



September 2026

Dear parent/carer/student

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing break—welcome back!

A particularly warm welcome goes to the new students, parents, and carers joining the Wood Green Academy community for the first time.

I would also like to congratulate our students on their examination results this year. Your dedication and determination have been truly commendable. These excellent achievements reflect the combined efforts of our students, staff, and families.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to everyone who has supported our students throughout this journey—parents, carers, teachers, support staff, governors, and friends. Your support has been invaluable.

New Staff to Wood Green Academy this Academic Year

- Miss Begum Teacher of English
- Miss Uddin Teacher of Science
- Mrs Coley Teacher of Science
- Miss Hadlington Teacher of Science
- Miss Mistry Head of Media Studies
- Mrs Mercer Student Welfare Manager

School Routines

To help the end-of-day routine run smoothly, we kindly ask that any changes to your child's transport arrangements — particularly on wet weather days — are agreed in advance at home. When plans are altered each time it rains, staff are frequently contacted to pass messages to students, which can be disruptive during a busy school afternoon.

If you anticipate that your child will need collecting when the weather is poor, please discuss this with them beforehand so they know exactly what to do. This will ensure they feel confident about their arrangements and will help us keep the school day running efficiently.

Additionally, students are able to come back into the Academy and to reception to call home if needed.

Please can we also request that if a student is needed to leave school early that they are sent to school with a note as this will aid us to ensure that they are waiting for you when they need to be collected.

Thank you for your support.

Social Media Restrictions and Young People – Key Findings from New Government Research

A recent Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) study explored the impact of social media restrictions on young people aged 13–17. Researchers trialled three approaches: a 15-minute daily limit on social media apps, a 9pm–7am social media curfew, and the temporary removal of social media apps. The study was qualitative and exploratory, meaning it provides useful insights into young people's experiences but is not intended to be statistically representative of all children.

The findings were broadly positive. Many young people reported improved sleep, better concentration, increased study time, improved mood and more family interaction when their social media use was reduced. Better sleep was particularly significant, with participants frequently linking improved rest to better emotional wellbeing and focus during the day. Families also reported spending more time together and engaging in more face-to-face conversation.

The most successful intervention was the overnight social media curfew (9pm–7am). This approach was viewed as the easiest to implement, produced the strongest and most consistent improvements in sleep, and was the option families were most willing to continue after the study ended. Many participants felt it was a fair and proportionate way of encouraging healthier habits without completely removing access to social media.

However, the research also highlighted some challenges. Social media plays a major role in how young people communicate with friends, particularly through group chats. Some participants reported feeling isolated or worried about missing out when restrictions were in place, especially when their peers continued using social media as normal. Researchers also noted an initial adjustment period, during which some young people experienced frustration, irritability and resistance to the restrictions.

Importantly, the study found that restrictions worked best when combined with education and support. Researchers concluded that helping young people understand online safety, digital wellbeing, algorithms, privacy and AI-generated content is likely to be more effective than relying on restrictions alone. Schools were identified as a key partner in supporting families with this education.

The report suggests that families may wish to consider practical measures such as social media-free evenings, keeping phones out of bedrooms overnight, and encouraging participation in offline activities in preparation for the social media ban in Spring 2027. While there is no single solution, the evidence indicates that modest and manageable restrictions—particularly overnight curfews—can support healthier sleep patterns, improved wellbeing and stronger family relationships.

Source: [Social Media Intervention Research 2026: Social media restriction pilots: Qualitative research with 13 to 17-year-olds in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

Safeguarding

We would like to make you aware that Wood Green Academy is an Operation Encompass school. Operation Encompass is a national initiative that enables schools to receive information from the police when a child or young person has been exposed to, witnessed, or been involved in a domestic abuse incident.

At Wood Green Academy, Miss Donaghie, Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), along with several Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs), have received Operation Encompass training and act as the school's key adults for this area of work.

This enables them to liaise effectively with the local authority and other relevant agencies, using information shared in confidence to ensure that appropriate support is provided for children and families who may be experiencing difficulties following a domestic abuse incident.

We are committed to providing the very best support for all our pupils and believe that our involvement in Operation Encompass is of significant benefit to the children, young people, and families within our school community.

Parent Code of Conduct

While the vast majority of our interactions with parents and carers are positive, supportive and conducted in the best interests of our students, there have unfortunately been a small number of occasions where behaviour towards staff has fallen below the standards we expect within our school community.

To help ensure that Wood Green Academy remains a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for everyone, the Governing Board has approved an updated Parent Code of Conduct for 2026–2029.

The Code sets out clear expectations for respectful communication, constructive partnership working and appropriate conduct when engaging with staff, students and other members of our school community. It also outlines behaviours that will not be tolerated, including abusive language, threatening behaviour, excessive or unreasonable communication, inappropriate use of social media and disruptive conduct on school premises.

