

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

**Back to School - Autumn 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We do hope you have had a positive and restful summer. Lots has been going on at WOA to prepare for our students to return, including the building of a new classroom in mathematics to support our growing number of students.

WELL DONE to all Year 11 students - we wish each and every one of them the very best of luck in their next steps. If you haven't yet had chance please do read our results day posts on our Facebook page.

We also need to offer a HUGE welcome to our new Year 7 intake – those who will become the class of 2028!

**UNIFORM – IMPORTANT REMINDER**

A reminder that we expect to see all students in our WOA uniform on their return to school. You will hopefully have seen regular reminders throughout the holidays on our social media pages regarding our uniform expectations. Thank you for your support in ensuring all of our students are correctly attired ahead of their return to school. Our expectations for uniform are:

Compulsory Uniform	
<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Blazer	Blazer
White Shirt	White Shirt
Academy Tie	Academy Tie
Black Trousers	Black Trousers or appropriate length skirt with black tights
Black Shoes	Black Shoes
Non-Compulsory Uniform	
Academy Jumper	Academy Jumper

School shoes should be black, flat and logo-free. The style should be traditional, avoiding the appearance of a trainer and business like. Some specific styles that are **not** permitted:

- Styles that appear to be more like sports trainers than professional black shoes, especially due to the material of the shoe.
- Styles with obvious logos or branding.
- Elaborate buckles or decorations or patterns.
- Any white or colourful details.



<b>Compulsory P.E. Uniform - <i>Boys &amp; Girls</i></b>
Academy Polo
Academy Shorts OR Track Pants
Trainers
<b>Non-Compulsory P.E. Uniform</b>
Academy Hoody

Student coats are also not permitted during physical education lessons. Students must wear the WOA hoody or polo. However, additional layers beneath is acceptable and encouraged in winter months.

From the first day in September if a student arrives with inappropriate uniform we will contact home and ask for a change to be brought to school. If this is not possible, the student will be given an appropriate sanction. If you are struggling to purchase items we do have a store of second-hand items which are, in many cases, as brand new. If the uniform is causing a concern please do contact your child's Year team.

### Return to School Arrangements

Students will have a staggered return to school in September as follows:

- **New Year 7 and Year 11 students** return on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. They should be in school by 8.45am. Year 7 students will assemble in the sports hall. Year 11 students will make their way to their tutor rooms.
- **WOA6 and Year 9 students** return on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September. They should report to their tutor rooms by 8.45am.
- **Year 8 and Year 10 students** return on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Y8 should report to their tutor rooms by 8.45am. Year 10 should report to the MUGA so they can be placed in their new tutor groups.

### Attendance and Punctuality

There has been quite a lot of press coverage over recent weeks regarding student's attendance to school. Our expectations have not changed. **We expect all students to be in school, every day, by 8.45am.**

Each year when we analyse our exam results we can see that attendance and outcomes are inextricably linked, for example, most students who did not a pass grade in both English and Maths at GCSE had less than 95% attendance.

Punctuality is just as important attendance. Being 10 minutes late to school everyday is the same as having 5 days absence, meaning your child will miss out on 25 lessons. Please support us in reinforcing our key message to all our pupils - Be in school, on time every day. [#Attendtoachieve](#)

## Behaviour and Expectations

We are pleased to welcome Mr S Bowler to the academy in the position of Vice Principal responsible for Behaviour & Attitudes. Mr Bowler will lead Mr Martin (Assistant Principal for Pastoral Standards), our Heads of Year and our Pastoral Team in ensuring the very highest standards of behavior, conduct and pastoral care at WOA.

We will be reminding all pupils of our Classroom and Corridor Expectations during the first week back and we would ask that you please continue to support us in ensuring that your child follows these processes.

Finally, are proud of our students and value your support in ensuring they maintain our high standards of behavior, conduct, uniform and attendance. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in to school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours faithfully,



Leigh Moore  
Principal



Myk Wagstaff  
Vice Principal