



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Dear Parent / Carer

As we come to the end of the second full-term of school in a row after all the covid-enforced disruption of 2020 and 2021, I wanted to write to you to summarise the spring term and to re-emphasise our expectations of our students here at Great Wyrley Academy.

The Spring term has been incredibly rewarding, but also very difficult at times. Levels of covid-enforced absence have fluctuated throughout the term and at times have been high, affecting both staff and students. Nevertheless, our students have been superb in their attitude to learning. Year 11 and 13 students have sat some external exams already and Year 9 have chosen their options for their GCSE studies. We have also had two ASPIRE-for-life days covering some very important topics.

We have ended the term with three fantastic events showcasing the talents of our students, supported by the Expressive Arts and PE faculty. Firstly, the 'Love2Dance' show, then the 'Something Spectacular' evening, and then finally '13 The Musical'. After the events of the past two years it is superb to see students being given fantastic opportunities again to involve themselves in extra-curricular activities and great when they are so professionally produced. Well done to everyone involved!

Expectations

We have worked tirelessly over the past few years to make Great Wyrley Academy the school of choice in the local area. Our work with the local community, local primary schools and local businesses sits alongside the fantastic learning and extra-curricular opportunities our students receive day-to-day. I'm delighted to tell you that Year 7 is full in September 2022 for the first time in many years – proof that what we are doing is working and that our hard work to rebuild trust with our stakeholders is paying off.

It goes without saying that anything which goes contrary to the brilliant things going on here disappoints me. Over the past few weeks we have received a couple of complaints from members of the public about our students' conduct and behaviour before and after school out in the local community. It is only a couple out of the hundreds of students who travel to and from school every day, but it is a couple of incidences too many.

Can I please ask you – the parents / carers of our students – to reinforce the importance of upholding our **ASPIRE** values and virtues, particularly being **respectful** and **responsible**, not only when in school but also when travelling to and from school. Whether waiting for the local



buses, on the train or walking to school, students should be polite, courteous and above all else, represent the school and its reputation in the community with distinction.

Social Time

I am delighted that so many students take up our free breakfast offer. This week I discussed our project to provide food to all students three times per day with our local MP, Sir Gavin Williamson who was incredibly impressed with what we are doing. I was pleased to see that our free breakfast offer also made the local [press](#).

Please remind students that in the canteen they are expected to sit down to eat and then tidy away after themselves. Again, it is about being respectful and responsible for their environment. We have a big site and endeavour to ensure that litter is not a problem. Students need to play their part in helping us.

Uniform and equipment

Generally, our students wear their uniform perfectly. However, please take a moment over Easter to view our school [website](#) to remind yourself of what is permitted. Please pay particular attention to which shoes are allowed. Lost ties also need to be replaced over Easter.

Hoodies cannot be worn. They are not coats and as we head towards the summer there is no reason to be wearing one anyway. Students will be asked to remove them and if seen again they will be confiscated.

PE kit has to be correct (as per our uniform regulations), smart and clean. Only school PE tracksuits and PE hoodie / jumpers will be allowed. **No branded hoodies / jumpers.**

Students should bring their own equipment with them. Whilst this has always been expected it remains crucial. 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).

A reminder that hair should be of natural colour with no extreme shades or designs.

Mobile phones – if seen or heard – will be confiscated as per our policy.

Headphones / Air pods are also not permitted. They will be confiscated if seen.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would like to emphasise the importance now that students attend school. We must utilise the summer term as a time to consolidate learning. Unless a student is ill they should be attending school. It is also of critical importance that students arrive on time.

Alton Towers - Summer term reward trip

Our intention is to yet again take students to Alton Towers towards the end of the Summer term. In order to qualify, a student's attendance in the Summer term must be 96% or above.

This means that students taking more than two days off in the summer term will not be allowed on the trip. The price for the trip will be around £25 (to be confirmed).

Students with 100% attendance for the term will go for half price.

Skate Park

Many of you will be aware that there is a skate park next to Landywood train station, adjacent to the Quinton shopping precinct in Great Wyrley.

In recent months we have become increasingly aware that this area has seen some antisocial behaviour. The local police have increased patrols there but even so, it would be remiss of me not to warn you that you should be considering whether it is an appropriate place for your child to go to in order to socialise with their friends.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant Easter break. Summer term begins at the usual time on Monday 25 April.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Moreton', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Ian Moreton
Headteacher