



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of this exciting academic year at Great Wyrley Academy, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude and share some reflections on the journey we've embarked upon together since I became Headteacher of this fantastic school in October 2022.

First and foremost, I want to extend my sincerest appreciation to each and every one of you for entrusting us with your children's education and growth. It has been an honour and privilege to serve you as Headteacher and for us to work alongside each other in fostering their academic and personal potential.

Over the past year, we have witnessed tremendous growth in our students. Their dedication to learning, resilience, and the willingness to explore new ideas have been truly inspiring. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through various extracurricular activities, they have consistently displayed a commitment to excellence that reflects both their hard work and the unwavering support from their families.

At Great Wyrley Academy, we believe that whilst the academic outcomes are important, it is also about nurturing well-rounded individuals who possess not only academic proficiency but also a sense of empathy, compassion, resilience and critical thinking. Our teachers have been dedicated to creating a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where students feel valued, encouraged to express themselves, and develop the skills needed to become lifelong learners.

We have had many successes this year including a successful OFSTED inspection, winning the Warwick University Engineering competition, achieving Eco School status, running residential trips to Andorra, Belgium and Paris, WAT a Run fundraising event, the list is endless and highlights just some of the fantastic things that have been happening this year. Students, parents and staff should be truly proud of all of these fantastic achievements.

We have also faced challenges throughout the year, the hardest being the death of our Year 10 student, Ellie Carpenter. Together, as a strong and supportive community, we have overcome them with resilience and kindness. Your understanding, cooperation, and compassion during these times have been remarkable and a testament to the strength of our school community.

As we look forward to the upcoming academic year, we have planned exciting improvements, innovative teaching approaches, and engaging activities that will enhance the learning experience for our students.



Again, school will undergo many planned refurbishments over the summer. Many of the learning spaces are being upgraded to ensure that the learning environments are world class. The school hall is undergoing a huge makeover so that it can be used as our new Drama Studio and finally we are having a large outdoor canopy with artificial grass and seating for over 100 students outside the school canteen so students can sit, protected from the elements all year round.

Staff Changes:

We have some staff leaving us at the end of the summer term. Mr Walters, our site technician, is joining the team at our sister school, Windsor Olympus Academy in Halesowen, Mr Singh, Miss Slade and Mrs Gould. We wish them all well for the future and thank them all for their service to Great Wyrley Academy. A very special mention has to be made to Mrs Gould who has been at Great Wyrley Academy for 21 years. This is a magnificent milestone and I would like to personally thank her for all hard work over these years. Mrs Gould's impact on children's lives is immeasurable and she will be deeply missed but, we wish her the very best of luck with her new venture.

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

- Mr Nisar - Faculty Deputy for Mathematics
- Mr Phillips - Curriculum Lead for PE
- Ms Rogers - Curriculum Lead for RE
- Miss Wilson - Curriculum Lead for Drama
- Mrs Drury - Head of Year
- Miss Love - Site Technician

School Return Plans

Programme for Tuesday 5 September 2023 – Return to school for ALL YEAR GROUPS			
	Year 7	Year 8, 9, 10	Year 11
8:30am 8:50am	Year 7 Arrival to the theatre (8:30am) Assembly led by KMO		
8:50am 9:00am	Year 7 go to their block with their Form Tutor		
9:00am 9:40am		Year 8, 9, 10 Arrival to the theatre (9:00am) Assembly led by KMO	
9:40am - 10:10am		Form Groups	Year 11 Arrival to the theatre (9:40am) and Assembly led by KMO
10:10am - 10:40am			Form Groups
10:40am - 11:00am BREAK			
Normal lessons after break			

From September the timings of the school day will be as follows:

Time	Activity
08:30	All students arrive
08:40 - 08:55	Tutor Time/Assembly
08:55 – 10:40	Period 1
10:40 – 11:00	Morning Break
11:00 – 12:45	Period 2
12:45 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 15:00	Period 3

We will also be following a two-week timetable (Week A and Week B). We will start on **Week A** on Tuesday 5th September.

Benefits of moving double periods include:

- Improving the quality of teaching & quality of learning through more time and opportunities to benefit from effective teaching approaches and enhancing key teaching practices which have significant 'Visible Learning' impact scores including:
 - Classroom discussion (0.82)
 - Scaffolding (0.82)
 - Interventions for students with learning needs (0.77)
 - Effective and personalised Feedback (0.70)
 - Problem Solving (0.68)
- Longer learning sessions - well chunked and structured - enable students to achieve 'flow state'. In this state, students can attain a deep sense of agency, ability and value. Productivity soars, confidence strengthens, distractibility disappears and wellbeing increases. (*Jared Cooney Horvath, 2020*)
- Improving in class engagement by:
 - allowing teachers to be able to work with individual students within lessons more effectively and support the development of positive and productive working relationships
 - Students being able to deepen their understanding in longer lessons with fewer interruptions
- Increasing teaching time available to students by:
 - Providing greater opportunity for productive practical lessons in many subject areas - reducing the need to set up/pack up practical apparatus
 - Less 'travel time' between lessons resulting in increased attendance in lesson
- Reduction in cognitive overload for students
- Enabling greater support from subject specialist teachers during 'cover' lessons





All students have had some 100-minute lessons in most subjects, including English and Maths; in Key Stage 4, nearly two thirds of the timetable was already in 100-minute lessons; and in Key Stage 5, all lessons have been 100 minutes for many years. **The amount of time spent on each subject will not change.**

Before School:

Students are able to arrive at school before 8.30am if they so wish. Students can arrive at 7.45am and use the **main school canteen** where we provide a **free breakfast** for all students. Students can also use this space to complete homework or socialise with their friends. Students are not permitted to be anywhere else in the building before 8.30am.

