

Summer 2026 Newsletter



Woolwich Polytechnic
Sixth Form

Message from the HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

As we draw to the close of another academic year, we take a moment to wish a fond farewell to our Class of 2026. They leave us as confident, ambitious, and accomplished young people, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time in the Sixth Form. We look forward to celebrating with them again on A Level Results Day and sharing in what we are sure will be a day of great success and exciting next steps. We wish each of them every happiness and success in their future pathways.

For our current Year 12 students, this marks an important transition as you now step into your final year of Sixth Form. Year 13 brings with it both challenges and opportunities: greater independence, leadership roles within the school community, and the chance to refine your aspirations—whether that be university, apprenticeships, or employment. It is a year to stay focused, organised, and proactive, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Finally, as we move into the summer break, I would like to wish all of our students and families a safe and restful holiday. Do take time to recharge, enjoy time with family and friends, and return in September ready for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Best wishes,
Miss Bassi

Year 12 News

Message from the HEADS OF YEAR 12

As we reach the end of another successful year, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our Year 12 students on their hard work, commitment, and achievements.

Completing the **Beyond the Poly Programme** is a significant milestone, and we are incredibly proud of the dedication you have shown throughout the process. From developing your understanding of university and apprenticeship pathways to beginning your UCAS preparations, you have taken important steps towards your future aspirations.

We would also like to congratulate you on the successful completion of your **work experience placements**. We have received excellent feedback from employers, and it has been wonderful to see so many of you gaining valuable insights into a wide range of professions while developing the skills and confidence that will serve you well in the future.

As you enjoy your summer break, we encourage you to take time to relax, recharge, and make the most of spending quality time with family and friends. At the same time, try to keep your academic skills sharp by reading widely, keeping up with current affairs, exploring areas related to your future courses or careers, and reflecting on the experiences you have gained this year.

The summer is also an excellent opportunity to begin thinking seriously about your next steps beyond sixth form. Whether your ambitions lie with university, an apprenticeship, or another pathway, any research and preparation you complete now will help make Year 13 a smoother and more successful journey.



We wish you all a safe, enjoyable, and well-deserved summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September for what promises to be an exciting and important final year at Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

Dr Oguike & Mr Tatton

Beyond the Poly: YEAR 12 TRANSITION TO YEAR 13

Beyond The Poly marks an important stage in the Year 12 journey, as students begin preparing their UCAS applications and drafting personal statements for university courses and apprenticeship opportunities. To balance the demands of this intensive process, students also enjoyed a well-deserved break with a fun-filled trip to Thorpe Park, providing an opportunity to relax, recharge, and celebrate their hard work.

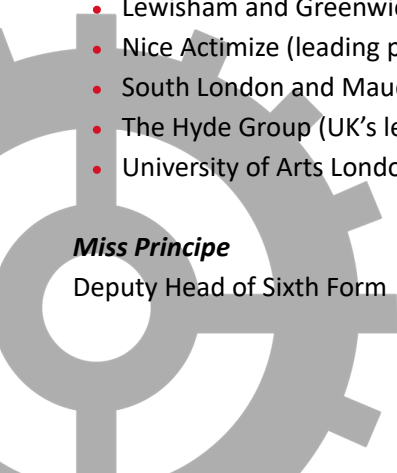
Year 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

At the time of writing, our Year 12 students are undertaking two weeks of valuable work experience placements. This exciting opportunity enables our future doctors, lawyers, accountants, artists, engineers, and politicians—among many others—to gain first-hand insight into their chosen career paths.

Throughout their placements, students are developing essential workplace skills, building confidence and professionalism, and applying the knowledge and skills they have gained in the classroom to real-world situations. These experiences will not only strengthen their future applications for university, apprenticeships, and employment but also help them make informed decisions about their next steps beyond sixth form.

We are delighted to see our students representing the school so positively and embracing the opportunities available to them. Here are just some of the organisations where they have been completing their work experience placements:

- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Conway Primary School
- Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust
- Howden Group Holdings (Global Insurance Group)
- Kings College Hospital
- KPMG (leading global professional services network)
- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- Nice Actimize (leading provider of compliance solutions for global financial institutions)
- South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- The Hyde Group (UK's leading housing associations)
- University of Arts London



Miss Principe
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Year 13 News

Message from the HEADS OF YEAR 13

Dear Year 13,

"What is that feeling when you're driving away from people and they recede on the plain till you see their specks dispersing? - it's the too-huge world vaulting us, and it's good-bye. But we lean forward to the next crazy venture beneath the skies." - Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

We remember meeting you all during induction and Nuclear Races back in September 2024. Some of you we already knew from both KS3 and KS4 (Mr Evans started the Poly at the same time – September 2019). A motley crew. Wide eyed. Some were too cool for school. Some of you easily impressed. Others left an impression that wasn't so impressive. This was then followed by a flurry of requests to change courses. That went on, and on, and on, and on, and on....

