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**Waverley  
School**

Learning through diversity

Humanity, Equality, Aspiration, Respect

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

This new academic year seems to be speeding past and we have had a very productive and enjoyable half term. It has been fantastic to see pupils in lessons without restricted movement in school, and for us to resume clubs and school visits as we were able to before the pandemic.

A reminder to all families that Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October is the final day of the half term, and we will break up for a week's holiday at 3:15pm (normal end time). All pupils, across all phases, return to school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Years 7-13 should be on site by 8:25am in full and correct uniform.

I have included a full list of term dates for your diaries, which I hope will be helpful to you in planning the months ahead with reasonable confidence, although it is of course impossible to rule out any changes due to national or local circumstances around Covid-19. I have to say that it has been great to see that we have been able to operate normally and the school year so far does feel very much like a very normal school year.

As you will see from the details below, it has been a productive half term. In addition to normal lessons, during this half term we organised

- Key Stage 3 Arts Trip to Birmingham's museums
- Year 7 and 8 Theatre Trip to the Globe Theatre in London
- Sixth Form Visits to Birmingham University
- KS3 and 4 Poetry Workshops
- University Open Days in Sixth Form
- Prospective Reception and Year 7 Open Day and Evening
- Elevate Education Study Skills Sessions for Year 11
- A wide range of after school clubs including boxing, football and chess

### **Excellent Pupil Attitudes to Learning and Pupils Demonstrating Our School Values**

We have excellent levels of behaviour and learning. We are very proud of the pupils' attitudes to learning this half term. Pupils are showing good manners in school, something which we are driving to develop each child. It is lovely to see pupils opening doors for others or simply saying hello, goodbye, please and thank you, very much demonstrating our values of humanity and respect.

### **Year 11 Study Skills Evening for Parents and Pupils – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 4:30pm**

I am delighted to invite you to an evening which will not only support you as parents and carers to enable your child to prepare well for exams, but will also give you an opportunity to find out more about our very successful sixth form. All our year 13 students over the last 3 years have gone on to higher education, apprenticeships or employment with training.

The first part of our evening starts in our main hall at 4:30pm when we warmly invite you to join us for light refreshments to talk to staff before the study support session starts at 5pm. This session lasts for a full hour. It is not a drop-in and it will start promptly on time at 5pm. The Directors of English, Maths and Science as well as members of the Senior Team will be supporting the evening. At the end, we will be distributing materials for free to all year 11 pupils who attend.

## Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations in November 2021

The dates below indicate that the mock exams are fast approaching and these will be held in the traditional way, exams in our sports hall under controlled exam conditions. It is very important that pupils prepare well for these exams.

Our approach is to test what pupils have been taught to date and to this end, every pupil has an opportunity to evaluate how well they are performing. Hard work and effort pay off and I encourage all parents and carers to plan time for pupils to study over the coming weeks.

The government has instructed all schools to teach the full content of the exam courses. This is to allow all pupils to learn the full extent of the courses and to have the correct pre-requisites for post 16 courses. We anticipate further announcements from the government about the content of exams in the summer as we return to the normal ways of sitting exams in May and June.

We will be carrying out a walkthrough of exam conditions and rules with all year 11 and 13 pupils before the mock exams start, so they know what the expectations are.

### Virtual Open Event and School Tour

We have a virtual website full of information about the school including a tour, seeing examples of lessons in progress and frequently asked parental questions.

The link: <https://www.onlineopenevening.co.uk/waverleyschool>

If you have any questions about year 7 and 12 enrolment for September 2022, please email the enquiry team on [enquiry@waverley.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@waverley.bham.sch.uk) and the team will ensure that the most appropriate member of staff answers your query.

### School Behaviour Policy

At Waverley School we recognise the importance of promoting and ensuring positive behaviour throughout all year groups.

A positive behaviour culture within school builds the foundations for high quality teaching and learning and secures successful outcomes for our pupils.

Please note in line with the Waverley School behaviour policy and Government guidelines on detentions that a same day Reflection Time (detention) can be issued. Reflection Time is a sanction given to pupils who fail to meet the expectation and therefore may be required to stay in school for up to one hour on the day of receiving the consequence. Waverley School recognises the importance of good communication and building positive relationships between school and families, and endeavour to contact families to give notice. Giving is not actually a Government requirement, but we do communicate with families. Please also read my letter from 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### Zero Tolerance on Banned and Drugs Substances/Weapons in School

I wrote to you on 1<sup>st</sup> October to explain that we have zero tolerance to banned substances and drugs. We also have zero tolerance on any item that is used as a weapon or could be a potential weapon.

