

February 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have had a great half term of hard work and enriching experiences at Northwood. Do follow our social wall or Instagram pages to hear more about what has been going on. <https://www.northwood-school.org.uk/key-information/social-wall/>

KEY UPDATES:

Options at Key Stage 4 Update

The consultation on moving to nine options is now complete. The overwhelming majority of the leadership team, heads of department and students were in favour of the move (over 80% in each case). Parents were evenly split on the decision (52% in favour of the move). Governors approved the move last week.

We recognise the main concerns of those against the move and will now work hard to make sure that:

- Smaller subjects are protected (e.g. music, drama)
- Breadth of offer is kept (e.g. we have kept Economics and Food Tech at key stage 4)
- More able students at key stage 4 are given the chance to achieve recognised qualifications and develop wider skills during their courses (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh, LAMDA, Debating, Crest awards)

We are also reviewing the flexibility of options choices within the EBacc curriculum model for future years.

A reminder for Year 9 parents that our Options evening will take place on **Tuesday 10th March** and students have already been given an Options booklet to prepare for this.

Behaviour

Behaviour at Northwood School is excellent. This is something that is observed by visitors to the school on a regular basis. However we work hard to consistently sustain high levels of behaviour and student engagement at school. This term we have been talking to the students about keeping our corridors calm, and having a hands off approach with each other, as we have seen an increase in students pushing, pulling and encroaching personal space. Whilst this is usually in a friendly manner, it can escalate quickly to overly physical behaviours. We have reminded students that play-fighting in school is banned and will be sanctioned. We want to ensure that all students feel safe and settled in school, therefore all students must keep their hands to themselves and respect each other's personal space.

Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1QN

Tel: 01923 836363

Email: office@nwschool.org.uk Website: www.northwoodschool.org.uk

Northwood School is part of Partnership Learning. Company Number: 08339345
Registered Office Address: Partnership Learning, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, UK, RM9 5QS
www.partnershiplearning.com



Uniform

We continue to remain very proud of our smart uniform and we are consistent in reminding and reinforcing that our students wear it both correctly and with pride. This term we have met with our uniform supplier to ensure that they are meeting our uniform requirements and remain competitive with their pricing and customer service. We have listened and responded to student voice, as we are continuing with our trial of allowing small, clear nose studs. However, we have noticed an increase in girls wearing incorrect trousers. **Please can you ensure that all trousers are not leggings, lycra or tight fit flared style trousers.** All school trousers must be **smart, loose-legged tailored** trousers. We have examples of suitable trousers in our school reception area if you would like to check. In order to be fair and supportive to all families we are allowing until the Easter holidays to ensure that incorrect school trousers are rectified. A reminder that trainers or trainer style school shoes are not permitted. A very small minority of students only are allowed to wear trainers for short-term medical reasons and must present valid medical evidence to support this. If correct school shoes are an issue, we have a supply of spare shoes in the Pastoral department that students can borrow.

Please check our [uniform policy](#) for further information, where you can also find information of our uniform suppliers if you need to replace any items. In addition, please remember that we encourage you to buy and sell preloved Northwood uniform items via the online platform [old school uniform](#), this is both excellent value for money and a good way to reuse good quality uniform items.

Smart-Phones in School

The governors are currently approving a move which will mean that **next year's Year 7 will not be able to bring Smart Phones to school.** This follows the successful introduction of this model at several local schools including Ruislip High school where the move has led to better mental health and reduced incidents of on-line bullying amongst the Year 7s. Further details will be published to prospective Year 6 parents after half term. Further information about the benefits of a Smart phone free childhood can be found here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

Parental Communication

We are placing a real focus on ensuring parental concerns and questions are answered appropriately at the school. We get a large volume of queries at the school and teachers are often unable to respond immediately because of the nature of their roles.

Please can I ask that any enquiry clearly states who it is for the attention of in the subject header (in most cases the class teacher or form tutor is the first point of contact). If your query is not answered within a week, please do ask for it to be escalated to the Head of Year or Head of Department as appropriate. Of course, for urgent matters a member of the Leadership team will be made aware of the concern and will oversee resolution.

The government have issued the following guidance which parents may find helpful: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HRGgWEwGywpSiMwgHv4zcUennk3pNOG-/view?pli=1>

Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1QN
Tel: 01923 836363

Email: office@nwschool.org.uk Website: www.northwoodschool.org.uk

Northwood School is part of Partnership Learning. Company Number: 08339345
Registered Office Address: Partnership Learning, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, UK, RM9 5QS
www.partnershiplearning.com



Ramadan

We plan to run a prayer room for the duration of this time for those observing Ramadan. To ensure that our children continue to learn to the best of their ability, the school will still require that every student participates in the whole curriculum including subjects such as music, food technology and PE although we will be sensitive to student concentration and energy levels during this time. Any student who is struggling should speak to their teachers.

Car Park

We have noticed an increasing number of concerns related to parking and traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up times. For the safety of everyone, we kindly ask that you follow these key guidelines:

- Park/ Pull in to designated spaces only: Please use the designated student drop off/ pick up bays and parking spaces only and *do not park in or across the disabled bays*. Please ensure that you do not block traffic or create hazards by parking outside of marked areas.
- Avoid double parking: Double parking causes unnecessary delays and puts pedestrians and other drivers at risk. Please park in a single spot to ensure everyone's safety.
- Observe traffic flow: Be mindful of the one-way direction and speed limits in the car park. Following the flow helps prevent congestion and reduces the risk of accidents.
- Always leave pedestrian paths clear to ensure students and staff can move safely throughout the area.
- Drop-off and pick-up times can be busy, but being patient and courteous helps maintain a calm and orderly environment.

We understand that mornings and afternoons can be hectic, but your cooperation in following these guidelines will help ensure a safer environment for our school community. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding parking, please feel free to contact the school office. We value your continued support and partnership in making our school a safe place for everyone.

PSHCE

This half term students have experienced various enrichments to their PSHCE curriculum. Year 7 have learnt about mental health and wellbeing through form times and PSHCE lessons led by Year 12s in the Peer Education Project. Year 8 have had five hours of workshops from the programme Your Life You Choose, involving the police, London Ambulance Service, youth justice teams, youth engagement teams and SORTED (the substance misuse charity). Year 10 had three hours from the incredible St Giles about knife crime, gangs and grooming and gateway drugs. Year 11 had talks from SORTED on drugs and alcohol.

We do hope all our families enjoy the half term break and we look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Shah
Headteacher

Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1QN
Tel: 01923 836363

Email: office@nwschool.org.uk Website: www.northwoodschool.org.uk

Northwood School is part of Partnership Learning. Company Number: 08339345
Registered Office Address: Partnership Learning, Parsloes Avenue, Dagenham, UK, RM9 5QS
www.partnershiplearning.com