You mostly settled quickly into the rhythm of life in 6th Form and A Level studies. It wasn't without its bumps on the road. Some of you had a lot going on both inside and outside 6th Form. Yet you managed to get through it all and yet still performed in PPEs and your final exams. You know who you are, and you have both our respect and admiration. We also can't deny that some of you were a pain in the proverbial, but always managed to make us smile (even if it was for the wrong reasons).

So here we are. The end of 13 years of compulsory education. You have juggled a range of challenges, deadlines, exams, and important decisions about your future. You have done this with a degree of resilience, determination, and a certain sense of purpose that has got you to where you are now. You have just finished what we consider to be the hardest exams you will ever sit. This puts you on a more secure footing when facing those future challenges, as you move onto '...the next crazy venture beneath the skies.'

Don't be strangers. Keep in touch. We wish you every success and happiness for the future.

Love,

Mr Evans, Mrs Chadwick & Dr Deodhar (past & present)

Heads of Year 13

The Summer Transition CHECKLIST 2026

Your Roadmap from Year 13 to University (July–September)

IMPORTANT:

You *must* come in on A Level Results Day – Thursday 13th August 2026 at 8.00am

- ☐ **UCAS Clearing opens at 8.00am** - Clearing is a system run by UCAS that helps students find and apply for university courses that still have open places. It acts like a matchmaking service to connect students without offers to universities that have empty seats. It allows you to find a university if your grades were not quite as good as those predicted during the UCAS application process AND allows you to apply for places at universities if your grades were better than those predicted. Either way, Clearing is important.
- ☐ Ensure that you have something to write with, and a pad/notebook

Congratulations on finishing your A Levels! This summer is a rare window to relax, recharge, and enjoy your freedom. However, the jump to independent university life is a massive one. Use this checklist across the summer months to ensure you are fully organised, financially secure, and prepared for day one.

☐ **Phase 1: July – Budgeting, Admin Basics & Work Experience**

- ☐ **Finalise Student Finance applications:** Ensure your main application is submitted and your parents/guardians have submitted their income evidence to avoid loan delays in September.
- ☐ **Keep an eye on your emails!** Remember, your chosen University (Firm and Insurance Choice), will be contacting you about really important stuff to enrol seamlessly in September.
- ☐ **Secure accommodation:** Confirm your halls or housing offer, maybe sign the tenancy agreement, and pay any necessary deposits. Accommodation guarantee deadlines will often be made – do not ignore them!
- ☐ **DBS, Health Checks and fitness to practice:** particularly for PSRB (Professional, Statutory, and Regulatory Body) courses like Medicine, Teaching, Nursing, Physio etc, may well have this requirement.
- ☐ **Secure a summer job or volunteer role:** Earn extra money to build a "fresher's buffer fund" and keep a healthy routine during the long summer break.
- ☐ **Draft a realistic weekly budget:** Calculate your estimated maintenance loan + income, subtract rent, and see what you actually have left per week for food and social activities.
- ☐ **Research student bank accounts:** Look for accounts offering the best interest-free overdraft facilities and perks (like a free 4-year 16-25 Railcard).

☐ **Phase 2: August – Results & Health Preparation**

- ☐ **Prepare for Results Day (Mid-August):** Be physically in the country. Have your UCAS login details ready alongside contact numbers for your firm/insurance choices and the Clearing hotline.
- ☐ **Schedule university vaccinations:** Contact your GP surgery to ensure your MenACWY (Meningitis) and MMR vaccines are fully up to date before arriving on campus.
- ☐ **Review the introductory reading list:** Do not try to read everything cover-to-cover. Skim key texts or focus on one introductory book to build your confidence.

☐ **Phase 3: September – Packing & Arrival Countdown**

- ☐ **Pack smart (Buy less than you think you need):** Stick to essentials. Connect with future flatmates online first so you don't duplicate items like kettles, irons, and toasters.
- ☐ **Gather important personal documentation:** Create a physical folder containing your passport/ID, university acceptance letter, Student Finance letters, and vaccination history.

The Independent Living Checklist	Top Tips for the First Week
☐ Master 4 easy, low-cost meals from scratch.	☐ Keep your flat door propped open on moving-in day.
☐ Learn how to read laundry labels and run a wash.	☐ Join 2–3 societies at the Freshers' Fair to meet people.
☐ Know how to bleed a radiator / change a fuse.	☐ Register with the university health centre immediately.
☐ Practice food shopping efficiently (avoiding big brands).	☐ Remember: Everyone is in the same boat and wants to make friends!

