



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

Rectory Road, London, E12 6JB

Tel. 020 8478 8024 | info@littleilford.org | www.littleilford.newham.sch.uk

LinkedIn: Little Ilford School | Instagram: @littleilfordschool

Headteacher:
Andrew Finn

17th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of another academic year at Little Ilford School, I want to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared. This year has been marked by remarkable courage, commitment, and compassion. I am immensely proud of our students, staff, and parents/carers for their unwavering dedication and support.

It is with mixed emotions that I write to share some personal news. At the end of this academic year, I will unfortunately be leaving my post to take up an Executive Headship.

I am incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to be the Headteacher at Little Ilford School. One of the most rewarding aspects of this job has been the immense support that parents and carers have given me throughout my tenure. This is a truly special community, and I will always have a soft spot for Newham.

My educational and professional journey has deep roots in this borough: I completed my teacher training at Stratford School, started my teaching career at Brampton Manor, worked at Langdon for a term as part of the Brampton Manor Trust, and now, I am finishing this wonderful chapter of my career after nearly five years as Head and nearly 17 Years working in Newham. Thank you all so much for being such a vital and supportive part of this journey.

Our students have consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance throughout the year. Their commitment to learning, combined with our talented staff's exceptional guidance and instruction, has yielded notable accomplishments across all subjects and year groups. It is a joy to witness their progress and eagerness to learn.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff who have gone the extra mile by providing additional revision and intervention to help our students excel.

The strength of our school community lies in the active involvement of parents, students, and staff. Your participation in school events, Parent-Teacher meetings, Friends of Little Ilford School (FLIS) meetings, and other initiatives has significantly contributed to creating a positive and inclusive environment. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental in our students' success, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

“ All students receive the guidance they need to make ambitious, well-informed choices about their future lives - OFSTED ”





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Important Information & Summer Resources

Summer Water Safety: Important Message for Parents and Carers

As the summer holidays approach and the weather warms up, we want to ensure all of our students have a fantastic, fun, and above all safe break. While spending time outdoors is a brilliant way to enjoy the summer, open water like rivers, docks, reservoirs, and canals can present serious hidden risks. Even on a hot day, deep water in the UK remains shockingly cold, which can cause sudden physical reactions (cold-water shock), and depths can change without warning.

While many local primary schools receive introductory water safety visits, these risks become even more relevant as students enter secondary school, gain more independence, and hang out with friends unsupervised.

We would be incredibly grateful if you could take a few minutes to talk through The Water Safety Code reminders with your child before the term ends:

- Keep your distance: Stay well away from the water's edge on banks, docks, and towpaths.
- No rescuing objects: Never enter the water to retrieve a lost ball, toy, or other object.
- Expect the cold: Open water is almost always much colder than it looks. Cold-water shock can make it difficult to breathe or swim, even for strong swimmers.
- Hidden depths: Rivers and docks can drop off suddenly and have strong, invisible undercurrents.
- In an emergency, call 999: If someone gets into trouble, do not enter the water to save them. Call 999 immediately and look for nearby safety equipment (like lifebuoys).
- Stick to supervised areas: If your teenager wants to go swimming, encourage them to choose a safe, supervised environment like a local leisure center or a designated, lifeguarded outdoor swim venue.

Helpful Resources for Families:

- Local Swimming & Facilities: [Better Leisure Centres in Newham](#)
- Water Safety Code & Activities: [RLSS Water Safety Code](#)
- Survival Advice: [RNLI Water Safety](#)
- Staying Safe in the Heat: [NHS Summer Health & Heatwave Advice](#)

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Holiday Activities and Food Programme (Secondary and SEND)

During the upcoming six-week break, Newham Council is again collaborating with various organisations and schools to offer free places at Holiday Clubs. Families can access a wide array of activities, including sports coaching, tennis camps, fashion and creative design workshops, music production camps, drama projects, and cooking classes, as well as fun day trips. Each club also provides a healthy, delicious meal each day, and parents can participate in food and nutrition sessions.

You can find the full schedule of summer activities and book your child's free place via the official [Newham HAF Booking Platform on Eegu](#).

Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed the continuation of the Household Support Fund, allowing the Council to offer summer holiday vouchers to all FSM-eligible children (from Reception to Year 11). The school will send these vouchers via text and/or email using Wonde this week.

New school year

The new school year will commence for students in September 2026:

- Our new Year 7 students will start their first day on Wednesday, 2nd September 2026. A separate letter will be sent to Year 7 families detailing their schedule. They will use the Rectory Road entrance for the first two weeks.
- Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 students will return on Thursday, 3rd September 2026 and should arrive via the Browning Road gate.
 - Gates open: 7:45 am (Breakfast Club will be available).
 - Gates close: Promptly at 8:20 am.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our students for their hard work, to our staff for their unwavering dedication, and to our parents and carers for their continued support. Together, we have achieved great things, and I am confident that the school will continue to positively impact our students' lives.

Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable summer break and all the very best for the future.

Warm regards,

Andrew Finn

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