



September 2025

Dear parent/carer/student

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break—welcome back! A special welcome as well to our new students, parents, and carers who are joining the Wood Green Academy community for the first time.

Congratulations to all our students on their examination results this year. Your perseverance and commitment have been truly inspiring. These impressive outcomes are a testament to the collective efforts of our students, staff, and families. I'd like to sincerely thank and commend everyone who supported our students on this journey—parents, carers, teachers, support staff, governors, and friends. Your contributions have been invaluable.

New Staff to Wood Green Academy this Academic Year

Mr WHITEHEAD	Teacher of English
Miss KHAN	Teacher of English
Miss BEGUM	Teacher of Chemistry
Mr UDDIN	Teacher of Bio/Chemistry
Ms STOKES	Teacher of Art

STEP Academy Trust

After the successful listening period last academic year, our application to join STEP Academy Trust was submitted to the DFE. Unfortunately, after being initially supportive the DFE have decided that they will not support the proposal in its current format in spite of the overwhelming support of students, staff and parents. They would, however welcome a future proposal where STEP Academy Trust supported a cluster of schools in the local geographical area including in the Secondary Phase.

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.

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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 19th September 2025.

Safeguarding

On 24th June, we held our first Safeguarding and Welfare Coffee Morning with parents. Reflexions joined us in school to offer valuable guidance on how to approach sometimes difficult conversations with children around the topic of mental health.

Please see below for some useful links that may support you in discussing this important subject.

We will be hosting a Coffee Morning each term this year, focusing on key issues such as online safety and exam stress. Keep an eye out for our *Safeguarding Flashpoints* for more information.

Video Links:

- We all have mental health - <https://youtu.be/DxIDKZHW3-E?si=8YzyV1gOtvqgs3XP>
- Get Britain talking - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RIGdF1L3YY
- Empathy video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw

Resource Links:

- Young Minds - hwww.youngminds.org.uk/parent/
- Mind - www.mind.org.uk/
- Kooth - www.kooth.com/
- Childline - www.childline.org.uk/
- Anna Freud - www.annafreud.org/resources/

Lost Property

Please can parents continue to put their child's name into their uniform as this helps us to reunite lost clothing with their owner. Over the year, we accumulate a huge number of unlabelled items that we aren't able to return to their owners. Coats and jumpers are particularly high in quantity.

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 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.

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, when they can only be collected by Parents/Carers between 3.00-3.30pm. (In the event of school finishing at 12.00pm, phones due to be collected, can be picked up between 12.00 and 12.20pm.).

Phones confiscated on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday will be confiscated until the end of the following school week, when 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 3.00pm - 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 22nd Oct, Thurs 23rd Oct or Fri 24th Oct, it will not be returned until Monday 3rd November 2025 (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.

Behaviour Policy

The behaviour policy is available to read in full on the school website and is available here:

<https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/download/behaviour-policy-2025-2026/?wpdmdl=49861&refresh=68a7000e2e13d1755774990>

The main changes from last year are as follows:

- Pg 10 – Highlighted that detention may also be used for other incidents
- Pg 10 - School detentions (Compulsory Study Support) for homework (x3)/late to lesson (after 3 mins) (x3)/S410 below expected standard (x3) will be 20 mins in length and will take place at the end of the school day in a central location.
- Pg 10 – SLT detention is now a weekly detention and can take place on any day of the week.
- Pg 14 – Parents' responsibilities section updated to include:
 - In choosing to send their child to this school signifies parents' acceptance of and agreement to uphold the school's behaviour policy.
 - If their child is given an off-site direction, they must ensure that their child attends the placement on time each day and agree to uphold the provision's behaviour policy.
 - (at least 2 contact details).
- Pg 16 – Any student who refuses to be searched will be issued with a permanent exclusion for disobedience.
- Pg 18 – Students are only allowed to drink water in lessons.
- Pg 48 – or refuses to be searched added to the section regarding Permanent Exclusion.
- Pg 51 – Vapes/Nose vapes or similar and water pistols added to list of banned items.
- Appendix U – IEU timings added.

Parking

Once again, our local residents have raised concerns regarding a minority of parents that have caused issues in terms of their parking and collecting of students; this has been escalated to the local authority. In particular, reversing, turning and blocking members of the public's drives.

We would like to remind all parents/carers to please respect our neighbours by not parking or collecting your children from St. Paul's Rd, Sparrow Close, or the surrounding area.

