



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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15 July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Reaching the end of any academic year always gives us much to reflect upon; 2021-22 will always be the school year when things were almost back to normal! It seems an age away since we had staggered starts to the school year with all students first having to be Covid-tested; we remained in bubbles for the first half-term and continued to wear face masks.

All things considered, especially recognising the potential uncertainty over future lockdowns, whether or not there would be actual exams this year and the periods of self-isolation for Covid, this has been an incredible academic year. Staff and students have had another tough year. I can't begin to express how proud I am of the way that staff have dedicated themselves to making up for the lost learning of the previous years and accelerating the progress of each and every young person. As for the students, their resilience, dedication and positivity astounds me. They are brilliant and it is an honour to be their Headteacher.

To yourselves - the parents and carers - who have yet again shown your unwavering support of the school. The Great Wyrley Academy family consists of all stakeholders; Students, Staff, LAB members (Governors), Windsor Academy Trust, and you – our Parents and Carers. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for your continued support.

During the final few weeks of term we have held our Awards Evening, recognising excellence during the academic year. We have also had celebration assemblies to recognise the many achievements our students have had this year and to celebrate superb effort. Year 11 had their leavers Prom - the first time since 2019. It was an amazing evening, fitting of a year group who have had to deal with the pandemic and the uncertainty of exams this year.

Part of our celebrations have been to 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.

Sustainability

On Friday 1 July we held the trust sustainability conference 'WAT COP' at Great Wyrley Academy. We were joined by students from around the trust and students engaged in workshops and conversations on how we, as an institution, can be and should be more environmentally aware and develop sustainable solutions to our way of working. I'm pleased that the trust is ahead of the game on this and Great Wyrley Academy is trail-blazing ahead. We have solar panels, energy generated



from air source pumps, LED lighting throughout the school and brand new double glazing; we have our own eco-club and encourage recycling across the site. From September our canteen will be hugely reducing waste and use of single-use plastics. Food boxes, cups and cutlery will all be 'veg-ware' and fully compostable. Our menu will be locally sourced wherever possible. I'm extremely proud of the work we have done already. We will continue to educate our young people on the need to look after our planet.

Staff changes

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of the summer term. Miss Nicholson, our Assistant SENCO, is leaving after two years to pursue her goal of working in education psychology. We're also saying goodbye to Mrs Drury, who is moving to the Pastoral team of another school. From our teaching team, Mrs Poole, Mr Till and Mr Baker are also leaving. We're also saying goodbye to Mrs Wilkinson, who came as Deputy Headteacher on-loan from Kingswinford Academy to cover maternity leave in our senior team. Mrs Wilkinson has done an amazing job for us this year and has successfully been appointed as the Headteacher-designate of the yet-to-open WAT free school.

Most notable, however, is the retirement of our Faculty Director of Maths, Mrs Ravenscroft. Incredibly, Mrs Ravenscroft began working at Great Wyrley High School (as it was then) in 1983! 39 years of service in any profession is an amazing achievement. In education, to achieve this in one single school in one specific community is an incredible feat. She will, undoubtedly, have taught many of our parents, and maybe even some of our grandparents! To all the staff leaving us this summer we wish them well for the future; for Mrs Ravenscroft we wish you a very long, and very well-deserved retirement.

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

Mrs Salter – Faculty Director of Maths

Mr Hayat – Teacher of Maths

Mr Frankham – Teacher of Maths

Dr Debney – Teacher of Technology / Engineering

Miss Bray – Assistant SENCO

Mr Bashir – Cover Supervisor

Miss Allport – Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

In addition, I'm pleased to announce that Miss Smith will be joining our senior team as Assistant Headteacher.

School reopening - Autumn Term September 2022

It is great to be looking forward to starting September 'normally' without Covid testing.

Students will return to school on **Tuesday 6 September 2022**. For this day only we will stagger the start of the day. The normal timings from Wednesday 7 September onwards are in the table below.

On Tuesday 6 September, Year 7 are to be on site at 8.30am

Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be on site by 9.15am at the latest

Sixth Form arrangements will be communicated separately.

