



18th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This school year seems to be flying by, with the days getting longer and the weather brightening up. As we are heading out of the winter I would like to update you on a few things.

Year 11 Exams

The build up to Year 11 exams is in full swing. We have been very impressed with the positive attitude and effort this year. Attendance to Guided Support Sessions has been very high, demonstrating a real commitment and desire to do well. Our staff are going above and beyond, giving up time before, during and after school to help prepare and guide the pupils through this challenging time.

I would just like to remind Year 11 parents and carers of a few key dates:

- Thursday 8th May – written exams begin in school with BTEC Sport and Drama. Practical and other exams will have already begun before then.
- Wednesday 11th June – Study leave will begin after the Maths exam on this date. **Pupils will be expected to attend all lessons if they do not have an exam, up until this date.** This is to support with revision and exam technique. This is standard across most schools. Any absences will be unauthorised.
- 19th June – Leavers' Assembly.
- 11th July – Prom at Blakelands in Bobbington.

Mock Exams

Year 10 Mock Exams will begin on 19th June. The purpose of these are to see what pupils have learnt and can do, identify any gaps in their learning and inform future teacher planning. They also get pupils used to sitting exams, including dealing with revision and managing the process of sitting a test. This will mean they are ready for Year 11. Teachers will begin to prepare pupils with homework and revision materials in the coming weeks.

Work experience will begin on 30th June, where pupils gain the opportunity to experience the world of work and sample a future career. This is an invaluable experience and really helps the pupils focus on future career paths.

Guided Pathways

Year 9 chose their options in February and we are just putting the finishing touches to these. Confirmation of final choices will be with you by the end of March. It is important that pupils continue to work hard and stay focused in all subjects right up until the end of the year. I'd like to praise the pupils for their mature attitude towards this process, with some really positive conversations taking place about subjects and future careers.

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**The Wordsley School • Brierley Hill Road • Wordsley • Near Stourbridge • DY8 5SP
(01384) 816015 • info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg**

Transition

On Monday 3rd March, offers were made to Year 6 pupils across Dudley. I am delighted to say that we have 169 pupils currently down to join us in September from 35 primary schools. There are other pupils still looking at joining us. All of these pupils will be receiving their golden tickets and invites to transition days and summer school, which was a huge success last year. We look forward to them joining The Wordsley School community.

Attendance

Attendance at school has improved markedly since last year. Every day missed means that pupils are in danger of falling behind their peers, if they do not catch up. It is vital that Wordsley students are in school, with their friends, learning and developing. Thank you for your support in getting your child to school.

I want to take this opportunity to remind parents that holidays in term time are not permitted and will be not be authorised. I know that many families will be making plans for the summer, but the six-weeks holiday is the time to take your children away. While I sympathise with the cost of holidays going up out of school time, I cannot authorise children being taken out of school and fines are likely to be issued if this happens.

Uniform and Equipment

On the whole, our pupils wear their uniform well and look smart. However, there are a few reminders I would like to give to parents. These include:

- Leggings are not school uniform. Girls should wear school trousers or approved skirts.
- Shoes should be all black.
- Hoodies and training/drill tops are not acceptable. Coats should be waterproof and worn over the blazer.
- Nose and tongue piercings are not allowed in school.

We are noticing an increase in pupils not having the correct equipment. Please can I ask that you provide pupils with a pen (ideally black and green), pencil, ruler, rubber and scientific calculator.

Staff Retirements

It is with great sadness that I am sharing the news that Mrs Griffiths (Deputy Headteacher) has taken the decision to retire due to ill health. Mrs Griffiths has given exceptional service to the school over the last 17 years, as both Assistant and Deputy Headteacher. She has impacted the lives of thousands of Wordsley children in so many ways and leaves with our very best wishes. Mrs Griffiths has asked me to thank the student community who have made her time with us so joyful, and she leaves us with many fond memories. She wishes everyone within the school the very best in the coming months and years. We wish her a happy and fruitful retirement. She will be missed by us all.

Furthermore, Mrs Harrison (School Business Manager) has taken the decision to retire so that she can spend more time with her family and pursue her many interests outside of school, particularly walking. Mrs Harrison has plans to climb to Everest Base Camp, which we wish her luck with. We will really miss her too. Mrs Sherry has already taken over as School Business Manager.

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Other News

A great deal has been happening at Wordsley in recent months, much of which you may well have seen on our social media pages. Highlights have included:

- Poet with Punch – On 23rd January a group of boys from Years 7 to 10 took part in a workshop led by Mat Widdle, the Poet Laurette for Birmingham and former Commonwealth Champion Boxer. This focused on particular behaviours and characteristics such as motivation, resilience, and self-discipline. They produced some fantastic work and the boys really enjoyed it.
- Young Minds Charity – Before half term, a group of Year 11 pupils were raising awareness and money for Young Minds. This led to over £900 being raised. This involved Callum and Mack in Year 11 joining a group of staff to complete a charity walk at Mam Tor in the Peak District, on 19th February. It also involved teachers having their heads shaved and legs waxed. Rather than me!
- Presentation Evening – Tuesday 11th February was our annual presentation evening at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. Thank you for the phenomenal turnout from families, with not a spare seat to be seen. It was a pleasure to present awards to 90 pupils, who have worked very hard and embodied the school's values.
- Wolves Foundation – For the second year, we have been working closely with the Wolves Foundation. This has included visits to Molineux and Compton, sessions in school and mentoring for some of our pupils. Year 7 and 8 girls played at Compton and pupils attended the 'Show Racism the Red Card' event on 12th March. This has all culminated in a feature in the Wolves vs Fulham programme, with Summer and two staff being invited to the game on Tuesday 25th February.
- Old Trafford Visit – On Friday 14th February, the Business Studies department took a large group of pupils to Manchester United for a tour and some sessions looking at sports business. They even managed to squeeze in some shopping at the Trafford Centre.
- Theatre Visits – There have been and are planned a number of theatre visits for pupils, including An Inspector Calls (6th March), War Horse (20th March) and The Royal Shakespeare Company (21st May).
- Geography Fieldwork – On 7th March, our Year 11 Geographers undertook fieldwork at Carding Mill Valley.

As you can see, there is lots going on here at Wordsley and more to come in future weeks. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support for your child's education. I look forward to seeing you in school soon.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Weatherhogg
Headteacher

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