

Monday 4th December 2023

End of Autumn Term arrangements and Back to School January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the end of the autumn term is growing ever nearer and Christmas is getting closer, we wanted to share with you some updates and reminders to help with your planning for December and January.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Today we have started our annual 'Countdown to Christmas' competition where every student who attends school, on time, every day, will be entered into a prize draw on Friday 22nd December. We will be pulling 10 lucky students names out of Santa's hat and each will receive a **£30 Morrison's voucher** for their families to spend. Students simply have to be in school, on time every day to be in with a chance to win. They must also be in school on Friday 22nd December to claim their prize.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS – DECEMBER 2023

The Autumn term finishes for all staff and students on Friday 22nd December at 3.15pm. Throughout the final week we will be celebrating students many achievements during reward assemblies, as well as opening up Santa's Grotto for our golden ticket winners and other pop up events to bring some festive fun to WOA. We expect all students to be in school every day until the end of term.

RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS – JANUARY 2024

We will be using Monday 8th January as a staff Training Day to prepare for the spring term. The academy will therefore be closed to all students. Our Key Dates section of the website has been updated to reflect this.

Students will have a staggered return to school on Tuesday 9th January as follows:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 8:45am | Year 11 |
| 9.30am | Year 9 |
| 10.15am | Year 10 |
| 10.45am | Year 8 |
| 11.30am | Year 7 |

Students should report to their tutor rooms at the allocated times. Only the front gate will be open after the 8,45am entry slot.



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.

| Compulsory P.E. Uniform - <i>Boys & Girls</i> |
|--|
| Academy Polo |
| Academy Shorts OR Track Pants |
| Trainers |
| Non-Compulsory P.E. Uniform |
| 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 January 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

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](#)

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 on Tuesday 9th January.

We wish you and your families all the best for the festive season,

Merry Christmas!



Leigh Moore
Principal