Wishing you the absolute best of luck as you start this next exciting chapter! You've got this.

Poly Pastoral 6th form Team

Beyond the Classroom EDUCATIONAL VISITS & ENRICHMENT

Islam in Year 12 was featured in Talk of Thamesmead. Islam shared his inspiring experience of taking part in Model United Nations, developing his confidence, diplomacy and advocacy skills while representing Japan and debating real-world global issues.

A fantastic achievement and a great example of our students embracing opportunities beyond the classroom. Well done, Islam!

See a few examples of some of our trips this term:

Schroders Educational Visit



Schroders is a British multinational asset and wealth management company headquartered in London. It operates globally across 38 locations, managing hundreds of billions of pounds in assets for individuals, institutions, and official entities. The firm specializes in both public and private markets, as well as providing wealth management service. Our trip in the Spring Term was so good, we went back to launch their Mentoring Programme with students who were short listed to become part of the programme.

Bloomsbury Institute

Bloomsbury is part of Birkbeck College, University of London. Students took part in different workshops based around the different degree specialisms on offer.



Imperial College London



International day of Immunology at Imperial College London. Year 12 students had the opportunity to engage with scientists at various stages of their careers, gaining valuable insights into the diverse pathways available within the scientific community. They also attended an informative lecture on allergies and autoimmune diseases, deepening their understanding of current medical research and developments in healthcare.

Greenwich University

Greenwich University's STEM Taster Day provided Year 12 students with an exciting opportunity to explore a range of STEM-related subjects and career pathways. The day included engaging lectures on future careers in STEM, forensic science, and biology, giving students valuable insight into opportunities within these fields. Students also enjoyed a guided campus tour, helping them gain a first-hand experience of university life and the facilities available to STEM undergraduates.



Summer 2026 FUN ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Things to do in the summer by faculty:



Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition – free and highly interactive, with researchers showcasing cutting-edge science,

robotics, astrophysics, healthcare technology and more.

Imperial Lates (Imperial College London) – evening events where visitors can interact with researchers through demonstrations, workshops, games and talks on topics such as quantum computing, robotics, health science and future technology. [imperial.ac.uk], [[timeout.com](https://www.timeout.com)]

Royal Institution Talks – fascinating public lectures from leading scientists on topics including AI, neuroscience, medicine, physics and climate science.

RAF Museum (Hendon) – free entry, aircraft engineering displays, flight simulators and aerospace exhibitions.



ARTS & CULTURE



Greenwich & Docklands International Festival (GDIF) is one of the UK's largest **free outdoor arts and performing arts festivals**, held each summer across Greenwich, Canary Wharf, the Royal Docks and surrounding areas of East and South-East London. It brings together theatre, dance, circus, music, installations and large-scale spectacles in public spaces

Sayuri Ichida: Playing the Piano Upstairs

 The Photographers' Gallery Print Sales Gallery

 Free

 3 July – 13 September 2026

A newly opened exhibition exploring memory, identity and personal experience through handcrafted photographic prints.

[thephotographersgallery.org.uk]



MODERN WORLD



Museum of Brands

 Notting Hill

One of the best destinations for Business students. Students can see:

- 200 years of branding
- Advertising campaigns
- Consumer behaviour trends
- Product packaging evolution

The current *Branding Britain* exhibition explores major British brands including Cadbury, Burberry, Lloyd's Bank and Gregg's.

Visit the Science Museum's Mathematics Gallery (South Kensington)

The Mathematics: The Winton Gallery explores how maths shapes aviation, engineering, cryptography, finance and everyday life. Admission is free.

Attend Free Public Lectures

London universities and institutions regularly host free public lectures, many involving maths, data science, AI and economics.

Good places to watch:

- Gresham College (all lectures free) [gresham.ac.uk]
- UCL Lunch Hour Lectures [ucl.ac.uk]
- London Mathematical Society public lectures [lms.ac.uk]
- Lectures London website for a searchable calendar



Attend Free Political Events

Many think tanks and organisations offer free online or in-person events:

- Institute for Government
- Resolution Foundation
- Chatham House student events
- Parliament Education programmes

Watch PMQs in Person

Students can apply for gallery tickets through their MP and observe political debate first hand.

Free Public Lectures

Watch lectures from:

- Gresham College
- British Academy
- Oxford and Cambridge YouTube channels

Imperial War Museum

Free entry. Students can explore:

- World Wars
- Holocaust Galleries
- Cold War history

Ideal for students studying conflict, empire, migration and memory.