



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy term here at WHS and so I wanted to update parents on recent developments before the half term break. Our summer exam season is now well underway, and we will soon be saying farewell to our outgoing Year 11 cohort. We will also be welcoming our new Year 7 learners for their first formal visit to school. This term has also seen a visit from Ofsted with the report scheduled to be published in the summer term.

Year 11 Students

I have to open by saying how proud I am of our Year 11 students. Their conduct over the exam season has been excellent, being respectful and supportive of others. There are some students who have overcome personal barriers and challenges to ensure that they can sit these exams – I am particularly proud of all of you! I hope that you all manage some down time to relax over the break in between revision for the remaining examinations. Just keep going – you've got this!

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware Ofsted visited the school in early May for a full section 5 inspection. The findings of the report are fair, accurate and as I would have expected. The report will be published in the summer term. During the inspection there was quite a debate about my decision to allow students to use mobile phones for checking messages / synergy and texting. We have never condoned phone calls during the school day. There is no Ofsted guidance regarding the use of mobile devices and thus this discussion is not a feature of the report. Following from these discussions however, I am going to review the policy in consultation with staff, parents and students having run a full academic year of “acceptable use” in school. Further details after the half term break.

Changes to the school day

Earlier in the year I consulted with parents about changes to the school day. Many of you fed back your views both positively and negatively. The aim is to remodel the school day to ensure that we are compliant with the national expectation of 32.5 hours in a working school week by September 2023. A summary of the questions raised during the consultation can be found below. It is my intention to move to an earlier start of 8.30am with a 3.10pm finish time (Wednesday 2.30pm) as previously published. However, I cannot confirm that this will become policy until we have had confirmation from Transport for Greater Manchester that bus schedules will support the revised start time. I will write again when this is confirmed following a briefing with them on 20th June.

Wishing you a restful bank holiday weekend in the sunshine.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N S Coe
Headteacher



Question / Issue Raised	Response
<p>The school day should be kept as it is</p>	<p>The school's working week is currently below the national expectation of 32.5 hours from September 2023. This means either we must extend the day slightly or we must move away from the shorter day on a Wednesday.</p> <p>Our LEARN values support "Never Stop Learning" which applies to staff and students. The Ofsted report has highlighted the value placed on the professional learning model and identifies areas of weakness where further training is required.</p>
<p>Some stakeholders have suggested a later finish time rather than an earlier start</p>	<p>Suggestions for a later finish were in the minority. Schools benefit from more focussed learning during the morning sessions.</p>
<p>Concerns raised about transport</p>	<p>The majority of our school community walk to school. Where we have school buses we have direct control over the time of these. We are working with Transport for Greater Manchester to support appropriate scheduling of public service buses. They have confirmed that many schools have made similar requests this year.</p>