



June 2026

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.

School Breakfast

We are very fortunate to have received sponsorship from Warburtons, who have kindly donated bread to enable us to offer toast to students attending breakfast club between 8.00 and 8.25am each day. We recognise that some students do not feel ready to eat immediately after waking up, and we hope that having the option of toast on arrival at school will help them feel more prepared for the day ahead. Toast will be available on a grab and go basis or as an opportunity to sit and chat, and will be served on a first come, first served basis.

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.

Could you be a School Governor?

We are looking for parents and carers who would like to make a real difference to the lives of young people at Wood Green Academy.

What Do Governors Do?

Our Governing Board helps shape the long-term direction of the school. Governors don't get involved in the day-to-day running of the school, but they play an important role by:

- Helping set the school's priorities and vision
- Supporting and challenging school leaders
- Making sure school funds are used wisely
- Checking that pupils are kept safe and that standards continue to rise

In short, governors work as a team to make sure the school is the best it can be for every child.

Who Can Become a Governor?

Anyone with an interest in the school can apply—you don't need to have worked in education before. What matters most is:

- A commitment to supporting our pupils
- A positive attitude and willingness to get involved
- Some time to attend meetings and training

We welcome people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Full training is provided.

Skills We Would Particularly Welcome

We are especially interested in hearing from people with experience in:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Legal work

- Health & Safety
- Safeguarding
- Managing building or capital projects

However, if you don't have these skills, please don't be put off—your enthusiasm and insight are just as important.

Why Join Us?

Being a school governor is a rewarding way to support your community. You'll be working with others who care deeply about providing the best possible education for our students. Governors volunteer for a four-year term, and meeting minutes are available from the school office if you'd like to know more about what we do.

What's the Time Commitment?

Governors usually volunteer around **10 days per school year**, which includes:

- Attending meetings (mostly on Mondays, some virtual at 3:30pm and some in-person at 5:30pm)
- Occasional school visits
- Training and development

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 10th June 2026.

Safeguarding

Please remind your child that they can reach out for help at any time using the **Speak Out** button on our website, and that they must report any concerns immediately. Reassure them that this is not "snitching", it is an important part of keeping themselves and our whole school community safe.

Please also keep an eye on our website for useful tips and guidance on how to keep children safe, including advice on staying safe online. You can look out for our regular *flash points* as well, with the most recent focusing on grooming.

If any families feel they are struggling, whether due to financial pressures, challenges with setting parental boundaries, or simply needing advice on who to speak to or how to access support, please do not hesitate to contact the Year Teams. They are here to offer guidance and help you find the right support.

CAMHS are offering a series of workshops exploring a range of difficulties that young people may experience, which can impact their emotional wellbeing. To register your interest, please telephone **Andrea Etigartner** or **Nicole Whitehouse** on **01922 60740**.

Upcoming Workshops (12pm–1pm on MS Teams):

- 27.5.26 — Understanding Autism
- 17.6.26 — Low Mood in Children
- 15.7.26 — Anger and Conflict
- 23.9.26 — Trauma and Attachment
- 21.10.26 — Self-Harm with DBT Skills
- 18.11.26 — Anxiety with OCD

We are committed to working together to ensure every child feels safe, supported, and able to thrive.

Staffing News

At the end of this academic year, Miss Khan our Assistant Headteacher – Director of Personal Development will be retiring and has the following words for you:

"After 31 wonderful years at **Wood Green Academy**, the time has come for me to announce my retirement at the end of this school year. I first arrived here in **1995 as an RE and Sociology teacher**, and it has been an absolute privilege to serve this community for over three decades. In that time, I have watched generations grow, and it has been a unique joy to teach not only our current students but also many of their parents over the years! I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the families, past and present, for your incredible warmth, partnership, and support throughout my career. While I am excited for my next chapter, a huge piece of my heart will always remain with the Wood Green family."

Smile For Joel day

On Friday 3rd 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 7th 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=runforjoel2026>

Registrations are open now!

National Thank a Teacher Day

National Thank a Teacher Day takes place on **Wednesday 17th June**, and it's a wonderful opportunity to recognise the incredible staff who support our children every day. This includes teaching staff as well as the many support colleagues who help our schools run so smoothly – from classroom assistants and librarians to catering and lunchtime teams.

Families and pupils can say thank you by sending a **free, personalised e-card** through the [Thank a Teacher website](#) – a small gesture that means a great deal.

