve.

Smile For Joel day - 10th Anniversary

On Friday 4th July we will be having our annual Smile For Joel day. Joel Richards was an ex-student who tragically lost his life along with his Uncle, Grandfather and 27 other British tourists in the Tunisian terrorist attack of 2015. Since then, his mum Suzy and brother Owen have set up a charity in their honour called the Smile For Joel charity. We all miss Joel greatly and try to do an event each year to raise money for this amazing charity.

On this date students will be allowed to wear **sportswear or PE kit** and make a donation to the Smile For Joel Charity. There will also be various activities, including cake sales and a 'sponge the teacher' event, where students can participate by making a donation to the charity. Students who do not wish to be in sportswear or PE kit should be in their full school uniform. If your child does have PE on that day, then they must wear suitable footwear i.e. no converse or vans.

Run 4 Joel

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Run 4 Joel will return once again to Sandwell Valley on Sunday 8th June and this promises to be bigger and better than last year, continuing with the colour blast theme. The event at Sandwell Valley Country Park is held in memory of our former student Joel Richards, his uncle Adrian Evans and Grandfather Patrick Evans.

It would once again be great to see a large number of Wood Green students and their families taking part. More details can be found here:

<https://smileforjoel.com/event-details?event=runforjoel2025>

Registrations are open now!

Mile for Joel – Step Up for Life Day 4

On 9th July, all students from Years 7-10 and sixth form will be taking part in a special event 'Mile for Joel' this challenge forms part of our Step Up for Life Day 4, encouraging students to complete a mile walk, jog, or run to raise funds for Smile for Joel—a charity set up in memory of our former student who tragically lost his life in the Tunisia terror attacks ten years ago.

Each student will be asked to donate £1 on the day to participate, and we warmly invite families and friends to support our students by sponsoring their mile via our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/wgamileforjoel>

All funds raised will go directly to Smile for Joel, helping provide support to families affected by tragedy. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, honour Joel's memory, and raise funds in support of this charity.

Wear it Green for Mental Health Awareness

A Huge Thank You to Our Student Ambassadors!

We want to take a moment to express our thanks to the incredible student ambassadors who played a key role in designing the staff's green t-shirts for Wear Green for Mental Health Awareness Day on 15th May. Your creativity, dedication, and efforts ensured that our staff could proudly show their support for this important cause. Thank you for your hard work and for making this initiative such a success! Student Ambassadors who designed T-shirts:

Maddison Clews (Parks), Adam Atkinson (Nightingale), Evie Williams (Shakespeare), Cassey Clews (Parks), Ijkot Bhuller (Nightingale), Shayma Begum (Parks), Heather Stubbs (Nightingale), Owen Corbett (Parks), Jessica Faulkner (Nightingale), Sanjula Sapkota (DaVinci), Sophie Ruston (DaVinci), Lacie Powell (Ali).

Rights Respecting School

As a Rights Respecting School, our students are committed to ensuring all children locally, and nationally have an adequate standard of living that supports their physical, emotional and social development. Through our Humanitarian weeks we nurture the value of 'giving' through acts of kindness and generosity as early as Year 7. We are proud as a school community to announce that this year (to date) our school has raised a grand total of £7166.57.

Please join me in congratulating the marvellous efforts of our students and thank you to all the parents/carers for your continued support. Some of the charities we have raised for include: UNICEF, Children in Need, Save the Children, Young Minds UK, Mental Health Foundation, Children with Cancer, Macmillan's Cancer Support, British Heart Foundation, The Royal British Legion, Smile 4 Joel and the RSPCA.

National Thank a Teacher Day

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back. National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 18th June!

As always, we will be celebrating all the amazing teaching and support staff in our schools - from the dinner helpers to the classroom assistants and librarians. They deserve the spotlight for everything they do to keep things running smoothly.

Want to make someone's day? If you know a special teacher, dedicated support staff member or even a whole school team, let them know how grateful you are by sending a free e-card on the [Thank a Teacher website](#).

