



Dear Parents / Carers,

As another term draws to a close I wanted to write and wish all our families a wonderful Easter break. For some members of our community this is a holiday with religious significance marking both Easter and Eid this year. For everyone it is a welcome break to spend time with families and friends.



Over recent weeks the school has had several external visitors who have all commented on the improvements they have seen in school. We have made good progress as a school because of the continued support of our parents and carers. The school is increasingly settled, learning is progressing well, and the warmth and respectful attitudes of our young people continue to be a standout highlight to visitors. This makes me proud to be Headteacher here.



When we return in the new term we will, once again, remind all our learners of the school standards on uniform, equipment and behaviour. I would like to kindly ask all our parents/carers to support us in maintaining our expectations for school life.



Uniform

During the standards assemblies in the first week back we will be checking the uniform of all our learners. Most of our learners wear their uniform with pride. Occasionally, at the end of the term, standards slip. At the start of our summer term, I will be working with year teams to ensure that:

1. Everyone wears their blazer and tie during the school day
2. Everyone arrives in school wearing school shoes
3. Jewellery and false eyelashes / nails are not worn in school
4. Hoodies are not worn in school



Equipment

Everyone should arrive each day ready to learn. This includes carrying a school bag that contains basic equipment – pen, pencil, ruler, calculator. Every learner has a planner for recording home learning and to assist in a variety of classroom learning activities. This should be carried at all times. Replacement planners are available to purchase on Parentpay.



Vaping concerns

I have written twice to parents about vaping concerns in school. Over recent weeks there has been several suspensions triggered by learners attempting to vape on the school site. My standpoint remains clear, there is no place for vaping of any kind in school or out in the community whilst wearing the school uniform. I would again urge all parents to talk to their children about the dangers of vaping.



School Day from September 2024

The timings of the new school day from September 2024 are detailed below. As outlined previously this is following the consultation with parents during academic year 2022-23. I do not anticipate any further tweaks to the start and end times in the future.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday school will commence at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm. Wednesdays will start at 8.30am and finish at 2.15pm.



Curriculum Support from Parents

The curriculum pages on our website are continuing to progress and may have been updated since parents last viewed these pages. As we focus on ensuring that all of our stakeholders are clear on what learning looks like at WHS, I encourage you to discuss your child's learning with them, supported by the information on these pages.

<https://www.westhoughton-high.org/subjects/>



Year 11

I would like to give a particular shout out to our Year 11's who are nearing the final examination season. Many of them have already signed up for additional learning at our Easter school. Keep going, you've got this! We are very proud of you all.



In closing I would like to wish all our families a restful Easter break. Let's hope for some sunshine.



Mr N S Coe
Headteacher

