



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of this year, I would like to send you all some key information about the start of the new academic year and some information about planned updates and changes to school. This year has included a whirlwind of changes and improvements – lots of hard work from my excellent team of teachers and support staff but it is beginning to pay dividends. I am so proud to have the chance to lead this fantastic community of students and staff but I am very conscious that there is still so much more we can do. We have created a newsletter for the end of this year which will be on our website and will be emailed out to all of you – do please have a look at what we have been getting up to this term!

Standards have risen this year in every area of academy life - teaching and learning, behaviour and safety and progress and achievement in particular. We continue to have a strong focus on student attendance. If your child's attendance is 95% it means that they have missed 10 days of school. That's 60 lessons missed. 90% attendance is double that. 20 days and 120 lessons missed. This matters so much of course, given the proven link between high attendance and high achievement and progress.

There has been some much-needed cosmetic improvements on the site. Ready for last September we had already decorated and re-carpeted the main quad at considerable expense. This was an important first investment by the Trust – an area of the school seen by everyone including visitors. The staff and students should have pride in the school and it is important therefore that we invest in it. We installed new fencing around the perimeter and across the middle of the site, improving the safety and security. We are continuing that investment now. The entrance to school is being re-tarmacked and reception is being modernised; new windows are going in on the ground floor of the quad, several classrooms have had a complete overhaul (redecorated and carpet), exterior doors are being replaced - making the site even more safe and secure. We also won a £10000 lottery grant to invest in the theatre.

There have been some brilliant extra-curricular opportunities for Great Wyrley students this year. We now have a fantastic 'Student Senate' – the body of our students who represent all our young people both in school and at Trust events. They have really done the school and themselves proud this year. Great Wyrley students travelled to Paris just before Christmas. A fantastic opportunity for our students to practice their French speaking. There have been a number of musical performances impressively led as usual by Mr Smith. In addition to this, the Soul Band also ventured into Europe to tour and play during February half term. We hosted two brilliant dance events this year, featuring not only our talented GCSE dancers, but also youngsters from our local feeder primaries and the Trust primaries from Walsall. We have really engaged with the local primary schools this year, in particular in technology where we have had classes coming up from primary to undertake projects all year. There has also been significant engagement with the natural environment during the academic year. Mr Stephenson has set up a Forest School and acquired nearly a hundred trees, planted by staff volunteering during a chilly weekend in November. Students are able to access real outdoor learning and reap the benefits from understanding the natural environment. We also have an Eco-club that helped spring clean the local area at Easter. They are making a real difference around school encouraging recycling and picking up litter.

We received a top-secret visit from the then Secretary of State for Defence, local MP Gavin Williamson, who wanted to recognise the improvements the school is making. He spoke with students and was hugely



impressed with what he saw. We have also set up a partnership with Wyrley Juniors Football Club who are supporting our quest to get a 4G pitch out the back of the school. These are small steps in helping restore the school's local reputation.

Our end of term Newsletter contains key information for students and parents ready for the new academic year in September. It is important that you note the slight change to the school day and the uniform rules and regulations (including PE kit). In September, students will not be allowed to wear trainers or hoodies, nor incorrect PE kit. Guidance is contained in the newsletter and on our website. As some parents and guardians might be buying new uniform in preparation for the new term, we want to help parents avoid spending money on items (particularly shoes) which are not suitable.

We really do not want to start the new term on a negative note about inappropriate uniform, and I know how expensive items can be. Please can I also reiterate that trousers must be formal too, no leggings/jeans/jeggings/very tight styles either please. Skirts should also be knee-length. Uniform is the physical manifestation of a student's attitude to school, so thank you in advance for working with us to ensure they get it right.

I understand that the summer holidays are a time to relax and perhaps for parents to allow our young people to have a bit more freedom as teenagers. Please can I ask however that any piercings/extreme hair colourings are removed by the start of next term. Again, please visit our website if you have any queries about expectations, or contact your child's Head of House.

Hello and Goodbye

I'm sad to announce that Mrs Seymour, our Assistant SENCO, is leaving us at the end of the academic year. I know that she is desperately sad to be leaving as she moves down south due to her husband's job being relocated. I hope you will join me in thanking Mrs Seymour for her tireless and committed service to the students of Great Wyrley Academy. I'm also pleased to announce some new staff joining us in September:

Mr Bailey – Assistant Headteacher
 Mr Rehman – Maths Lead Practitioner
 Miss Farmer – Teacher of English
 Mr Dyke – Teacher of Maths

End of term arrangements

Great Wyrley Academy will close for students at 12.15pm on Friday 19 July for the summer. Coaches have been changed to reflect this.

Information for 2019/20 Academic Year

The new academic year begins for students on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 8.40am for all students. Full details are included in the end-of-term newsletter. It can also be found on our website and social media platforms.

Thank you once again for the excellent support you provided us this year as parents and guardians, I know you appreciate how important that partnership is for success. I hope you all have a great summer and a happy and relaxing few weeks. I look forward to welcoming all the students back at the start of September, refreshed and ready for the rigours of a new academic year!

Yours sincerely



Mr I Moreton
 Headteacher