From Wednesday 7 September onwards the timings of the school day will be as follows (the only change is the expectation for students to be on site from 8.30am)-

8:30	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, Monday's to Thursday's. Period 7 will run 3.10pm until 4pm and is an opportunity to further accelerate progress. It will take the form of subject-specific intervention and revision. **This will commence from Monday 12th September.**

Before school - Breakfast

Students who arrive early to school are able to have a free breakfast in our canteen. This is available from 8am until 8.30am (no food or drinks will be served after this time).

Food – Break and Lunch time

Food and drinks are available to purchase at break and lunchtime from the canteen. Year 7 and Year 11 have their own separate rooms within the canteen. There are specific zones of the school – outside – that students can also socialise. Students will be permitted to use the 3G MUGA on rotation during the week.

We continue to use a cashless system; however, students are unable to charge their account in-school via the finger-print scanner anymore. 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). Year 7 will be registered in September.

Pastoral system – High expectations

We operate a year group pastoral system to enable us to monitor the students from a pastoral and academic perspective. Students are still allocated to a house for competitions. Heads of Year are-

Year 7 & 8 - Mrs Foyle

Year 9 & 10 - Mr McFarlane

Year 11 - Mrs McCarthy (Upper School Director)

Uniform

Students **must** wear the correct uniform. For clarification on what this is see the [school website](#). Deviation from what is expected will not be tolerated and students will be sanctioned. Only Mrs Moore and Mr Fielder can sanction temporary exceptions. Doctor's notes will be requested as evidence.

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 (including PE hoodies / jumpers when not in PE lessons). Our website also explains our stance on jewellery, piercings and hair colours / styles.

To avoid conflict and issues please read our [website](#) and understand our stance on uniform.

PE Kit

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

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

Pre-loved Uniform

With the cost of living continuing to rise we have made the decision to set up a pre-loved uniform shop where parents and carers can purchase items of school uniform at a much reduced cost. This also helps reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. We are therefore making a plea to all parents and carers, if you have any uniform that you no longer need and would like to donate it to the school please drop it off at reception. These items will then be available to be purchased from school at a low cost to anyone who requires uniform. The money raised from the purchase of the uniform from school will be used to purchase further uniform stocks throughout the year.

If you would like to enquire about any items, please call school or email your requests to uniform@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Equipment

Students will need to bring their own equipment with them. Please ensure that your child brings with them a bag and all of the essential equipment they need for their lessons - iPad, pens, pencils, crayons, ruler, calculator, and apron (D&T).

Homework will be set on Google Classroom and be known as 'Remote Learning'. Students will be assigned to new Google classrooms as per their new timetables in September. Students will not be issued with planners this year.

Attendance and Punctuality

There is a new national register monitoring students who are not in school from September. Government guidance is that student attendance to school is compulsory. As such we will be enforcing our attendance policy and procedures. Poor attendance will be challenged and will be raised with the local authority who have the power to fine in court. 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 8.30am to avoid being late. If the bus / train that your child is planning to catch doesn't get your child to school by 8.30, then they will need to catch an earlier one.

School coach

We will not be operating a school coach this academic year as per our earlier communication.

Public transport

Students travelling to school via the local bus and/or train service are reminded that they are representing the school. Behaviour should be exemplary. We work closely with British Transport Police and National Express buses and will ensure that students who show any antisocial behaviour will be identified and reprimanded.

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. We have seen increased patrols by traffic wardens this year and this will be the case again from 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.

Thank you, once again, for the support that you have given the school this academic year. You play a vital role in our success which is hugely appreciated by the staff. After the disruption of the past couple of years, we should remember the students; they have been superb this year considering the pressures of accelerating learning as we make up for what was lost during the pandemic. I'm very proud of them. All that remains is to wish you all a pleasant and refreshing summer break. I look forward to working with you all again in September, rested and energised, ready for the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton
Headteacher

Key dates

- 5 September – Staff INSET
- 6 September – Students return to school
- 28 September – Open Evening
- 30 September – Staff INSET
- 21 October – Break up for Half term