In the lead up to National Thank a Teacher Day, keep your eyes peeled for celebrity judged writing and baking competitions with prizes on offer! See how [parents, carers and pupils](#) can join in on the celebration, for details on how to enter, and your entry could be read out by their celebrity judges.

With celebrations across the UK get involved on social media using the hashtag #ThankaTeacherDay. There will be plenty of exciting updates ahead of the day, so don't forget to follow Thank a Teacher to hear the latest on competitions, giveaways and celebrity shout outs.

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 half 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 Mrs Wood in writing with the understanding that the phone **MUST** be handed in to YL/SSM each day for the period of time that the emergency safeguarding reason is in place.

Students should not use their mobile phone as their bus pass/ticket as mobile phones are not permitted on the school site. If a student brings a phone onto the school site and it is confiscated, parents will need to either purchase an additional bus pass/ticket or will have to make alternative arrangements for their child's transport.

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 2.40-3.00pm (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 2.40-3.00pm. 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 2.40 - 3.00pm 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 2.40 - 3.00pm. **So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 16th July, Thurs 17th July or Fri 18th July, it will not be returned until Friday 25th July 2024 (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

Elite Performers

Paigan Follows (Parks) rounded off her season in Northern Ireland where she kept goal for the England U15 Schoolgirls team in the Bob Docherty Trophy. This was on the back of completing the double with the West Midlands County schools' FA U16 girls' representative team, who won the West Midlands League and the Midlands Combination (ranging from Shropshire to Humberside).



Aden Foster (Ali) completed his U15 West Midlands County Schools FA programme as captain of the representative team in victories over Warwickshire and Shropshire. Ruaan Joe (Parks) was also brought into the team and had an excellent debut.

Wood Green 100

If you would like to participate in the celebrations or support fundraising efforts, please contact Mr Bagglely at Wood Green Academy or email woodgreen100@woodgreenacademy.co.uk

We are still looking to raise money to buy a new school mini-bus, secure sponsorship from local businesses and even break a world record, but we need your support.

On Wednesday July 9th 2025 we will be holding our 100 Years Summer Fayre – members of the public are welcome to attend, where there will be 100 Years' displays around the school and competitions for ex-students to participate in. Start getting your teams ready – further details to follow. We are also hoping to showcase some of the fantastic musical talent that has attended Wood Green.

Activities Day

We are now past the final payment date for Activities Day and thank parents for getting trips paid for on the four instalment dates. Any outstanding final payments will need to be paid as a matter of urgency now as we must confirm numbers with venues and transport companies.

Staff are working with those students who are staying in school to confirm their activities.

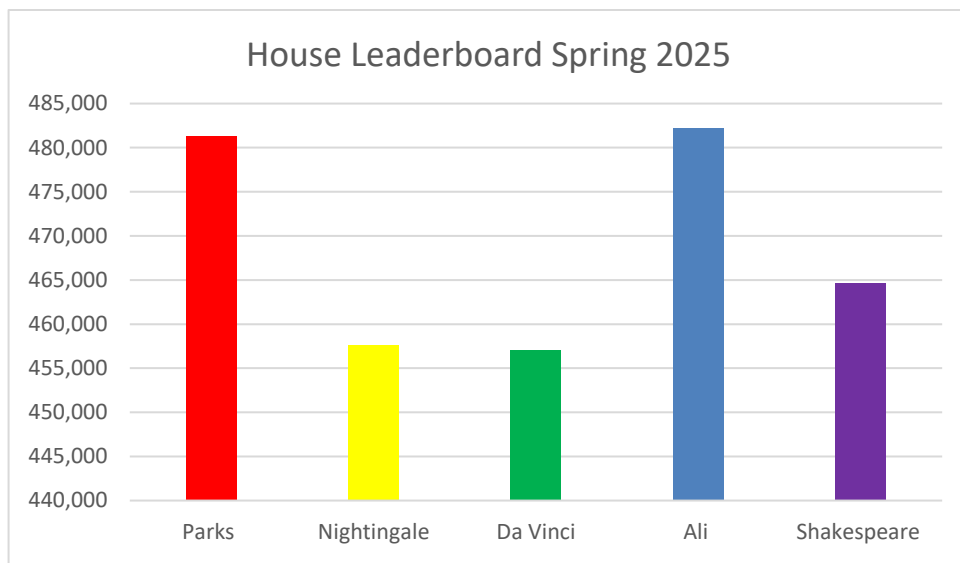
Further details on departure/return times, clothing and other specific requirements will be shared via ClassCharts closer to the date.