Join the nationwide celebration by sharing messages of thanks on social media using **#ThankaTeacherDay**, and keep an eye out for exciting competitions, giveaways and special messages in the lead-up to the day by following Thank a Teacher online.

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 Miss Donaghie 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 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 - 3.03pm. **So, if a phone is confiscated on Wed 15th July, Thurs 16th July or Fri 17th July, it will not be returned until Friday 24th July 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

Stranger Sagas

Over 50 of our students entered a national competition run by The Your Writers organisation. They were tasked with writing a short story suggested by the theme 'Stranger Sagas'. The competition encouraged creativity and students to use their imagination. We had 36 winners, whose stories have been published in a book produced by the organisation. This is a fantastic achievement for these students.

Neriah Fuller (Parks), Robyn Jennings (Da Vinci), Sophia Whitehouse (Parks), Milan Mistry (Da Vinci), Emily Broome (Ali), Dan Tran (Shakespeare),

Ella Furnival (Shakespeare), Willow Peniket (Ali), Sienna Davies (Parks), Luke Jinks (Ali), Millie-Mae Wheale (Parks), Arjeevan Batth (Shakespeare), Mikyle Zeb (Parks), India Patel (Shakespeare), Kai Goldie (Ali), Jada Sam (Parks), Zac Ali (Ali), Aaniya Mistry (Ali), Lillie-May Sadler (Shakespeare), Asa Fletcher (Ali), Ella-Rose Beckett (Ali), Keya Patel (Da Vinci), Samuel Ferguson (Shakespeare), Ellis Cox (Ali), Junaid Khaled (Parks), Marnie Pearce (Ali), Kaya Burzawa (Da Vinci), Doug Helliwell (Shakespeare), Chayse Edwards (Parks), Josh Kaliray (Ali), Chelsi Williams (Parks), Waseem Hussain (Parks), Abdur Rahman (Da Vinci) Mohammed Tawheed Islam (Parks), Alexia Wise (Ali) and Hari Patel (Ali)

FUN FRIDAY!

Fun Friday! Continues to be a hit across Years 7-11 with competitions running in each year group. This half term quizzes have included: 'Which Sport?', 'Riddles', 'Musicians', 'Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday' and 'Football Badges'.

Mr Berdesha's 11N2 have won the Year 11 competition with 990 points! Well done!

Mr Price 10P2 are leading the Year 10 competition with 1240 points.

Mrs Norton 9N2 are leading the Year 9 competition with 1930 points and are the highest scoring form in the school.

Miss Newman 8P2 are leading the Year 8 competition with 1030 points.

Mr Greenway 7A1 are leading the Year 7 competition with 1480 points.

Well done to all forms

FORM	
11A1	660
11A2	60
11D1	700
11D2	610
11N1	250
11N2	990*
11P1	620
11P2	300
11S1	770
11S2	400

FORM	
9A1	880
9A2	80
9D1	630
9D2	500
9N1	620
9N2	1930*
9P1	670
9P2	370
9S1	710
9S2	410

FORM	
7A1	1480*
7A2	490
7D1	1010
7D2	320
7N1	160
7N2	530
7P1	890
7P2	100
7S1	100
7S2	700

10A1	960
10A2	420
10D1	510
10D2	400
10N1	570
10N2	710
10P1	210
10P2	1240*
10S1	820
10S2	560

8A1	60
8A2	500
8D1	590
8D2	290
8N1	550
8N2	210
8P1	200
8P2	1030*
8S1	770
8S2	750

Indoor Athletics

In April we hosted the Year 9 Indoor Athletics Championships at Wood Green Academy.

Both our boys' and girls' teams came away with medals and qualified to represent Sandwell in the Black Country Games final.

It was great to have so many students volunteer from a range of year groups to help the PE staff run the event.

Pupils in Years 9-12 were involved in different capacities and roles: These were the pupils involved:



Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Layla-Tia Bradshaw (Shakespeare), Amrit Chahal (Nightingale), Naeem Choudhury (Ali), Owen Corbett (Ali), Charlie Dempster (Shakespeare), Mia Flynn (Da Vinci), Nicole Freeman (Parks), Ronnie Hunt (Parks), Emerald Jackson (Ali), Maariyah Jeewa (Shakespeare), Charlie Kelsey-Beasmore (Shakespeare), Eliza Kerr (Parks), Wiktor Krupa (Da Vinci), Brian Nwiwu (Shakespeare), Tia Oakley (Da Vinci), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Kayan Rana (Ali), Ruby Robinson (Nightingale), Kaitlyn Rutherford (Ali), Archie Truslove (Da Vinci), Molli Wheale (Da Vinci).
Mrs Thomas and the PE team.

