



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Staffordshire

Our reference PJT/ja/sh

Parent Letter No 16 (All Students)

24 August 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

Beginning of Term Arrangements

School begins for all our Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils on Wednesday 6th September. Pupils should be dressed in full school uniform and they will need to bring their school bag and all of their normal equipment for the day.

Equipment For Learning

In order to support their learning all pupils must bring the following 5 items of basic equipment to school every day:

1. Pen
2. Pencil
3. Ruler
4. Eraser
5. Calculator

Mobile Phones and Portable Electronic Devices

Mobile phones and similar electronic devices are not permitted in school. Parents / carers may request, via the SIMS form, that their child has a mobile phone with them during the journey to and from school. In such cases the phone must be switched off and be out of sight throughout the school day. By signing the Home-School agreement parents / carers and pupils are agreeing to this.

Uniform

In order to avoid any unnecessary expenditure I ask that you only provide items of uniform that will meet the school's uniform policy as published on our website. In particular, I would draw your attention to the fact that trousers must be tailored and of the same type of material as the blazer whilst shoes must be plain, black leather (that can be polished). Pupils must not have any facial piercings. We only allow a single gold / silver stud in the ear lobe.

We expect our students to maintain the highest standards of dress at all times including their journey to and from school.

School Terms and Holiday Dates

Details of terms and holiday dates for the next academic year are available on our website. Please be aware that the Department for Education has changed the guidelines concerning absence and that headteachers are no longer able to authorise absence during term time (holidays) except in exceptional circumstances.

Headteacher: Mr P J Tapp MA

Wolgarston High School, Cannock Road, Penkridge, Staffordshire, ST19 5RX

Tel: 01785 788400 Fax: 01785 788418 office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Budget Challenges

It has been well publicised nationally that education budgets are being squeezed. The combined impact over several years of cuts to sixth form funding, increases in pension and National Insurance contributions, unfunded pay awards, the apprentice levy and so forth means Wolgarston High School has no choice but to make significant cuts in spending.

As payroll makes up almost 80% of our costs, inevitably we have been forced to cut staff. We have managed to ensure that all staffing reductions are voluntary. We have not made any compulsory redundancies.

We have made the decision to protect front-line teaching, and so no teaching positions have been made redundant. Teachers leaving this year have done so for all the normal reasons, such as retirement, relocation or promotion.

What have we cut? We have cut leadership time. As you will already be aware, Mr Curtis has left us this year after over 30 years of superb service to our school. His position as Assistant Headteacher has not been replaced.

We have also had to cut our Family & Student Services provision. After 19 and 14 years respectively, Mrs Nield and Mrs Wynn have also left us. They have provided a fantastic service to parents, students and staff alike, and will be greatly missed.

Working Differently

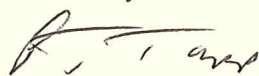
We won't be able to provide the same level of service as a result of these cuts. We will be working hard to ensure that the following areas are covered:

- Accident and Emergency: a child who becomes ill or has an accident during the day will be supported by one of our First Aid trained administration staff.
- House Tutors and House Leaders: Pastoral care and support will be provided through our House system, led by our four House Leaders. In almost all instances, your child's tutor will be your first port of call, and they can be contacted on tutor@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk.
- Inclusion Hub: Mrs Brockton is our school inclusion manager and will lead the range of services we provide to support children to access classroom learning.
- SEND: Mrs Weston continues to lead our SEND services.

We will all need to be patient as the new system settles down and we get used to different ways of working.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our 2017 GCSE and A Level results. We are delighted that once again we have performed strongly at both levels. At GCSE 72% of students passed both English and Maths, 75% passed at least 2 Sciences and 77% passed either History or Geography. At A Level our average grade per entry was B- for the second year in a row. Well done to all our students.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Tapp
Headteacher