



Wanstead High School

Education with Character



Prospectus



Welcome to Wanstead High School

Thank you for showing an interest in this amazing local school.

Wanstead High School is a thriving 11-18 comprehensive school in the heart of the community.

Our mission is to deliver high quality education with character to every single young person who comes here. Our staff are totally committed to doing the best for their pupils, and in return, the pupils are keen to succeed, resulting in excellent exam results across the board and their personal growth across the five or seven years they are part of the school.

The key to successful secondary education is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, consistently taught well by subject specialists, that allows all pupils to follow the most ambitious pathways to suit their talents and dreams. That's what Wanstead High School does so well! We are also equipping our pupils with enquiring minds and instilling strong positive values that will help them to thrive and succeed in the future.

We provide a very strong core of traditional subjects, from Year 7 up to A Level, as well as a huge breadth of choice in Key Stage 4 and 5, with amazing facilities across the school, despite the current building work. The Dance and Drama provision is second to none and the regular performances are outstanding in every way. In addition to learning in the classroom, our pupils also have access to a wide spectrum of extra-curricular activities from excellent sports and school clubs, through to trips, including opportunities to travel abroad. We are hugely excited about the new building and swimming pool which should be open in 2025.

We are committed to providing the very best for the young people in our care, and I hope that this prospectus opens up a little bit about what makes Wanstead special.

Although new to the school, I am already very proud to be the Headteacher. I have a teenage daughter myself and she drives me to ensure that the education we provide is second to none. I want every opportunity for her and I want every opportunity for your children too.

Please do come and visit the school on our annual Open Evening or by booking a morning tour – our pupils and staff are the very best advertisement for Wanstead High. I look forward to meeting you.

Emma Hillman, Headteacher



At Wanstead High School, we welcome all pupils into our caring and supportive school community. Our pupils respect each other and have an understanding and tolerance of different cultures and faiths. Pupils are engaging, open-minded, fun and have excellent manners.

We work closely with our many primary school partners so that the transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible. We have a very strong pastoral team in place to assist pupils to settle quickly into a warm and caring environment. Each July, prospective pupils are given the opportunity to spend a day in the school and meet their Head of Year and Tutor, both of whom play a vital role in helping them to settle in. These opportunities provide all pupils with the opportunity to get to know the school site, become familiar with teaching staff and meet new classmates. Pupils with SEND come in for an additional morning to ensure we relieve any anxieties in advance.

Redeveloping connections with the wider community has been a key priority for the school after the pandemic and we take every opportunity to welcome families and local people into the school (such as our recent PTA quiz as part of the Wanstead Fringe) and enabling our pupils to serve the community in return.

“Your inclusive approach and attention to pupils’ well-being are held in high regard by pupils, parents, carers and staff.” **Ofsted Report 2019**

“At Wanstead High, staff hold children’s lives in their hands and hearts.”

**Lead HMI Inspector and School Improvement Partner
September 2023**

**Wanstead High School,
a learning community**





“This school is safer than any other school I have worked in.” **Staff Member 2023**

Learning for All

We strive for all pupils to reach the highest levels of attainment and have Challenge Weeks in place which are periods of assessment each term. This helps teachers to see where there are gaps and misconceptions and provides more robust data for reports. Aiming high at all levels is a key priority for us and this is encouraged in the classroom in all subjects and is reflected in results, which are above the national average year on year. We rigorously track data to adapt learning and intervention and ensure all pupils make progress and there are no gaps for key groups. Equality of opportunity is key to us and we strive to ensure all pupils can reach pathways of their choice.

Our curriculum models are designed to ensure that there is rigour and romance in each learning experience and we ensure that subjects offer opportunities for pupils to consider and develop education with character in each subject; also supplemented by out of classroom experiences ranging from local trips to art galleries and places of worship for example, as well as trips abroad.

