



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

Headteacher: Mr Ian Moreton, BSc Hons, NPQH FCCT

Hall Lane
Great Wyrley
Staffordshire
WS6 6LQ

Tel: 01922 419311

Email:
info@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Website:
www.greatwyrleyacademy.org.uk

Twitter: @wyrleyacademy

Company registration no: 07523436
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have produced this modified end-of-year letter especially for the parents of our new Year 7 cohort. It was lovely to see so many of you at our induction evening and to meet the students on their induction day.

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 and 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.

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 an actual leavers Prom for 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.

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 to allow the Year 7 into school to settle before the other students arrive.

Year 7 are to be on site at 8.30am and will be directed to where they need to go.

All other Year groups should be on site at 9.15am



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

Year 7 Learning Zone

Year 7 will have most of their lessons in B block - known as the Year 7 zone. They will only leave the zone for PE, technology and the arts (music and drama).

Year 7 also have their own outdoor space and are able to play football / other sports on the tennis courts at break and lunchtime, away from the other students.

Food – Break and Lunch time

Food and drinks are available to purchase at break and lunchtime from the canteen, within which Year 7 have their own private room. For the first couple of weeks in September, Year 7 will be brought down to lunch early to comfortably get them through the serving area before the rest of school.

Before school - Breakfast

All 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).

We use a cashless system in school; accounts have to 'topped-up' via the parentmail app or website <http://www.parentmail.co.uk> Year 7 will be registered in September. (however, if you have any questions please email jkavanagh@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk).

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](#). Only Mrs Moore and Mr Fielder will sanction temporary exceptions. Doctor's notes may 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

We have a stock of pre-loved school uniform and PE kit in school. This is all in good condition and has been donated by families as their children have either out-grown it, or have left school at the end of Year 11. 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 (*once issued*), 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.

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. Any medical appointments during the school day will require evidence. Please ensure that, if your child is catching public transport, then it gets them to school in good time.

School coach

We will not be operating a school coach this academic year. It is unrealistic and unfair to pass onto parents the ever-increasing cost, particularly in today's more challenging economic circumstances. Public transport represents much better value and still drops-off / collects locally.

School site access and parking

It is important that our new parents know our policy for on-site parking. It is not permitted for you to park in the school grounds. In addition, we ask you to please consider the safety of the staff and students by not driving onto the school site if the gates are open. Parking is also not-permitted 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.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September. Moving up to secondary school from primary school can be a daunting thing. We know that your child will quickly settle into their new routine and will be very happy here. We will endeavour to ignite their passions and help them reach - and hopefully exceed - their academic and personal potential. All that remains is to wish you all a pleasant and refreshing summer break. I look forward to working with you in September, energised and 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