The overwhelming majority of parents already demonstrate these values every day, and we thank them for their continued support as we work together to provide the very best education and care for our students.

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 16th September 2026.

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, I would like to thank the vast majority of parents/carers who ensure that their child does not bring a mobile phone to school. However, there have been a number of incidents during the last half term that we have had to address and, for clarity, I would like to remind everyone of the school's expectations.

In line with our school policy and the statutory guidance issued under the **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026**, all schools in England are expected to operate as **mobile phone-free environments by default**, with pupils prohibited from accessing mobile phones during the school day. [\[gov.uk\]](https://www.gov.uk), [\[legislation.gov.uk\]](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

Therefore, students in Years 7 to 11 **MUST NOT** bring mobile phones onto the school site. This expectation is central to maintaining a calm, safe and focused learning environment and supports the national guidance which schools are required to have regard to when determining their behaviour policies.

Where there is an exceptional safeguarding reason for a student to have a mobile phone during their journey to and from school, parents/carers **MUST** request temporary permission from Miss Donaghie in writing. Any such permission will be granted on the understanding that the phone is handed in to the relevant Year Leader/Student Support Manager each day for the duration of the safeguarding need.

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 3.00-3.30pm (in the event of school finishing early, phones due to be collected, can be picked up 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 21st October, Thurs 22nd October or Fri 23rd October, it will not be returned until Monday 2nd November 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.

Behaviour Policy

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

[Behaviour Policy 2026-27](#)

The main changes from last year are as follows:

Pg 3 Added the school vision and mission statement:

“Our Vision and Mission: We want to improve our students’ life chances so they are successful, respectful, healthy and kind.

For students: Be the kindest, healthiest, and most successful you, that you can be.”

Pg 5, 6, 7, 21 – reference to Step Up for Life replaced by Personal Development

Pg 6 – Added reference to the Family Liaison Officer

Pg 8 – Added extra bullet point about rewards

- “Badges awarded on Class charts and positive e-mails sent to parents for a combination of good behaviours across a day or week.”

Pg 8 – Added checking equipment of peers as a responsibility

Pg 9 – Added recording device and smart wearables as banned items

Pg 10 – Detention for late to lesson given own bullet point.

Detention awarded for this after one occasion.

Added to school for clarity for YL detentions

Pg 11 – Added “Students that choose to have piercings during term time will be unable to take part in PE lessons therefore they will need to make up each lesson missed with an hour detention.”

Added smart devices for clarity

Pg 12 – Changed internal exclusion to Behaviour Recovery

Changed isolation work to remote learning resources

External Isolation replaced with short term offsite direction

Pg 13 – Added smart devices for clarity

Pg 14 – Added “In the unlikely event that a student is absent from school, parents should ensure that their child remains at home for the day and does not come near the school premises.”

Added “and email addresses”

Added “To behaviour in a manner aligned to Wood Green Academy’s parental code of conduct.”

Pg 16 – Updated reference to new DFE guidance on Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools.

Link to new guidance updated

Pg 18 – “Added Educational Psychologist”

Added “Kooth/WYSA App”

Added “Students may be directed to self-help tools like Kooth or the WYSA app to help with issues such as anxiety and various other mental health concerns.”

Pg 20 – Added “Parental Code of Conduct”

Pg 22 – Added a section on Reward Badges in Classcharts

Pg 29 – IEU changed to Behaviour Reset Unit

Pg 42 – Internal Exclusion Unit changed to Behaviour Reset Unit

Pg 47 – Added “suspended for more than 45 days in an academic year”

Pg 50 – Changed “Internal Exclusion/External Exclusion” to “Behaviour Reset Unit/Off-site Directions”

Pg 51 - Changed “Internal Exclusion/External Exclusion” to “Behaviour Reset Unit/Off-site Direction”

Pg 52 – Added “Smart Devices (includes wearables) and Any recording device”

Pg 53 – Added “(cannot be a smart watch)”

Added “smart devices/recording devices”

Pg 57 – changed IEU to BRU

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

With the proposed bans on use of social media coming into force, what can students do instead of scrolling?

All students in Years 7 and 8 will engage in the new WGA50 Challenges. These challenges offer fantastic opportunities for children to just be children, in the traditional sense, whereby they are not controlled by a screen. The challenges will focus on developing our 'I Can I Will' characteristics of: Resilience; Drive; Curiosity; Initiative; Risk Taking (safely); Reflectiveness; Flexibility of Mind.

Students will do 25 challenges in Year 7 and another 25 challenges in Year 8. They will select their own challenges from categories that have the following themes: Language; Apprentice; History/Geography; Cultural; Sport; Creative; Community; Resilience. The activities get progressively more challenging as the students move from Year 7 to Year 8. Students complete the challenges then show evidence on their record card – they can then get each activity signed off by a parent/guardian, coach, community leader, teacher or other suitable person – they will then just need to share their evidence with their form tutor. As we are looking to develop independence, it is each student's responsibility to get their card signed and evidence collected and written down.

