



NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE

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6th September 2024

Welcome Back to a New School Year at Walthamstow School for Girls!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been a pleasure to welcome back our students and families to Walthamstow School for Girls this week! We have had a very good start to the school year, with students returning to school looking smart, feeling rested and ready for the challenge and excitement of learning.

I apologise for the length of my first letter but there are a number of important items which I would like to bring to the attention of parents, carers and families.

Key Information for the New School Year

I. Term Dates and Important Events:

AUTUMN HALF TERM - KEY DATES		
Date	Event	Information
Monday 9th September	School photographer	Only for Year 7 and 10
Thursday 26th September	Languages Day/Macmillan Bake Off	
Thursday 26th September	Early closure due to Year 6 Open Evening	Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm
Friday 27th September	Late Start	School day will start at 9.45am
Thursday 3 rd October	GCSE and College Ready Year 11 Parent Information evening	5.30 - 6.30pm
Friday 11th October	INSET Day	School closed for students
Monday 14th October	This is my school - Year 7	4pm-5pm





Tuesday 15th October	College Roadshow – year 11	5.30pm-7pm
Friday 18th October	Last day of half term	Students will be dismissed at 3.30pm

Parent-Teacher Meetings:

PARENTS' EVENING DATES		
Date	Year Group	Information
Thursday 28th November	Year 10	In person
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 11	In person
Wednesday 12th February	Year 9	Online
Wednesday 2nd April	Year 7	In person
Thursday 8th May	Year 8	Online

School term dates can be found on our website: [Walthamstow School for Girls - Term Dates 2024-25](https://www.walthamstow-school-for-girls.com/term-dates-2024-25) ([wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](https://www.walthamstow-school-for-girls.com))

2. Uniform and Equipment:

We continue to have the highest expectations of uniform and behaviour. Thank you for working with us in ensuring that your child is in full uniform. The uniform policy can be found here: [Walthamstow School for Girls - Our Uniform](https://www.walthamstow-school-for-girls.com/our-uniform) ([wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](https://www.walthamstow-school-for-girls.com)).

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 sQuid). If you are experiencing any financial difficulties, please contact the [info@](mailto:info@walthamstow-school-for-girls.com) email and we can help you.

Please also support us with the following:

- **Mobile phones** - these should be checked in to the Front Office before 8:45am. **They can be collected at 3:30pm. If a student is seen with a mobile phone whilst in the building at any time, including after 3:30pm on their way out of school** it will be confiscated, locked away and parents/carers will be able to collect it after 48 hours. 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.

Due to staffing constraints, we are no longer able to accept PE kits at reception when students have forgotten to bring them to school. We will accept them for year 7 students until the end of September, as we understand that they have a lot to juggle at the start of the year. Thank you in advance for supporting us in ensuring your daughter develops her independence and comes to school ready and equipped for learning.

3. Communication:

We encourage open communication between school and home. For any queries or concerns, please contact your child's form tutor via the school office or info@ email address. You can also stay updated through our school website, Greensheet newsletter and social media channels.

4. Events this summer:

Sadly, the summer was marred by the awful events in Southport and the shocking Islamophobia and racism we witnessed in response. Our children and families will have been affected by the scenes on television and social media, experiencing a range of emotions including fear, anger, concern and traumatic responses. It was heartening to see the scenes in Walthamstow where the community came together in solidarity against violence and hatred.

We have spoken to staff and students about how we ensure we have an appropriate long-term response to these events, as well as providing immediate help to students who need it. **If you would like to be involved with other parents and governors** in exploring what this long-term response looks like or if you would like any support for your child, please contact me via the info@ email address.

5. School Streets

Following a local community consultation, the council will be running a School Streets scheme **from 23rd September** until the end of the year near WSFG. The scheme affects a small section of Church Hill and all of Church Hill Road which will be a pedestrian and cycle only zone between 8 – 9 am and 2.50 - 3.50,



Monday to Friday, during term time only. Hopefully, this will improve student safety and traffic pollution for students on their way to and from school. More details will be available on the News section of our school website here: [Walthamstow School for Girls - Latest News \(wsfg.waltham.sch.uk\)](https://www.walthamstow-school-for-girls.org.uk/news)



6. Student Safety Outside School / Safer Schools Police Officer

The safety of our students is very important and we would ask that you talk to your daughter to remind her how best to keep herself safe on the street when they are not in school.

- Keep your phone safe and try not to use it openly when on the streets.
- Try to walk with others when possible.
- If walking in the dark, stay on streets with good street lighting.
- Always let someone know where you are going when you leave home.
- If you have any concerns or feel unsafe tell an adult, such as your family / school.
- If you feel unsafe near school and school is open come in and seek support.

We all know that there are "hotspots" in Waltham Forest where there is police presence and extra caution needs to be taken when in that area. "Hotspots" include Walthamstow Central, various park areas in Waltham Forest and roads off Church Hill such as the Avenues and Woodbury Road.

We have a Safer Schools Police Officer who will be coming in to school this term, speaking with students about keeping themselves safe on the streets and who will be running a lunchtime drop in.

7. Looking Ahead

We have an exciting year planned, filled with opportunities for learning and growth. We already have a number of visits, fixtures and events organised for this year, including trips to Boulogne and Rome, theatre trips, concerts and school show.

8. Support for Students and Families

Should you need any support or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to ensure that every student has a successful and enjoyable school year.



Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Warm regards,
Helen Marriott

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Marriott'.

Headteacher
Walthamstow School for Girls