

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school, refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead!

As a high-achieving all-girls secondary school in East London, we continue to be inspired by the ambition, resilience, and creativity of our students.

I wanted to write to you, as usual, with some reminders, as well as good news:

- Key dates for this school year
- Reminders about uniform and equipment
- Reminders about our Smartphone Free policy
- A reminder of the school day
- Good news about this year's GCSE results

Key Information for the New School Year:

Back to School: Wednesday 2nd September arrangements:

- Year 7 - 11.00 (gates will open at 10.50) and be dismissed at 15.15
- Years 8 to 11 – Start at 11.15 and finish at 12.30

Normal school day for all year groups from Thursday 3rd September.

Term Dates and Important Events:

Autumn Half Term – Key Dates		
11th September 2026	School photographer	Only for year 7 and 10
16th September 2026	Year 11 Parent Information Evening	
24th September 2026	Languages Day/MacMillan Bake Off	
24th September 2026	Early closure due to Year 6 Open Evening	Students will be dismissed at 2.15pm
25th September 2026	Late Start	School day will start at 9.40am
9th October 2026	Inset Day	School closed to all students
13th October 2026	College Roadshow	17.30 to 19.00
19th October 2026	Year 7 – This is my School/ Meet the tutors	16.00 to 17.00
Friday 23rd October 2026	Last day of half term	Students will be dismissed at 15.15

Uniform and Equipment:

We continue to have the highest expectations of uniform and behaviour. Thank you for working with us to ensure that your child is in full uniform. The uniform policy can be found here:

[Walthamstow School for Girls - Our Uniform \(wsfg.waltham.sch.uk\)](https://wsfg.waltham.sch.uk).

Please also ensure your child is organised, ready and prepared for the week ahead by checking their uniform, equipment, planner and lunch money (or on **ParentPay**). **For new parents, please ensure that you have access to Edulink** as we issue many of our communications through this system.

It is important that all students are **fully-equipped for the new school year**. Please ensure that your child returns with all of the following items as these may not be provided by teachers:

- Fully-equipped pencil case, including black or blue pens; HB pencil; ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener
- Calculator; Casio FX-83GTX
- Glue stick
- Purple pen
- Tissues
- Mathematical instruments set; protractor, compass
- Small set of coloured pencils
- Reading book
- Sanitary products when required

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties, please contact the info@ email and we can help you.

A Smartphone Free School

I also wanted to remind you that this year we are going '**Smartphone Free**'. **This will begin tomorrow on the 2nd of September**, so please discuss with your child so that they are prepared. Our expectations about **mobile phones** are as follows:

- No students will be allowed smartphones in the building. It will be a completely smartphone free environment
- No smartphones will be checked in, kept in bags or pockets
- **If students are found using a smartphone, if it goes off in a lesson or if it is found during a bag search it will be confiscated for 6 weeks**
- Touch screen watches and smart watches will also be treated the same way – this includes FitBits.
- Students **cannot use a smartphone before they enter the gate or outside the gate after school**
- In very specific circumstances, e.g. medical reasons, certain students will be allowed to carry a smartphone. Parents / carers have already made applications earlier in the year and arrangements have been made.

Safety Expectations: Banned Items

Please also support us with the following:

- **Mobile phones** – Remember that **only ‘brick phones’ are allowed now**, as specified in our [Positive Behaviour for Learning policy](#) (pages 22- 24) which shows all approved models. **Your child’s ‘brick’ phone should be switched off and in their bag**, if they bring it to school.
- If a student is seen with their ‘brick’ phone whilst in the building at any time, including after 3:15pm on their way out of school it will be confiscated, locked away and parents/carers will be able to collect it after **48 school hours** after the day of confiscation. Mobiles will not be returned to students.
- **False lashes** - these are banned items and students must not wear these. They will be confiscated if worn.
- **Long nails** - both acrylic and natural nails must be kept short for Health and Safety reasons. Nail posters in school display what length is acceptable.
- Nose piercings - one stud is permitted, no nose rings. Nose and ears are the only acceptable piercings. One small stud earring is allowed in each ear, no hoops.
- **Jewellery** - no rings, necklaces, bracelets are allowed.
- **Trainers** should not be worn unless there is a medical reason and a note provided. Students will be provided with plimsoles if they arrive to school in trainers.
- **Ear buds, wireless headphones and Smart watches** are banned items and will be confiscated. They will be locked away and returned to parents/carers after 48 hours.
- **Perfumes and sprays** are banned items and will be confiscated as they can be harmful to students with respiratory illnesses.
- **Chewing gum** is a banned item. Students found chewing will be given a 30 minute detention.

Good routines and consistent expectations are important to ensure that all students in our school feel safe and secure in school. Thank you for your understanding and support as parents and carers in working with us to keep all children safe in school.

A Reminder of our School Day – Starting on Wednesday 3rd September 2026

Thank you to all parents and carers who contributed to our recent consultation. Your feedback helped shape the final proposal, which was approved by governors. The new school day is designed to support student wellbeing and staff flexibility, while maintaining high standards of learning.

New Schedule:

- **Gates open:** 8.15
- **Gates close and school begins:** 8.40
- **Lesson 1:** 8.45 – 9.45
- **Lesson 2:** 9.45 – 10.45
- **Break:** 10.45 – 11.05
- **Lesson 3:** 11.05 – 12.05
- **Form time:** 12.05 – 12.25
- **Lunch:** 12.25 – 1.15

- **Lesson 4:** 1.15 – 2.15
- **Lesson 5:** 2.15 – 3.15
- **School ends:** 3.15

Please can you remind your child that school starts at 8.40 promptly and all students should be in school by this time. If students need time to put equipment in lockers or use the toilets, **they should arrive earlier.** This will allow them to get to their lesson by **8.45.** **Any students who arrive after this time, will be marked in as late and will miss valuable learning time.**

Celebrating Year 11 Success – GCSE Results 2026

We are thrilled to share the exceptional achievements of our Year 11 students. Their results reflect not only academic excellence but also the courage and determination that define our school community.

Key Highlights:

- **66%** achieved **Grade 5+ in English and Maths** (up from 66% in 2024)
- **81%** achieved **Grade 4+ in English and Maths**
- **64%** achieved **5+ GCSEs at Grade 5+ including English and Maths**
- **24%** achieved **Grade 7+ in English and Maths**
- **Average Attainment 8 Score: 57.84**
- **EBacc APS: 5.22**

Among our top achievers:

- **Edith MacGregor:** 9 grades 7-9, including 7 grade 9s. She will study Maths, Further Maths, Physics and English Literature at Harris Academy, Westminster
- **Hibba Rashid:** 10 grades 7–9, including 8 grade 9s. She will study at LAE Tottenham.
- **Lilianna Sajnog:** 9 grades 7–9, including 6 grade 9s. She plans to study Biology, Psychology and Sociology at LASWAP.
- **Lysha Lutfur:** 9 grades 7–9, including 6 grade 9s

Their advice to future Year 11 students: *"Never stop working hard... balance your free time... don't stop doing the things you enjoy... prioritise self-care... study with like-minded people."*

We are proud of every student, not just the highest achievers. Their success is a testament to the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of our families. Thank you for being part of this journey.

We look forward to another year of growth, achievement, and collaboration. As always, thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school community.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Marriott', written in a cursive style.

Helen Marriott

Headteacher

Walthamstow School for Girls