Some pupils require additional support to achieve the very best of their ability. Wanstead High School works closely with parents and carers to provide for the needs of each child and our SENDCO and SEND team are committed to ensuring outstanding provision in the classroom through quality first teaching and in the form of targeted intervention, such as literacy and numeracy and social skills. We offer a range of targeted programmes through our Inclusion Team; including mentoring schemes and projects aimed at extending the learning of all.

Relationships between pupils and staff are very strong and this is rated highly in all feedback. The staff body are now very collegiate and supportive and our staff are very positive about why this is a great place to work.

Behaviour for Learning

Behaviour in the school is excellent and the new Behaviour Policy ensures that everyone in the community is aware of our high expectations and ensure a focus on reward and achievement. We strive to ensure there is no 'invisible middle' and that pupils who are quieter or not as well-known are encouraged and rewarded and able to showcase their talents.

Safeguarding is exemplary and we ensure all pupils in our care are very well looked after all day and every day.

Success is celebrated within the school and pupil surveys recognise this as a key strength. We send bi-weekly communication to parents and our newsletter 'The Heron Homelink' informs pupils, parents and the local community of the many activities and events that are held throughout the year, whilst Awards assemblies are a chance for the community to share their achievements.

An inclusive school where all are encouraged to achieve



Building confidence and success



The school and building is steeped in history and we want to ensure that the school goes from strength to strength creating new successes and achievements for our young people that will be remembered by the next generation. Wanstead High will be 100 years old in 2024.

We place particular emphasis on building confidence and success through the strong and supportive relationship between the Tutor and each individual pupil. Every pupil is assigned to a Tutor Group and immediately benefits from the support of their tutor, an experienced member of staff who will be responsible for their pastoral care and acts as a mentor in relation to their academic progress and wider learning. Each year group has a very committed Head of Year who leads the ethos and vision for the year, ensuring progress and wider participation for every pupil. We have a strong pastoral team and a full-time counsellor.

Education with Character

As well as academic qualifications, we strive to ensure that our pupils are equipped to become confident, successful adults. Our pupils take a key role in the wider community and have the confidence to continue to achieve as they move on after their time with us.

This includes opportunities such as Debating, involvement with the Wanstead Fringe and Jack Petchey events, such as the Speak Out Challenge. Extra-curricular activities including clubs, sports events, competitions and trips (including trips abroad) are a strong feature of school life. Pupils can attend breakfast club and the library before school to ensure they are ready for school and well-equipped for the day ahead.

The school offers many Pupil Leadership opportunities such as being a pupil helper in Year 8 and a chance to be Head Pupils and prefects. There is a revitalised School Council which will become an integral part of the school and its desire to keep improving, as well as new opportunities to become leaders in other areas such as sport, fund-raising and mental health.

“We live in Wanstead and having a local school for my children makes us feel part of the overall community and the school represents this community. Our two children have done extremely well at Wanstead and have also felt part of this community.”

Parent 2022



“My kids are happy and doing well at the school. We love that although it’s a very big school, it feels like a much smaller community.”

Parent 2023

Our experience, bespoke facilities and specialist knowledge within the Performing Arts has allowed us to develop creativity and excellence across all areas of the curriculum. Performance elements have been introduced to selected areas of the wider curriculum to stimulate pupils and help them achieve their full potential.

We have excellent facilities including a Theatre, Drama and Dance studios and modern Music Technology suites. There are a wide variety of Dance, Drama and Music clubs and workshops taking place at lunchtime and after school, with opportunities to join at all levels. Productions take place throughout the year and everyone is welcome to get involved, whether performing on stage or working behind the scenes.

We have been awarded Artsmark Gold, an award which recognises the high level of creative and artistic work that is continually produced across the school.



Specialising in the Performing Arts: learning through creativity and teamwork



Academic excellence





“The overall environment is extremely positive.
We have wonderful pupils that really want to learn.”

Staff Member 2023

“It is a school that is supportive of all pupils.”

