



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week was a busy first *full* week at Westhoughton High School. I will try and capture the start of the term to share some important updates and close with some good news about our students and their achievements already this year.



Open Evening – Thursday 28th September

We are delighted that we can once again open our doors to prospective students from our local primary schools. Our Open Evening this year will be held on Thursday 28th September, 4.00pm-7.30pm. We will be asking our students to act as ambassadors for the school, they may be invited to help departments or act as tour guides during the evening. To allow for the necessary cleaning and preparations **school will close to students on Thursday 28th September at 2pm**. School buses have been informed of the amended schedule. If any student is unable to get home at 2pm please contact us at WHSoffice@westhoughton-high.org and we will arrange for them to be supervised until 3.10pm.



Attendance

As parents and carers you can support the improvement of the school in a number of ways. Good attendance is crucial for good learning. Firstly, you can take a bracing approach to attendance by encouraging your children to attend school every day. It is worth noting that when our learners arrive after 9.10am they carry an absent mark for the morning session. This can significantly impact their attendance record. Secondly, you can support the school by booking routine medical appointments (dentist, doctors) outside of the school day (or at the very end of the school day if necessary). Thirdly, I would remind parents that we are unable to authorise requests for holidays during term time in line with national guidance.



Communication

A full summary of the school communication strategy will be shared with parents during this week. We are working hard to improve the consistency of our communication with parents. Synergy is often useful for transactional messages however I am encouraging our staff to call parents when an issue is likely to require a discussion in order to reach a resolution. From September we are no longer supporting Teams messages (teams chat) between members of staff and individual learners. This is a legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic. Learners can still request support and contact teaching staff through the class chat facility that is set up for each teaching group in school.



Home School Agreement

I would politely request that all parents review the home-school agreement with their children and electronically sign this. This agreement sets out the expectations and responsibilities of learners, their parents and staff here in school. The agreement can be accessed by clicking the link [here](#).



A Brilliant Start to the Term

Year 7 have settled quickly into our school community, many of whom were able to join us for our largest ever Summer School. There is a real buzz around year 7 – they are loving learning in our school and have quickly found their way around the building. Attendance in Year 7 is at an all-time high.



Westhoughton

HIGH SCHOOL



The rest of the school has made me incredibly proud for the return to school that they have enjoyed. Attendance is up in every year group (when compared to the same time last year) whilst instances of poor behaviour and suspensions are significantly lower than this time last year. Social times are settled, calm and respectful. Our students are respecting our school site and really looking after each other.



In closing I would like to thank parents and carers for supporting a smooth start to the academic year and supporting the school drive for the highest possible standards.

Yours sincerely,



Mr N. S Coe
Headteacher