School Games Organiser/Leadership Academy

The Year 10 Leadership Academy completed their second day of training with the University of Wolverhampton, completing a morning session focused on them completing their Level 2 in Multi-Skills Award, and then an afternoon focusing on Careers in Sport. They will now complete coaching hours, to utilise their new qualifications and skills: they have already helped officiate the Black Country Games Sandwell Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics Event and will officiate at the Old Park Primary Football Festival after half term, amongst other things. Their training will then begin again in September with some further courses to be completed at the university, to include PE/School Sport Taster, Inclusion and Behaviour Management Award and some time spent in the Human Performance Laboratory.

Students involved: Kyle Arnold (Ali), Charlie Blackhall (Ali), Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Khloe Chang (Parks), Kendre Colquhoun (Nightingale), Oliver Corbett (Parks), Micah Ejizu (Nightingale), Lucas Freeth (Ali), Phoebe Grew (Parks), Josiah McLeary (Ali), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Caitlin Skeldon (Parks), Harry Slater (Nightingale).

Mr Rollason, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Probert

Year 7 Football

Year 7 footballers have played in the Sandwell Cup this half-term, progressing to the semi-final stage. They recently beat Wodensborough 1-0 in the quarter-finals. We look forward to their semi-final soon! Team from: Archie Eades (Shakespeare), Jack Edwards (Da Vinci), Jacob Patel (Parks), Grant Nicholls (Nightingale), Sam Ferguson (Shakespeare), Tobyn Maycock (Nightingale), Jenson Arnold (Ali), Ashton Ibbs (Ali), Noah Kirk (Ali), Ethan Hall (Nightingale), Niall Cooper (Parks). Mr Rollason

Elite Performers

Archie Jones (Nightingale) in Year 8 is a cricketer with outstanding potential. He plays games for Wednesbury's adult teams on a Saturday or Sunday now, including the adult First Team. He is the youngest junior to play adult cricket for the club in a long time and is playing well. In his first adult game a few weeks ago, he got two wickets in the 5 overs he bowled including a wicket maiden.

Archie has also been playing in the U13/U14 Birmingham Premier League with his other team Wellesbourne and has started the season playing really well for both sides and taking lots of

wickets (he is currently 5 wickets short of getting 100 wickets since he started playing standard rules cricket 3 years ago) which is a fantastic haul at the standard he is playing at. Following Warwickshire's summer squad trial games and selection process, Archie has been selected as part of their main U13's county age group squad (CAG) – this is a fantastic achievement for Archie and everyone is really pleased for Archie that all his hard work and effort is paying off.

His Warwickshire team (Bears) played Staffordshire recently in a 45 over game and were comfortable winners. His Bears team put on 252/4 in their 45 overs, then bowled Staffordshire out for just 99 runs in 32 overs with Archie bowling 5 overs, with 2 wickets for just 7 runs, including a brilliant 'caught and bowled' with his first ball, diving to the left and catching it one handed just off the ground.

Staffordshire's coaches then let their 3 opening batsmen go back in to try and see out the 45 overs, but Bears ended up bowling them out for 114/12 with archie bowling 2 more overs in this period and getting another wicket. So overall he bowled 7 overs, 3 wickets for 17 runs.

Elise Simcox (Parks) is a Year 7 student and boxer. Elise recently represented her club, Black Country Boxing Academy CIC at National level in the England Boxing National Schools' Championships in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This is a significant achievement for Elise who has worked extremely hard to get to this stage of the championships. Elise can be seen below with her medal from the final. Well done Elise for an incredible performance.

Shyla-Mae Silvester (Shakespeare) in Year 8 is another talented boxer and trains at Darlaston Boxing Club. She is the current England Boxing School Champion and is through to the England Finals. Good luck in the final Shyler-Mae.

Charlie Miller (Parks) is an outstanding Year 7 gymnast who trains with West Bromwich Gymnastics and Trampolining Club - the club is based here at Wood Green Academy. He recently competed at Lilleshall where he had to do 4 routines, getting Gold. He also got Silver in the team tumbling event, then another Gold, this time in acrobatics. Extremely well-done Charlie!

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



Mr J Topham
Headteacher