



Tuesday 6th September 2022

Start of term update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed a great summer and are feeling well rested and ready for a positive start to term. My team of staff and I are really looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school this week and we are especially excited about tomorrow, when our new cohort of Year 7s join us for their first official day of secondary school.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a handful of reminders/updates as we begin the new year.

Return to school

Wednesday 7th September NEW YEAR 7 PUPILS ONLY – arrive by 8:30am

Thursday 8th September ALL PUPILS AS NORMAL – arrive by 8:30am

Timings of the school day

The timings of our school day have changed slightly from last year. The new timings, which begin tomorrow are as follows:

8:30am – 8:35am	Pupils make their way to form (Pedestrian gates locked to pupils at 8:30am and pupils arriving after 8:30am will receive a detention.
8:35am – 8:55am	AM registration (20 mins)
8:55am – 9:45am	Period 1 (50 mins)
9:45am – 10:35am	Period 2 (50 mins)
10:35am – 10:55am	Break (20 mins)
10:55am – 11:45am	Period 3 (50 mins)
11:45am – 12:35pm	Period 4 (50 mins)
12:35pm – 1:15pm	Lunch (40 mins)
1:15pm – 1:25pm	PM Registration (10 mins)
1:25pm – 2:15pm	Period 5 (50 mins)
2:15pm – 3:05pm	Period 6 (50 mins)

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The Wordsley School · Brierley Hill Road · Wordsley · Near Stourbridge · DY8 5SP
(01384) 816015 · info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr G M Burton BSc/BEd (Hons) NPQH

Parents' section of our website

Over the summer we have invested in a brand new school website. There is a dedicated 'Parents' section, which can be accessed [here](#). In this section you will find all of the necessary information you require to support your child effectively, including **term dates**, our **school calendar**, accessing **free-school meals**, pupil **uniform** and much more.

Extra-curricular activities

We are just putting the finishing touches to the programme of extra-curricular activities for terms 1 and 2. Please look out for an email next week, which confirms where you can view the programme and details of each of the activities on offer.

School Trips

This year, rather than sharing information about forthcoming school trips with you on an ad-hoc basis throughout the year, we wanted to provide you at the beginning of the year, with a comprehensive summary of all trips that will be offered, so that you and your child can discuss what is on offer and make appropriate decisions about which trips may be suitable. There will always be a few trips that are added to this programme throughout the year, however, the vast majority of what will be offered is contained on the programme. This programme is in the final stages of being approved and you will receive this in an email next week, along with information about extra-curricular activities. In what is a volatile financial landscape, with the cost of living rising rapidly, we hope that this enables families to plan accordingly, rather than being asked to respond ad-hoc as trips are made available to pupils throughout the year.

Recognition of pupil achievement

Last year, almost 40,000 house points were awarded to our pupils, in recognition of their amazing achievements. Congratulations once again to pupils in Stuart House, on winning the House Point Competition last year. The house points will now be reset to zero for all pupils and the competition begins again, with so much for pupils to get themselves involved in, to support their house. Please do take the time to view the [Recognition of Pupil Achievement](#) section of our website with your child, to remind them of how they can achieve house points this year, so that their efforts can be recognised.

Standards Cards

The vast majority of our pupils consistently meet the expectations that we ask of them, as outlined in the Code of Conduct, which can be found [here](#). The reason that so many of our pupils meet these standards as a matter of course, is that any pupils who do not meet these standards are challenged as appropriate.

This year, on their return to school, all pupils will be issued with a 'Standards Card.' If a pupil does not meet a particular standard (for example, their shirt is untucked), they will receive a cross on their card. If a pupil receives a total of five crosses, they will receive a new card and issued with a 30- minute 'Standards Detention.' Pupils must have the card in their possession at all times. If they do not have the card when requested, they will automatically be issued with a 30-minute 'Standards Detention.' All pupils will have this outlined to them by their form tutor on Wednesday (Pupils in Year 7) and Thursday (Pupils in Year 8 to Year 11)

Dates for your diary

You may wish to make a note of the following dates for your diary between now and October half-term:

House Competition – Tug of War (Wednesday 28th September)

This traditional house event will take place after school. All pupils are welcome and encouraged to attend and pull their house to victory!

Year 11 Further Education Evening (Thursday 29th September)

Further details to be circulated nearer the time from Miss Shaw (Careers Leader)

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House Competition – Triathlon (Wednesday 5th October)

The first of three parts of this competition will see pupils complete the running segment. Pupils are encouraged to take part and support their house.

Staff INSET Day (Friday 7th October)

No pupils in school on this day, which is the third of five INSET Days.

Year 7 - Report 1 (Wednesday 12th October)

Parents/Carers of Year 7 pupils receive their first written report of the school year

Year 7 Parents' Evening (Thursday 13th October)

Parents/Carers of Year 7 pupils will be invited to book a face to face appointment with their child's tutor for 15 minutes to discuss how they have settled into life at The Wordsley School.

House Photo Competition Launch (Monday 17th October)

A great opportunity for pupils to get creative and support their house. Winning entries from last year can be found on our social media platforms.

Open Evening (Thursday 20th October)

An incredibly important event for prospective parents/carers who are considering joining our school community in September 2023. As such, in order to enable staff to prepare for the event, current pupils will be dismissed at the slightly earlier time of 2:15pm.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Burton
Headteacher

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