Parent 2022

Exam results are consistently above national averages and pupils go on to follow ambitious pathways, for Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities or challenging apprenticeships. We have an extensive and growing Careers programme and use Unifrog and Skills Builder as well as the Prospects Careers Service. We send out a regular bulletin to parents, as well as providing pupils with many employer interactions.

All of our pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum and make excellent progress supported by well-qualified and innovative teaching staff. Excellent teaching is combined with an expectation that our pupils will take an active, positive role in their own learning. We give pupils the confidence to achieve success in examinations and be ready to take their place in society as committed, responsible young people.

At Key Stage 4 and post-16, a full range of subjects are studied providing pupils with choice, as well as an excellent grounding in core subject areas. This includes new subjects such as Media and Sociology. Our pupils achieve extremely high in the core subjects and their chosen options and enjoy taking part in Maths challenges, Poetry Week events and Science Week.



“Teachers establish a very good working atmosphere in lessons which encourages students to give their best.”

Ofsted Report 2019

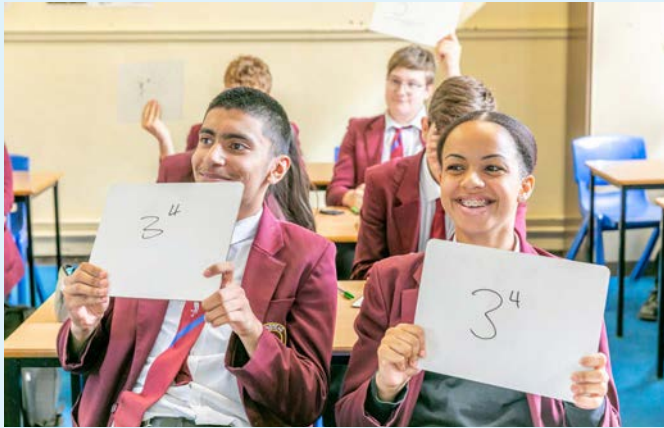
We have a large and thriving Sixth Form, offering a wide range of subjects at AS and A Level. The vast majority of our Sixth Form pupils go on to study at university.

The Sixth Form facilities include a supervised private study room with state-of-the-art computing facilities. In addition, there is a welcoming common room and café.

Sixth Formers enhance the ethos of the school, training as peer mentors, supporting staff and pupils in Years 7 to 11 with extra-curricular activities, as well as acting as role models, encouraging younger pupils to aim high and follow them into further study. A social contract enables them to give something back to the school community by volunteering in a number of areas. We are also offering Work Experience opportunities for the first time.

A thriving Sixth Form encouraging aspiration and leadership





“I love the diversity and it's so interesting.”

“The amount of kindness is crazy.”

Pupil 2022

Wanstead High School takes a very active role in both our local and wider community and has built relationships with local community groups, primary schools and a number of schools around the world.

We have been awarded the International School Award by the British Council, in recognition of our work in bringing the wider world into the classroom. Working with partner schools overseas is an inspiring experience. We have been awarded Healthy Schools status in recognition of our promotion and delivery of healthy lifestyle education.

There is a wide range of educational visits and pupils also take part in the World Challenge Expedition and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Over 90 pupils completed the Bronze Award last year and we are now offering the Silver award too.

We have enjoyed working with arts organisations including the National Portrait Gallery and the National Theatre on projects which will inspire pupils to succeed and produce work of the very highest standard. Pupils have performed at the Donmar Warehouse, Sadler's Wells, the Royal Albert Hall, National Theatre Studio and the Royal Opera House and have enjoyed attending productions and taking part in workshops at The Globe and other London theatres.

Our active Governing Body is made up of a wide selection of individuals from the local community, parents and the local authority who work effectively in steering the school to achieve its maximum potential. Our new PTA is highly active and have set the target to raise £500,000.

Working in partnership
with our local and
international community

Aspiring for Excellence

Our Vision:

We will provide high quality education with character: inspiring our young people, keeping them safe, and preparing them fully for life in the modern world.





Wanstead High School

Education with Character

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