As mobile phones are not allowed, students are encouraged to buy disposable cameras to collect memories of these days.

House System

Name	What	When
Autumnal photo challenge	Students upload pictures in order to win house points	Autumn term
Food bank challenge	Each form donates food to local food bank and most amount of food wins prizes + house points for form	Autumn term
100 Years logo competition	In celebration of 100 years students to design a logo	Autumn term
Black History Month Quiz	Form quiz to be done during form time or independently	Autumn term
Pride month forms quiz	Quiz to be done in form time or independently	Autumn term
Christmas parcel Appeal	Staff and students donates items to the Christmas Parcel appeal and largest donators to win house points	Winter term
Elf on the Shelf quiz	Form quiz with guess where the elf is located	Winter term
Ramadan Quiz	Forms quiz during the month of Ramadan	Spring term
Spring photo challenge	Students upload pictures in order to win house points	Spring term
Spring poem challenge	Students upload poem in order to win house points – students to win house points and prizes	Spring term
Easter Egg Hunt	Orienteering style treasure hunt – students to win house points and prizes	Spring term
Charity Cake sale	Can be potentially mixed with the SU4L year 10 event with fundraising for a chosen charity? Forms win House Points for most money donated.	Summer term
Song writing/composing	Promoted alongside music department.	Summer term
Football tournament	Promoted alongside PE department	Summer term
Sports day	Competition to promote House Teams	Summer term
Terrifically tough ten	LM also supporting in promoting the TTT	Ongoing
B4L points	Accumulates over the year and is added to house points each term	Ongoing

2024	Parks	Einstein	Nightingale	Da Vinci	Ali	Shakespeare
	368,776	299,434	346218	348714	365511	351792
2025	Parks		Nightingale	Da Vinci	Ali	Shakespeare
	481,264		457659	457023	482181	464660



School Games Organisers

Boccia Young Leaders Training

A group of our leaders led at the Black Country School Games Boccia competition at Westcroft Special School. Wood Green Academy students have shown excellent maturity throughout both training sessions and the competition, huge congratulations to the following Year 8 students: Eliza Kerr (Parks), Emerald Jackson (Ali), Kian Russell (Parks), Kolby Danks (Parks), Molli Wheale (Da Vinci).

Previously trained Year 9 Boccia leaders also officiated to an excellent standard, thank you and well done to you all: Ava Giles (Da Vinci), Daniel Hall (Nightingale), Riley Lister (Shakespeare), Ronny Cooper – Griffiths (Shakespeare), Mya Ruby (Shakespeare), Mazy Smith (Ali).

Boccia

We had a team representing Sandwell at the Black Country School Games: a PD team consisting of Sam Fellows (Nightingale), Alfie Hadley (Shakespeare), Ashton Harvey (Ali). They all did brilliantly well in representing the PE department, Wood Green academy and Sandwell. Well done to all involved, it was great to see them represent the borough!

Sporting Aptitude Netball Trip

We had a great trip to Coventry with some of our sporting aptitude pupils – who went to watch The Netball Super League at the Coventry Arena, where they watched Birmingham Panthers. The students had a great evening out and watched some inspiring elite sportswomen.

Our sporting aptitude pupils who got involved were: Keeley Arnold (Ali), Maxine Banda (Da Vinci), Amelia Brazier (Parks), Lola Carpenter (Shakespeare), Brooke Crumpton (Parks), Blayze Dimkpa (Shakespeare), Isla Finch (Shakespeare), Betsy-Mae Lloyd (Da Vinci), Nicole Moyo (Parks), Maya Patel (Ali), Alaana Smith (Nightingale), Tiffany-Rose Taylor (Parks), Shantel Tshuma (Shakespeare).

