



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you collectively as secondary Headteachers in the London Borough of Waltham Forest regarding recent social media posts referring to so-called “School Wars.”

Over the past week, messages have circulated online suggesting planned incidents involving schools across several London boroughs, with some references also made to schools in Essex. Many of these posts contained inaccuracies, including misspelled school names and references to schools that do not exist in Waltham Forest. While this called their credibility into question, we treat any suggestion of risk to young people with the utmost seriousness.

As a result, we have worked closely and proactively with the Metropolitan Police and the Local Authority to review and strengthen safety arrangements. Across our schools, we have:

- Delivered assemblies reminding students about safe travel and the serious consequences of becoming involved in altercations.
- Liaised with one another to coordinate precautionary measures where necessary.
- Increased senior staff presence at the end of the school day to provide visible reassurance and deterrence.
- Supported enhanced local police patrols in response to the posts.

Despite the prominence of these messages online, we have received no reports from the police of any disturbances in Waltham Forest linked to these posts. Colleagues in neighbouring boroughs have reported the same.

The pattern and nature of the posts suggest they were designed to create anxiety and disruption. We are aware that some may have been artificially generated or widely amplified online without verification. Whatever their origin, we are clear that spreading or engaging with such content can cause unnecessary fear and distract from young people’s education—particularly as we approach the public examination period.

We would like to reassure you that:

- Secondary schools across the borough will continue to work closely with the police and the Local Authority to safeguard students travelling to and from school.





- Senior staff will maintain a visible presence in the community at the end of the school day.
- We will support police efforts to identify the source of these posts.
- We will continue educating students about responsible social media use, critical thinking and the importance of not sharing unverified content.

School remains a safe place for your child. We strongly believe that attendance should continue as normal and that young people should not be kept away from school because of malicious or misleading online activity. Allowing such posts to disrupt education only amplifies their intended impact.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together with schools, families and the wider community, we can ensure our young people remain safe, able to focus on their education and enjoy their time at school.

Yours faithfully, Waltham Forest Secondary Headteachers

- Buxton School
- Connaught School
- Chingford Foundation School
- Frederick Bremer School
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Kelmscott School
- South Chingford School
- Walthamstow Academy
- Walthamstow School for Girls
- Willowfield School