



Ref: NCO/AHN/End of Term 2025

14th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,



As the academic year draws to a close, I wanted to thank all of our parents and carers for their continued support. So much has been achieved this year in partnership between home and school. Being a teenager in 2025 is a challenge, but this year we have seen some amazing outcomes for young people who have been brilliantly supported by the partnership between home and school. It makes such a difference to our children and to our staff who are here to help.



The last few weeks have been a celebration of the very best of our school. A range of curricular and extracurricular events have enabled everyone in school to develop a talent or interest, to nurture a passion and to take a step further to becoming the best versions of themselves. There is no better part of the job than seeing this happen for the young people in your care.



Final Day of Term

The final day of the school year is Friday 18th July. School will close at 12.30pm. The 944 bus will collect learners shortly after 12.30pm on that day. This will be a non-uniform day for our school community, however, learners should ensure their dress is appropriate for school. There will be no lunch service on this day, however an extended break time offer will be available.



Departing Colleagues

As is always the case at the end of a school year, a number of valued colleagues are moving on. There are very few colleagues moving on this year, but we are saying goodbye to some long serving and respected members of our school community. Julie Hilton, LSA is retiring after 20 years' service to our school. My senior team will look very different in September as we say farewell to Carol Holmes, Assistant Headteacher (18 years), Gill Bailey, School Business Manager (17 years) and Colleen Burton, Assistant Headteacher (15 years). Laurie Roach, our Leader of Learning for English is moving into a senior leadership post whilst Phil Warburton who has brought so much to our Behaviour Support Team leaves us for pastures new. Veronika Pavlickova, Cover Supervisor is moving into teacher training whilst Caroline James and Clover Jones (MFL) move on at the end of maternity cover contracts. Thank you for your service, we wish you all well in your future endeavours.

We would also like to send out good wishes to two of the cluster primary Headteachers who are retiring this summer. Many of you will have had children under the care of Ann Flannery at Eatock Primary and Simon Charnock at St Andrews. I would like to thank them both for their support of WHS over the years and wish them both a happy retirement.

Uniform

The overwhelming majority of learners wear our uniform with pride, and we are grateful for parental support on this. It is our ambition to further improve standards of uniform in September. When uniform is at its best in our school, so are learning and behaviour. We wanted to be clear on the expectations before closing for the summer. Our full guidance on uniform can be found on the school website [here](#).

Key points to note regarding uniform are:

- every student must wear school shoes and not black trainers. If the footwear is made by a sports brand it will be deemed to be a trainer.
- every student must wear a tie.
- one ear piercing in each ear is permitted. Nose rings are not allowed.
- false eye lashes and nails are not allowed.



- make-up and hair colour must be natural looking and subtle.
- trousers should be a regular fit.
- skirts should be of modest length and be worn with black opaque tights.
- hoodies must not be brought to school and will be confiscated at the gate.



I ask in particular, that parents do not allow piercings and extreme hair styles during the summer break if there is no time to remedy / remove these before the start of term.



You will have seen in the press that an increasing number of schools are moving to a trousers only policy. I have resisted asking governors to support this change but will review over the coming months. A significant number of our young people do not help us by wearing their skirts at an inappropriate length. The challenge for schools is significant. I do not wish to become a trousers only school, but the push back on skirt length and wearing of tights may force my hand as we move into next year. When it is too warm for tights tailored shorts and trousers are the appropriate substitution.

***From September when tights are provided by the school a charge will be added to ParentPay accounts**



Contacting Student Pastoral Teams

From September if you wish to make contact with your child's pastoral leads, please contact their SSL/SPL via their direct email accounts on:

Year 7: Ms Walsh /Mr Barwise Y7pastoralteam@westhoughton-high.org

Year 8: Mr Shaw/Miss Hill Y8pastoralteam@westhoughton-high.org

Year 9: Mrs Aaron/Mr Hancock Y9pastoralteam@westhoughton-high.org

Year 10: Miss Swift/Mrs Wharton Y10pastoralteam@westhoughton-high.org

Year 11: Mrs Whittle-Darrock/Mrs Wild Y11pastoralteam@westhoughton-high.org



Students in receipt of free school meals will receive vouchers using the usual system.



Return to School - September

Years 7, 10 and 11 will return on Wednesday 3rd September at 8.30am. The school day will end at 2.15pm.

All year groups will attend school on Thursday 4th September at 8.30am. The school day will end at 3.15pm.



Summer Contact

Whilst the school is closed for the summer the whsoffice@westhoughton-high.org email address will be periodically checked. As in previous years we recognise that for some learners continued contact with the school over the summer break is important, therefore, every Wednesday there will be staff based in the ECHub to help learners stay connected to school. Full details will be posted on social media.



We wish all members of our school community and their families a wonderful summer break. Be safe and look after each other.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N S Coe
Headteacher