



# Great Wyrley Academy

**A part of the Windsor Academy Trust**

Headteacher: Mr Ian Moreton, BSc Hons, NPQH FCCT

Ref:mne/gwaadmin/back to school arrangements

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Dear Parent/Guardian

The end of any academic year is always a chance to reflect back on, and celebrate, the many successes we have had during the past three terms. It feels to me this year that reaching the end of the year with school functioning as normally as it is, is the real success. Our students and staff have had a tough year. Having to endure the many necessary restrictions, extra burdens, remote learning, endless hand sanitising, face masks; this has been a year like no other. Yet again I am marvelled by the collective resolve of our students; their positivity and dedication; their ability to adapt. I am so proud of them all.

Our staff have yet again shown their professionalism, commitment and adaptability. Teaching in 2021 is a very different job; staff have had to change their methods and adjust to the government safety restrictions. I am in awe of the job that they have done. I'm very lucky to lead such a fantastic group of people. I must also thank you- the parents and carers – who have yet again shown your unwavering support of the school and helped us so successfully implement our remote learning during the lockdown in the Spring term. Students have missed out on a lot this year, but it would've been so much more had you not supported us so effectively. Thank you.

Last week we held celebration assemblies to recognise the many achievements our students have had this year. It is a huge shame that, yet again, we haven't been able to invite parents in for our annual awards ceremony. Rest assured that students have still been honoured and recognised. Unfortunately, again Year 11 were unable to have a prom. We are again finding ourselves drawing comfort that missing out on events such as prom comes at the expense of our continued health and wellbeing. As we move into 2021-22 I hope that we can make up for students' lost experiences whilst also making sure of everyone's safety.

We continue to celebrate and acknowledge our students' good character. The ASPIRE virtues that we hope our students demonstrate are embedded into our culture and day-to-day experiences in school. Every student has an ASPIRE sentence which helps them focus on an aspirational career pathway. We endeavour to support every student on their chosen pathway.

Again, school will undergo many planned refurbishments over the summer. Many of the learning spaces are being upgraded and the central heating and swimming pool plant room boilers are being replaced. This represents significant investment in the school, having already had new windows, solar panels and LED lighting this year.



## Staff Changes

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of the summer term. Mrs Gibbons and Mrs Toddington from the lunchtime supervisor team; Mrs Cooper from Student Support / SEN; Miss Taylor from the pastoral team. A number of teachers are also leaving us; Mr Dovey, Miss Farmer, Mrs Griffiths, Mr Ryder, Ms Davis, Mrs Medicott, Ms Dawes, Mr Blake and Mrs Bajwa.

We wish them all well for the future and thank them all for their service to Great Wyrley Academy.

I'm pleased to announce some new staff who will be joining us in September:

Miss Goodman - Teacher of English

Mr Toulson – Curriculum Lead for MFL

Mrs Wilkinson – Deputy Headteacher

In addition, Mr Bourne will continue to be based at Cheslyn Hay Academy, although he will remain as our SENCO and will still be in school regularly.

## School Reopening - Autumn Term September 2021

Looking forwards to September, we have planned our start based on the latest information and guidance from the DfE and the Government. The following information is correct today, however, I intend to write to confirm arrangements at the end of August.

As ever, we have tried to mitigate the risks that reopening the school for 600 people brings. Ensuring the safety of all the staff and students at all times is paramount.

We will be staggering the start of the Autumn Term for students to facilitate lateral flow testing of students before they fully return. Full details will follow. Students will be invited into school on the days explained below for the initial LFT. They will go home after the test.

Parents of Year 7 students are permitted to attend with the students.

The return to school date will therefore be the first proper day in school.

	<b>Date of first test (non-uniform)</b>	<b>Return to school (full uniform)</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Friday 3 September	Monday 6 September
<b>Year 8</b>	Wednesday 8 September	Thursday 9 September
<b>Year 9</b>	Wednesday 8 September	Thursday 9 September
<b>Year 10</b>	Tuesday 7 September	Wednesday 8 September
<b>Year 11</b>	Monday 6 September	Tuesday 7 September
<b>Year 12</b>	Friday 3 September	Monday 6 September
<b>Year 13</b>	Monday 6 September	Tuesday 7 September

Remote learning to commence from Monday 6 September for those year groups not in school

From September the timings of the school day will be as follows to reflect the removal of staggered starts-

8:35	All students on site
8:40 - 8:55	Tutor / Assembly
8:55 - 9:00	<i>Movement time</i>
9:00 - 9:50	Period 1
9:50 - 9:55	<i>Movement time</i>
9:55 - 10:45	Period 2
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:50	Period 3
11:50 - 11:55	<i>Movement time</i>
11:55 - 12:45	Period 4
12:45 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:05	Period 5
14:05 - 14:10	<i>Movement time</i>
14:10 - 15:00	Period 6

From September Year 11 students will attend a compulsory Period 7 when invited on Monday - Thursday. Period 7 will be our opportunity to accelerate progress and will take the form of subject-specific intervention and revision. **This will commence from Monday 13 September.**

Each year group has a designated entry point into the building. Upon arriving in school this is where they must go (they will not be permitted to use another entrance)

The entry points are-

Year 7 – Theatre entrance

Year 8 - Under the bridge into the main quad, then turn left

Year 9 – Same as this academic year

Year 10 - Under the bridge into the main quad, then turn right

Year 11 – Through gates, next to old science block

School will continue to be split into year group zones and the majority of lessons will be delivered in these distinct zones. Students will only move out for certain lessons (IT, Science, PE, Art / DT, Music and Drama).