Enrichment

Enrichment refers to extracurricular clubs, school visits, guest speakers and any other activity that compliments and enhances each child's curriculum. The school runs a range of activities predominantly at lunch times and after school. Virtually every department and year group in the school runs activities for students to engage in.

Our enrichment activities are available for all students and are categorised under the following headings:

- **Civic Engagement:** eg Ambassadors, Sports Leadership and Officiating, Litter Picking...
- **Arts and Culture:** eg Drama and Music Clubs, Theatre Visit, Art Club, School Productions...
- **Nature, Outdoor and Adventurous:** eg Climbing Club, Garden Maintenance...
- **Sport and Physical Activity:** eg Sports Clubs, School Fixtures, Gym and Dance Show, Sports Leadership and Officiating...
- **Wider Life Skills:** eg University Visits, Code and Keyboard Clubs, Languages Clubs, Board Games Club, Buddy Club...

Every child is expected to engage in at least one activity from each category during each Key Stage.

School Houses

Students are rewarded for their attendance at clubs, and each point goes towards their respective House.

Each member of the school community is in a House: Ali (Blue), Da Vinci (Green), Nightingale (Yellow), Parks (Red) and Shakespeare (Yellow). Throughout the year there will be a range of House competitions for students to get involved in. Each week in form time on a Friday, will be the ever-popular FUN FRIDAY! activities that see forms representing their Houses and competing against each other. Each half term will see inter-house competitions for each year group. Each form will have its Form Captain and each House its House Captains.

In the run up to Sports Day the PE Department arranged a number of House activities for national Schools Sports Week. In addition, there has been the House Highland Games with events such as Haybale Carry, Welly Wanging and Tug of War.

Following on from this has been the House World Cup where Houses represented World Cup teams who wear their colours: Ali – Blue – France; Da Vinci – Green – Mexico; Nightingale – Yellow – Brazil; Parks – Red – Spain; Shakespeare – Purple – Portugal. A fantastic atmosphere has been generated by the large numbers supporting the event.

FUN FRIDAY!

Fun Friday! Continues to be a hit across the years with competitions running in each year group. This term quizzes have included: 'Which Sport?', 'Riddles', 'Musicians', 'Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday', 'Football Badges', Flags, Collective Nouns and World Cup Mascots.

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

Mr Price 10P2 are leading the Year 10 competition.

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

Miss Newman 8P2 are leading the Year 8 competition.

Mr Greenway 7A1 are leading the Year 7 competition.

Well done to all forms!

Black Country Games Boccia Finals

Congratulations to our Boccia team, who represented both Wood Green Academy and Sandwell at the Black Country Games Boccia Finals.

Sam Fellows (Nightingale), Alfie Hadley (Shakespeare), Ashton Harvey (Ali), Emily Modrak (Nightingale).

The team performed exceptionally well throughout the day, demonstrating excellent skill, teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. After a series of highly competitive matches, they finished in an outstanding 2nd place, a fantastic achievement against some of the strongest teams from across the Black Country.

We would also like to recognise our fantastic Year 10 Sports Leaders, who volunteered at the event. They played a key role in ensuring the competition ran smoothly by supporting participants, officiating games, and helping with the organisation of the event. Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and leadership were a credit to themselves and to the school (names as above in Leadership section).

Year 7 Football

Year 7 footballers have played in the Sandwell Cup this term, progressing to the semi-final stage. They recently beat Wodensborough 1-0 in the quarter-finals but unfortunately lost on penalties in the semi-final.

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).

Girls Football

Our girls' football teams were due to take part in the Sandwell Schools' FA Finals Day on July 9th. Unfortunately the event has had to be postponed due to the extreme heat and as a result will be played in September. The Year 9 & 10 girls will play in the Sandwell North v Sandwell South league winners' play-off. The Year 7 & 8 girls will play in the Sandwell North v Sandwell South league winners' play-off, plus the Sandwell FA Cup.

Yr7 & 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)

Yr9 & 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), Phoebe Grew (Parks), Iqrah-Jean Mahmood (Da Vinci).

Cycling

We have teamed up with British Cycling and have a group of students who are visiting Sandwell Valley to develop their mountain biking skills on a Tuesday afternoon. The group are taking to the tracks really well and displaying excellent bike handling skills:

Lola Bingham (Nightingale), Nancy Grace Eivors (Da Vinci), Emily Modrak (Shakespeare), Lillie May Sadler (Nightingale), Charlie Miller (Parks), Elijah Blundell (Ali), Arjeevan Batth (Shakespeare), Rachel Finazzo (Nightingale).