Athletics

Congratulations to our athletics teams who took part in the Sandwell School's Athletics Championships on Thursday 24th May. We had some wonderful displays of talent- with pupils placing really highly both on the track and the field.

We hope some athletes will now gain representation for Sandwell in the West Midlands Area Championships in June.

Zak Poyser (Nightingale), Diana Banas (Ali), Lily-Mae Hill (Ali), Mia Flynn (Da Vinci), Bhumika Khansuli (Da Vinci), Ava Purcell (Da Vinci), Amrit Chahal (Nightingale), Maisie-Leigh Scott (Nightingale), Lilly-May Woodfield (Nightingale), Hafiza Jannat (Parks), Brooke Crumpton (Parks), Eliza Kerr (Parks), Jessica-Lyn Hudson (Shakespeare), Udo Ugwuegbu (Shakespeare), Lola Carpenter (Shakespeare), Darcie Evans (Shakespeare), Isla Finch (Shakespeare), Charlie Blackhall (Ali), Edgardo Jackson (Ali), Josiah McLeary (Ali), Dylan Townsend (Ali), Lexie Halford (Da Vinci), Archie Leon-Bolding (Da Vinci), Muhammed Choudhury (Nightingale), Micah Ejizu (Nightingale), Alfie Simcox (Nightingale), Phoebe Grew (Parks), Malik Sterling (Parks), Sigourney-Rai Aston (Parks), Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Ceannah Whyte (Shakespeare), Lucy Meese (Shakespeare), Mason Foster (Ali), Isaiah Goodall (Ali), Sofia Gheorghe (Ali), Anaya Jewan (Da Vinci), Connor Wright (Da Vinci), Gabriella Katemauswa (Da Vinci), Louise Adeniran (Nightingale), Silvia Amo-Obi (Nightingale), Lexi Oliver (Nightingale), D'Quan Farrell (Parks), Kiaan Tyagi (Parks), Ruben Williams (Parks), Paigan Follows (Parks), Nicole Moyo (Parks), KJ Morgan (Shakespeare).

Wood Green Academy School Sports Partnership

We are delighted to announce we have 20 partner schools who are now part of our school sport partnership. Training sessions and a programme of activities are ongoing with positive feedback from those involved.

Student Leadership Success

Wear it Green for Mental Health Awareness

A Huge Thank You to Our Student Ambassadors!

We want to take a moment to express our thanks to the incredible student ambassadors who played a key role in designing the staff's green t-shirts for Wear Green for Mental Health Awareness Day on 15th May. Your creativity, dedication, and efforts ensured that our staff could proudly show their support for this important cause. Thank you for your hard work and for making this initiative such a success! Student Ambassadors who designed T-shirts:

Maddison Clews (Parks), Adam Atkinson (Nightingale), Evie Williams (Shakespeare), Cassey Clews (Parks), Ijkot Bhuller (Nightingale), Shayma Begum (Parks), Heather Stubbs (Nightingale), Owen Corbett (Parks), Jessica Faulkner (Nightingale), Sanjula Sapkota (DaVinci), Sophie Ruston (DaVinci), Lacie Powell (Ali).

Mile for Joel – Step Up for Life Day 4

On 9th July, all students from Years 7-10 and sixth form will be taking part in a special event 'Mile for Joel' this challenge forms part of our Step Up for Life Day 4, encouraging students to complete a mile walk, jog, or run to raise funds for Smile for Joel—a charity set up in memory of our former student who tragically lost his life in the Tunisia terror attacks ten years ago.

Each student will be asked to donate £1 on the day to participate, and we warmly invite families and friends to support our students by sponsoring their mile via our JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/wgamileforjoel>

All funds raised will go directly to Smile for Joel, helping provide support to families affected by tragedy. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, honour Joel's memory, and raise funds in support of this charity.

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/>

For all students currently completing their external exams, let's continue to approach them with your "I can, I will" mindset determination. Your hard work and resilience will undoubtedly yield great results.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Topham' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Topham
Headteacher