Communication Tools:

Regular communication is vital to keep you informed about your child's attendance, academic progress, behaviour and general wellbeing. We use the following tools to keep you well informed. We advise that you download the relevant apps to your devices. Full details of logins and usernames will be sent in September, if you do not already have them.

			
<p>General communication app - This will be the way you receive letters from school, pay for trips and top up your child's food account</p>	<p>Behaviour, rewards and homework monitoring app</p>	<p>Learning platform and homework submission app</p>	<p>Attendance app for reporting student absence and NHS guidance</p>

Uniform Reminder:

The Uniform expectations can be found [here](#).

Homework:

Research suggests that homework can be an effective way to improve pupils' learning, but it is important to get the balance right. **Homework should be well-planned, linked to classroom work, and have a clear purpose.** As a result, the following will be in place from September at Great Wyrley Academy:

- Homework will be assigned by the class teacher via the Google Classroom at the **end of week B for a two-week period**. This will be recorded by the class teacher using Classcharts to allow students and parents to easily see what has been set
- Homework will be submitted via Google Classroom by the due date

Below are the dates that homework will be set and due in

 Homework set		 Homework Due
Friday 15 September 2023	→	Thursday 28 September 2023
Thursday 28 September 2023	→	Thursday 12 October 2023
Friday 13 October 2023	→	Thursday 26 October 2023
Friday 27 October 2023	→	Thursday 16 November 2023
Friday 17 November 2023	→	Thursday 30 November 2023
Friday 1 December 2023	→	Thursday 14 December 2023
Friday 15 December 2023	→	Thursday 11 January 2024
Friday 12 January 2024	→	Thursday 25 January 2024
Friday 26 January 2024	→	Thursday 8 February 2024
Friday 9 February 2024	→	Thursday 29 February 2024
Friday 1 March 2024	→	Thursday 14 March 2024
Friday 15 March 2024	→	Thursday 11 April 2024
Friday 12 April 2024	→	Thursday 25 April 2024
Friday 26 April 2024	→	Thursday 9 May 2024
Friday 10 May 2024	→	Thursday 23 May 2024
Friday 24 May 2024	→	Thursday 13 June 2024
Friday 14 June 2024	→	Thursday 27 June 2024
Friday 28 June 2024	→	Thursday 11 July 2024

Attendance:

There is a strong link between regular school attendance and achievement and if your child is frequently absent from school, they will not meet their full potential. Regular attendance helps children to develop their confidence and to make lasting friendships.



Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
100%	0 days	0 weeks	0 lessons
97%	5 days	1 week	15 lessons
95%	10 days	2 weeks	30 lessons
90%	20 days	4 weeks	60 lessons
85%	30 days	6 weeks	90 lessons
80%	40 days	8 weeks	120 lessons

5 days absence over the whole year

97% - 100%

Why is it so important?

- Better attainment
- Improved health and well-being
- Enhanced wider life opportunities

Food - Break and Lunch Time

Students will top up their food account using ParentMail as we use a cashless system at Great Wyrley Academy. Year 7 and 8 will have their own indoor and outdoor area at break time located by the hall. Year 9, 10 and 11 will use the main canteen at break.

During lunch time all students will collect their food from the main canteen. The indoor and outdoor canteen area will be seating only and coats will not be allowed to be worn inside.

Mobile Phones:

We have a policy of '**gate to gate**' when it comes to mobile phones. This means that phones need to be turned off at the start of the day at the school gate and remain off and out of sight until leaving the school gate at the end of the day. If you need to contact your child during this time it can be done via the school office on 01922 419311.

If a phone is seen during the day it will be confiscated until the end of the day and will need to be collected by the student from the school office.

Sanctions:

Behaviour Type	Sanction
Late to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 minute lunchtime detention (same day) Escalates to 50 minute after school next day if students don't attend
Late to lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x late to lesson in 1 day = 15 minute lunchtime detention the next day Upscaled to 50 minute after school detention (next day) if fail to attend Upscaled to refocus periods 1 - 3 the next day if fail to attend
Truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 minute after school detention the next day Upscaled to refocus periods 1 - 6 (next day) if fail to attend
No iPad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 minute lunch time detention (same day) Upscaled to 50 minute after school detention (next day) if fail to attend
Not attending after school detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upscaled to refocus periods 1 - 3 (next day) if fail to attend
Incorrect Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed in refocus until the issue is resolved - offered to borrow
Nails / Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placed in isolation until the issue is resolved
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 minute compulsory attendance everyday to Homework Club until all homework is submitted

Rewards:

Students are awarded in and out of lessons for demonstrating our character and learner skills. Students collect the Aspire points through the year for which they can exchange for rewards, put towards trips or if in Year 11, towards their prom. We are also revamping the rewards which students can claim for so watch out for the Parent Bulletin when we return in September.



Before we part ways for the summer break, I encourage you to take the time to celebrate your child's achievements, big and small. Every milestone, every effort, and every step forward should be acknowledged and celebrated. Each student's progress is a testament to their hard work and your unwavering support.

I am looking forward to welcoming our returning students back to school next year and extending a warm welcome to new students and families joining our community. Together, we will continue to create a nurturing, vibrant, and stimulating environment for all.

Thank you once again for your continuous support and trust. Wishing you and your families a restful and joyful summer break.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Mrs Moore', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Moore
Headteacher