Student Achievements

I Can I Will Loyalty Cards – Years 7 and 8 only

Loyalty cards proved very popular last academic year with Year 7 and 8 students.

Students worked hard to get their I Can I Will Loyalty Cards signed as they demonstrate the 7 I Can I Will Characters in their work:

Resilience, Drive, Curiosity, Initiative, Risk Taking, Reflectiveness and Flexibility of Mind.

A number of students completed their Gold cards with some completing the special 100 Club cards. A number of students even completed the new Diamond card!

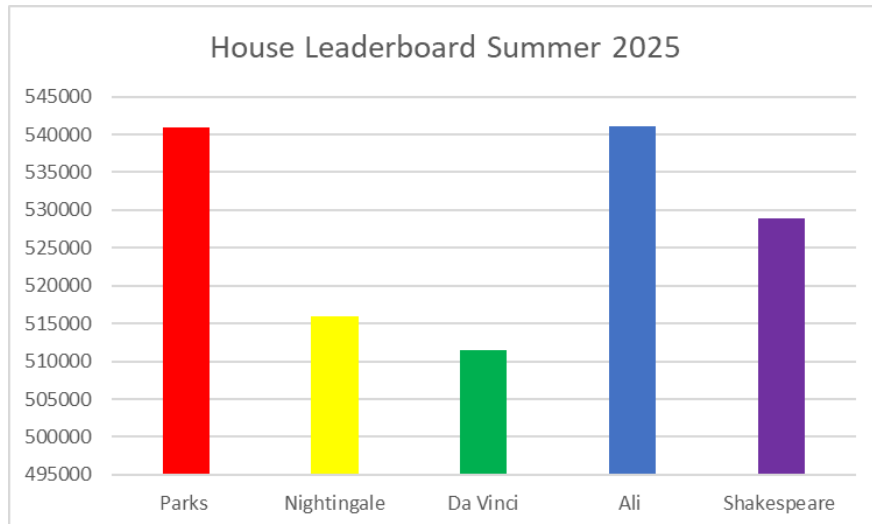
House System

Congratulations to Nieve Hocknull (Da Vinci) winner of the Women's Rugby World Cup Mascot Design competition.

All students that entered this competition have received points for their house. Da Vinci absolutely smashed it!

- Da Vinci 23
- Parks 4
- Nightingale 2

A huge well done to all the students that entered.



Elite Performers

Year 7 Travis Abercrobie (Da Vinci) recently had three good fights at the World Muay Thai Championships where he won gold.



Amber Keeling-Cartwright (Nightingale) in Year 9 is an excellent open water swimmer. She recently swam in the combined regional championships where she swam the 3km at Lake 86 Cotswold Water Park. Her time was an incredible 46:45.76. She came 16th out of the combined regions of South West, East Midlands, West Midlands and Wales. She came 1st in Staffordshire and 2nd in the West Midlands region and has qualified for Swim England National Open Water Championships.

Congratulations to Year 7 students Diego Bragoli (Da Vinci) who has signed schoolboy forms for Walsall FC.

Football officials

Year 11s Joshua Smith (Parks) and Roshan Randhawa (Parks) along with Year 10 Jayden Pye (Da Vinci) officiated at the Sandwell Schools' FA Primary Schools Cup Finals – firstly at the girls' final, followed by the boys' final a week later. The trio were excellent in their officiating displays and worked very well as a team. They received many compliments from those in attendance.

A number of Year 9 students officiated at the Old Park Primary School Football tournaments for boys and girls. We have supported this competition for a number of years now, which maintains our good relationship with Old Park and the competing schools.

The boys' competition was officiated by: Oliver Corbett (Parks), Chaiden Hennefer (Da Vinci), Archie Leon Bolding (Da Vinci), Josiah McCleary (Ali), Edgardo Jackson (Ali), Harrison Perry (Shakespeare), Muhammad Qureshi (Nightingale), Alfie Simcox (Nightingale).

The girls' competition was officiated by: Sigourney-Rai Aston (Parks), Peyton Birch (Parks), Shaan Daly (Parks), Evie Grainger (Shakespeare), Lexie Halford (Da Vinci), Alaana Smith (Nightingale), Phoebe Grew (Parks).

Black Country School Games Festival

We had a number of students attend the Black Country School Games Festival at Wolverhampton University (Walsall Campus).