Only the main entrance gates will be open and students will be met and directed to their designated zone.

## Before School

Students who arrive early to school (before their designated time) will be able to sit in their Year group zone until tutor time starts. However, no food will be available and students must not go anywhere else around the site other than their designated zone.

## Food – Break and Lunch time

Students will have their break and lunch in their zones as well. Year groups will not be permitted to mix (although Year 10 and 11 will share an outdoor area). All zones will have an allocated outdoor area and students will be permitted to use the new 3G MUGA on rotation during the week.

At break time no food will be available to purchase. At lunch time food will be taken to each zone for distribution and purchasing, or students may bring their own packed lunches. We will continue to use a cashless system; however, students will be unable to charge their account in-school via the finger-print scanner. Instead this must be accessed via the parentmail app or website <http://www.parentmail.co.uk> (if you require access to this please email [jkavanagh@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:jkavanagh@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)). Year 7 will be registered in September.

## Pastoral System – High Expectations

We now have a Year group pastoral system to enable us to monitor the year group zones. Students will still be allocated to a house for competitions. Heads of Year are-

Year 7 - Mrs Foyle

Year 8 & 9 - Mr McFarlane

Year 10 & 11 - Mrs McCarthy

## Uniform

Students must wear the correct uniform. For clarification on what this is see the [school website](#). It is important that students wear shoes and not trainers (see the school website for clarification on what constitutes a shoe). Students in trainers will not be allowed into lessons. Hoodies cannot be worn and will be confiscated. Our website also explains our stance on jewellery, facial piercings and hair colours / styles.

PE kit has to be correct (as per our school website). Only school PE tracksuits and PE hoodie / jumpers will be allowed. No branded hoodies. Also the PE hoodie should not be worn as a coat to school.

Students will bring PE kit on the days that they have PE and change in the changing rooms.

Students will need to bring their own equipment with them. Whilst this has always been expected it is crucial from September. Please ensure that your child brings with them a bag and all of the essential equipment they need for their lessons - pens, pencils, crayons, ruler, calculator, apron (D&T).

Homework will be set on Google Classroom and be known as 'Remote Learning'. This is because it has worked so successfully during lockdowns and to cut down on the amount of paper handed out to reduce contact. Students will be assigned to new Google classrooms as per their new timetables in September. This will also mean that, should we go into another lockdown or partial lockdown, we will have continuity of their education. Students will not be issued with planners this year.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Government guidance is that student attendance, from September, is compulsory. As such we will be enforcing the usual attendance policy and procedures. Having missed several months of face-to-face learning over the past two years it is crucial that you do not take holidays during term time and that students attend school unless they are poorly. Students should be on site for 8.35am to avoid being late.

## **School Coach / Public Transport**

As per the government guidance, it is no longer statutory for students to wear a face mask whilst on the coach, bus and train. However, it is advisable for them to continue to do so.

## **PPE – Face Coverings**

Based on government guidance, students and staff do not need to wear face masks or other PPE in school. We will continue to actively promote hand washing and good hygiene during the school day. However, should a Covid outbreak occur, the local public health team may ask the school to instruct staff and students to wear face masks. Please be prepared for this outcome.

## **School Site Access and Parking**

Please consider the safety of the staff and students by not driving onto the school site if the gates are open. It is not permitted for you to park in the school grounds, nor on Hall lane where double yellow lines are clearly marked. Increased patrols by traffic wardens will be in place in September. Additionally, if you wish to see a member of staff it must be via prior appointment. Where possible please speak to staff over the phone. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

## **RSE Curriculum Consultation**

From September Great Wyrley Academy will be implementing and delivering the statutory curriculum for Relationships and Sex Education. To see the curriculum being delivered via this [link](#) and feel free to email us any comments.

I am, again, incredibly appreciative of the support that you have shown the school this academic year. It shouldn't be underestimated how important this is to the success of the school. Students have again amazed me with the ease in which they continually adapted to the adversity and difficulties throughout lockdown and enforced periods of self-isolation. I'm very proud of them. All that remains for me to say is - stay safe and have a lovely summer. I look forward to working with you all again in September, refreshed and ready for the rigours of a new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton  
Headteacher

**Key dates**

- 2 September – Staff INSET
- 3 September – Strategic Planning Day
- 6 September – Years 7 & 12 return to school
- 7 September – Years 11 & 13 return to school
- 8 September – Year 10 return to school
- 9 September – Years 8 & 9 return to school
- 22 September – Open Evening
- 23 September – Alton Towers attendance reward trip (rearranged)
- 24 September – Staff INSET
- 22 October – Break up for Half term