I would like to remind you of the key messages in letter of 1<sup>st</sup> October (see below) and **I also ask you to take seriously the following important items:**



- **Ensure that you know the whereabouts of your child at all times during the October half term holiday.**
- **If you allow your child to be out with others and/or not under your direct supervision as parents and carers, please ensure they are safe and that they know the boundaries of the law and that you know who they are meeting, where and why.**
- **Please remind your child what safety, safeguarding and the law regarding internet safety and interaction with others.**
- **We want all pupils to return safely to school on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Please remind your child about the high expectations of behaviour, manners and conduct in school.**
- **Let's keep the main thing, the main thing in our pupils' lives- being successful in the current stage of their education. We want our children to be happy, safe, lawful and successful.**

We have a zero tolerance approach to the supply, the distribution and the consumption of any banned or illegal drug and/or alcohol on our school site. Zero tolerance includes vaping, smoking, taking a tablet or capsule form of a drug, snorting or chewing drugs, the injection of drugs and drugs in liquid forms or diluted into drinks. Any contravention of our behaviour policy in this area is a serious breach of our policy and may result in permanent exclusion.

**We urge you to be aware of the risks and dangers around the easy availability of drugs/substances on the city's streets and online. We urge vigilance on your part.**

**Out of school hours: Be very aware of your child's use of their phone or device (if they have one) and who their on line or face-to-face social contacts are, who they interact with online or face-to-face and of course, of their whereabouts if you allow them to meet friends or spend time away from your supervision.**

The police regularly alert us to important public safety concerns. We have a police liaison officer. We have been made aware that THC (a very potent form of cannabis) is being sold to young people in the inner city areas of Birmingham including Small Heath and Bordesley Green. It is sold as cheaply as £10 for a vial, which could be affordable to children and young people tempted to buy it. It is being sold online and also face-to-face. THC is commonly consumed in a vape or even put into a drink such as boost, red bull or a fizzy drink like Lucozade or coca cola. **THC is highly dangerous and we have taught pupils about the dangers of taking drugs.**

All schools have a duty of care to safeguard pupils and staff. We do our very best with the informative that we know about and the systems, policies and procedures that we have in place to keep everyone safe and to prevent issues. We are reliant on pupils making sensible decisions, good choices and also following our guidance and the school's behaviour policy.

We educate our pupils about the dangers of drugs and alcohol via personal, social, economic and health education (PSHE) and in science, and we reiterate key messages.

These are some of the anti-drugs activities that we have carried out so far since 3rd September 2021:

- PSHE session the week of the 6th September years 7-11
- Pupil code of conduct and behaviour policy taught to pupils during the week of 6th September years 7-11
- Principal's drug and alcohol assembly years 7-13 on 27th September
- PSHE session on drugs education years 7-13 on 27th September
- PSHE session on drugs education years 7-13 on 1st October
- Vice Principal's behaviour policy, staying safe and praise assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> October

## Attendance and Punctuality to School

Attendance and punctuality to school are very important, as indeed they are in all work places. All pupils must be on the school site by 8:25am, ready for the morning line up and entry. If a pupil is late to school (after 8:30am), unless parents and families have communicated to us any exceptional circumstances, pupils receive a same day reflection (detention).

## Coronavirus Update- Keeping Everyone Safe

- Regular Lateral Flow Testing (twice weekly) are recommended for pupils and are to be carried out at home.
- However, please note **you should not test within 90 days of a previous positive test result (either LFT or PCR.)**
- Face coverings are recommended on public transport for any commuting pupils.
- Hand hygiene remains important and hands should be washed or sanitised regularly.
- The NHS 12-15 vaccination programme takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November for any pupils who have been given parental consent. A letter was sent home with your child the week of 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Term dates and Forthcoming Events

Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Term Ends	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Spring Term - Term Starts	Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022 to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Term Ends	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Summer Term – Term Starts	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Term Ends	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – School closes for half term at 3:15pm (normal closing time)
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November– School reopens. Pupils to be on site by 8:25am
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December – School closes for Christmas (this will be a half day and pupils will be off site by 1pm- more information will be sent out)
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Training day- the school is closed to pupils
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – School re-opens to all pupils. Pupils arrive by 8:25am

## Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams and Final Exams

- Yr. 11/13 Autumn mock exams -w/c 15th November 2021- y11 and w/c 22nd November 2021- y13
- Yr. 11/13 Spring mock exams- w/c 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022- y11 and w/c 14th March 2022 -y13
- Yr. 11 and 13 Summer Exams -w/c 9th May– 30th June 2022

## Parent Consultation Evenings

- Parents Evenings Yr10 (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 02nd December 2021
- Parents Evening Yr11 (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 13th January 2022
- Parents Evening Yr13 (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 27th January 2022
- Parents Evening Yr12 (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 12th May 2022
- Parents Evenings Yr7 (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 9th June 2022
- Parents Evenings Yr8 & Option Evening (4.00-6.30pm)-Thursday 23rd June 2022

## Other Events

- Yr. 11 & 13 Study Skills Parent Sessions - Thursday 21st October 2021 and Wednesday 16th February 2022
- Yr. 10 Practice Interviews - Wednesday 10th November 2021
- Yr. 11 and 13 Awards and Leavers Ceremony (Summer 2021 leavers) -Thursday 20th January 2022
- Diversity Week (Secondary) w/c 13th December 2021

As always, thank you for your continued support. I wish you an enjoyable and restful half term and I look forward to welcoming pupils back safely and ready for their studies on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lloyd  
Principal- Secondary and Sixth Form Phases