A group of Year 7 Sporting Aptitude students took part in the secondary activity trail where they engaged in golf, baseball, kabaddi, and judo alongside some of the GB Judo team. The group performed very well: George Belcher (Ali), Olly Mayne (Ali), Jaiden Mistry (Da Vinci), Ajwa Noor (Einstein), Keyaan Rahman (Nightingale), Mikhail Rehman (Shakespeare), Harry Richards (Parks), Scarlett Markham (Parks), Shyla-Mae Silvester (Shakespeare), Alexia Stone (Da Vinci).

The media leaders once again produced a fantastic video of the day which will be a fantastic memento for all those children across the Black Country who took part in this fabulous occasion: Naimh Hazel (Shakespeare), Tamsin Gwilt (Da Vinci), Sydney Harvey (Ali), Umar Zaman (Nightingale), Charly Moore-Parsons (Parks).

A number of Wood Green Academy students represented Sandwell at the Black Country Games Indoor Athletics and won Bronze:

Sigourney Rai Aston (Parks), Peyton Birch (Parks), Phoebe Grew (Parks), Lexie Halford (Da Vinci), Eliza Kerr (Parks), Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Muhammed Choudhury (Nightingale), Micah Ejiza (Nightingale), Edgardo Jackson (Ali), Archie Leon Bolding (Da Vinci), Dylan Townsend (Ali).

Boccia

We had two teams representing Wood Green at the tournament: a PD team consisting of Sam Fellows (Nightingale), Alfie Hadley (Shakespeare), Ashton Harvey (Ali) and a PAN team made up of Ruby-May Dangerfield (Parks), Tommy Price (Ali), Tyler Hill (Ali). They all did brilliantly well in representing the PE department and the school. The physical team got Silver medals, missing out on Gold by just 3 points! Well done to all involved, it was great to see you represent the school.

Rounders

Alaana Smith (Nightingale) wrote the following regarding the recent rounder tournament at Wodensborough: Whilst at the rounders competition, all the pupils showed a great interest in winning and communicated with each other very well. The competition was a great bonding and learning experience for everyone and it was a fun time to get us out to stop

stressing about exams. Whether we won or lost, I'm sure that everyone was happy that they went.' Those attending had a great time and represented the school very well: Harkiran Batth (Shakespeare), Maddison Burns (Ali), Khloe Chang (Parks), Jiaxin Huang (Nightingale), Emily Morris (Nightingale), Caitlin Skeldon (Parks), Alaana Smith (Nightingale), Lily-Rose Thomas (Ali), Shantel Tshuma (Shakespeare), Umaizaah Uddin (Ali), Nicole Moyo (Parks), Sofia Gheorghe (Ali)

Wood Green Academy School Sports Partnership

Training sessions and a programme of activities have concluded for the first year of the Service Level Agreement with positive feedback from those involved.

We are saying goodbye to Miss Parker who has been our School Games Organiser at Wood Green academy for the past 14 years. She has done an incredible job developing the programme and going above and beyond the level of delivery required for children across Sandwell and in particular our students at Wood Green Academy. She is taking up a post in the education team at Wolverhampton Wanderers working with Academy footballers as well as Scholars. She will be greatly missed.

Sports Day 2025

Congratulations to PARKS who were our 2025 Sports Day Champions at one of our most competitive sports days ever. Huge well done to all students who took part and special congratulations to the following students who now hold the school record for their event:

Yr7 - Obinna Ezekude (Ali) - 400m -1m 6sec (breaks the record from 2017)

Yr8 - Eliza Kerr (Parks) - 200m -29.66sec (breaks the record from 2019)

Yr 9- Shaan Daly (Da Vinci) – Triple Jump - 6.40m (breaks the record from 2016)

The chess competition during sports day was a roaring success with 38 competitors across the 4 year groups. Knockout stages took place in the morning and finals were played inside the running track in the afternoon.

Winners:

Year 10 Aden Foster (Ali),

Year 9 Riley Garrison (Parks),

Year 8 draw Carlos Rafael Molik Gonzalez (Nightingale) and Joel Mayne (Shakespeare),

Year 7 Hamze Masudi (Nightingale).

School Calendar

The most up to date version of the school calendar is available on our website and can be found in the following location: <https://www.woodgreenacademy.co.uk/school-calendar/>

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you over the coming years.

Many thanks



Mr J Topham
Headteacher