We also have a group of students who are new riders on a Friday lunchtime, who are making really good progress: Anthony Shields (Nightingale), Jake Shields (Nightingale), Clio Bradnick (Shakespeare), Oscar Fellows (Da Vinci), Ethan Hall (Nightingale), Emma Hodgkin (Ali), Heymanpreet Singh (Da Vinci), Freddie Somerfield (Shakespeare), River Vale-Davis (Nightingale), Kylo Wootton-Whitehouse (Nightingale), Tyler York (Da Vinci).

Athletics

Sandwell Schools Athletics Championships

Well done to all of our pupils who represented the school at the Sandwell Schools Athletics Championships. They demonstrated fantastic determination, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the competition, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

The championships featured a wide range of track and field events, including running, jumping, and throwing disciplines, giving our pupils the opportunity to compete against some of the best young athletes across Sandwell.

We are delighted that a number of our pupils performed so well that they qualified for the Mason Trophy. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a special well done to those who progressed to the next stage.

Oyinkansola Ajileye (Nightingale), Oliver Baker (Nightingale), Olly Blakemore (Shakespeare), Khloe Chang (Parks), Muhammed Choudhury (Nightingale), Oliver Corbett (Parks), Charlie Dempster (Shakespeare), Thea Duffield-Bagby (Nightingale), Obinna Ezekude (Ali), Isla Finch (Shakespeare), Malachi Fuller (Da Vinci), Phoebe Grew (Parks), Charlie Kelsey-Beasmore (Shakespeare), Alesha Mateko (Ali), Brian Nwiwu (Shakespeare), Billy Owen (Parks), Caitlin Skeldon (Parks), Archie Truslove (Da Vinci), Mohammed Tunkara (Parks), Ceannah Whyte (Shakespeare), Faye Wilkes (Nightingale), Evie Williams (Shakespeare).

Elite Performers

English Schools Success

A special congratulations goes to Charlie Kelsey-Beasmore (Shakespeare), who qualified to represent the West Midlands at the English Schools Athletics Championships. He was down to run the 100m and relay, following his outstanding performance at the prestigious Mason Trophy. Charlie also threw the shot put coming a very respectable second. This is an exceptional achievement, with only a very small number of athletes reaching this level of competition. It reflects Charlie's outstanding talent, dedication, and hard work, and everyone

at school is incredibly proud of his success. We wish him the very best of luck in the championships.

Charlie won gold in the 4x100 mixed relay , breaking the championship and British National record, concluding an incredible weekend at his first games!

Year 8 - Scarlett Markham (Parks) recently won Silver in the English Schools Boxing Competition Class B. She is a dedicated boxer who fights out of the Southpaw Boxing and Fitness Gym.

Year 10 - Dexter Wiggetts (Ali) has qualified to represent the West Midlands at trampolining this weekend at the Utilita Arena. He will have to perform two routines to determine his final standing. Much hard work and training goes into his preparation for such prestigious events and trampolining has been a big part of his life for many years. We wish him well.

Year 10 - Amber Keeling Cartwright (Nightingale) continues to compete for the west Midlands in open water swimming. She recently did a 3k at lake 86 Cotswold Regions competing were: South West, East Midlands, West Midlands, Wales. Amber came first overall out of the West Midlands and first in Staffordshire and then out of all four regions she came second overall with a time of 40.48 and the winner overall was 40.47! A fantastic achievement by Amber!

School Games Organiser

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Probert our School Games Organiser has received the 'Outstanding School Partnership Award' from West Bromwich Albion Foundation. This is for her dedication and outstanding work in partnership with the Foundation. Congratulations Mrs Probert, a thoroughly deserved award – going above and beyond!

Minibus

Students and staff are delighted to have received our new school minibus, which is a significant upgrade on the old one. The bus has already been out on several runs, getting students to venues.

The following staff have recently (successfully) taken their extended minibus training and test: Mr Baggle, Miss McCurdy, Mr Perry, Miss Butler, Mrs Bell, Mr Brown, Mr Richards, Miss Pawley,

Theatre Work

Between 14th and 20th June, Michael Hind (Parks) played the role of Marky in four performances of the Crescent Theatre Birmingham's production of the Jez Butterworth play 'Jerusalem'.

He was invited to audition for the role as he and his older brother Thomas (Parks) are both active members of the Crescent Youth Theatre. Michael has been commended for his calm and mature involvement in the play and his commitment to rehearsals and the late finishes on show nights.

On Friday 3rd July both Michael and Thomas also performed in the Crescent Youth Theatre production of an original comedy play called 'Winging It' that Thomas co-wrote.

Special thanks to Mrs Smith who signposted the Crescent Youth Theatre opportunity to both students back in 2024.

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 read 'J Topham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr J Topham
Headteacher