

April 2019

Our Ref: KD/Letters

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you managed to have a restful break and a warm welcome back to all for the Summer Term 2019. The focus of this term will be preparing students for their end of year examinations, this being a particularly crucial time for both Year 11 and Year 13 as they undertake their external GCSE, A Level and BTEC exams. Lots of students were in over the school holiday for Year 11 and Year 13 revision sessions and further support, and we are so lucky to have staff who are willing to give up their own time to ensure all students achieve their very best in their forthcoming examinations.

We have a very busy term ahead and as well as external and internal examinations, this will also be a term where students can get to enjoy life beyond the classroom. There are so many exciting things happening this term at Weatherhead and I know students are looking forward to local and International Trips, Work Experience, Sports Day, Language Festivals, Leadership events and many more fun activities.

The Diana Award – Anti-Bullying

As a school, we are hoping to achieve the Anti-Bullying Diana Award this term which recognises schools that are pro-active in trying to deal with bullying. We have successfully launched our Anti-bullying Ambassador programme to encourage students to have a voice and to feel even safer in school. Students can talk to the ambassadors to get advice on any issues or worries they might have. Miss Robinson, Pastoral and Academic Support Worker is leading on this programme and we hope to achieve the recognition through this award. KS3 students will have assemblies this week to find out more about how they can tackle bullying and they will be introduced to the ambassadors who will talk to students about how they can help. This is another aspect of our Leadership Development for students and something for them to aspire to.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a key priority for all students at Weatherhead because if you are not in school you cannot learn. The school's attendance target is 95% and at the end of the Spring Term the whole school attendance was 94.6%. I would like to thank all parents/carers for your support in ensuring students are only absent from school if they are genuinely unwell. As I am sure you will know, students can feel ill in the morning however once they are in school, they feel better. Every student should be aiming to be above the school target and I cannot emphasise enough how important attending school is and the effect that just a few days of absence can have on future learning.

Regular attendance is important in ensuring your child makes good progress and that they achieve their very best in the end of year exams. It is very difficult for students to build and develop their skills and progress effectively if they are frequently absent as any day absent from school means 6 hours of learning has been missed which can't be replaced. It is also difficult for students to catch up if they have missed previous work as the learning has no logical sequence and can become frustrating, causing other difficulties and can sometimes lead to a lack of confidence.

Students will have a sticker in the front page of their planner this week with their current attendance figure to date and the number of days missed so far this year and I would really like us to work together this term to maintain the outstanding attendance already achieved by most and for some, to improve it.

As parents/carers please can you continue to support us where possible by making all medical appointments outside of school hours and not taking holidays during term time.

I would also like to draw your attention to the procedure for children who are absent from school. There have been public cases in the past where schools have not followed up the reasons as to why children are absent from school. It has then transpired that there have been tragic circumstances around these absences, e.g. illness of a parent and a child unable to seek help. We do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as your child's safety is paramount to us.

If your child is going to be absent from school please call the Attendance Office on 0151 631 4410 to report their absence. Alternatively you can email the school on attendanceoffice@weatherheadhigh.co.uk. We ask that you report your child's absence before 9am on the first and every subsequent day of absence. You must contact the school every day that your child is absent.

If we have not heard from you by 10.15am then we will start to call all of the contact numbers that you have provided in order to gain an explanation for your child's absence. If after 3 school days we have still not been able to ascertain where your child is, then our Attendance Officer will make a home visit.

I would ask that you ensure that school holds a minimum of two contact numbers for you and another adult who can be contacted regarding your child. It is important that you notify school as soon as possible if any of the contact numbers change. Our absence procedure is to ensure that we know where your child is and that they are safe. Punctuality is equally as important, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers that your child must be in school for 8.35am to avoid a late mark being given

Uniform & Standards

A reminder regarding uniform policy in relation to accessories; our guidelines state that students should wear plain black school shoes with no accessories or adornments and that one plain ring and one set of small plain ear studs only are permitted. Furthermore, please be mindful that false/acrylic nails and nail varnish are not permitted and in-keeping with our mobile device policy, students should not wear iWatches or other smart watch devices in school. I would like to thank you for your support in this and on the whole, uniform and standards at Weatherhead continue to be excellent.

Examinations

The summer term marks the beginning of the examination season. For Year 11, public examinations start on Monday 13 May. Year 11 students have been issued with an exam timetable and a copy of the Year 11 School/Home study booklet will be issued next week. Key Stage 3 students will take end of year exams, starting with Year 7 the week commencing 20 May. Years 8 and 9 students will follow with their end of year exams and Years 10 and 12 will sit mid-course exams in June. Please refer to the table overleaf for full details regarding exam dates.

Parking Safety

Another reminder that all students who have permission to access the front entrance/exit have been issued with a pass and for all other students, the normal access points to the school leading from/to Breck Road should be used and parents should not be accessing the school car park. Please be mindful of our local residents when you are dropping off or collecting students from school to ensure that you are parked safely without obstructing any driveways or garages.

It is also important that access to and around the school carpark is not obstructed in any way to protect the safety of students and staff, and to allow safe access for emergency vehicles. Please also ensure that you do not use the marked disabled bays unless you have a valid blue badge that is displayed clearly in your vehicle.

Headteacher Drop-in

I will be holding a Headteacher's drop-in this term for parents and carers at which you can discuss any concerns or issues that you would like me to address with no appointment needed. The session will be held between 3.30-6.00pm on:

- *Wednesday 15th May*

Key Dates for Parents & Carers

Event	Date
Good Friday Bank Holiday	Friday 19 April
Easter Monday Bank Holiday	Monday 22 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Year 11 GCSE Examinations start	w/c Monday 13 May
Year 13 GCE Examinations start	w/c Monday 20 May
Year 7 End of Year Examinations	w/c Monday 20 May
May Half Term Break	w/c Monday 27 May
Year 8 End of Year Examinations	w/c Monday 10 June
Year 9 End of Year Exams (non-core subjects)	w/c Monday 10 June
Year 10 Mid-Course Examinations	w/c Monday 17 June
Year 9 End of Year Exams (English, Maths and Science)	Monday 24 & Tuesday 25 June
Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations	Wednesday 26, Thursday 27 & Friday 28 June
Summer Sizzler Show	Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 June – 7.00pm
Year 10 Work Experience	w/c Monday 24 June
KS3 Awards Evening	Tuesday 2 July – 7.00pm
Creative Showcase	Thursday 4 July – 4.00-6.30pm
Sports Day	Friday 5 July
Year 10 Leadership Challenge Day	Monday 8 July
Year 7 Residential Trip	Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 July
Year 10 Examinations Results Day	Tuesday 16 July
Year 12 Examinations Results Day	Wednesday 17 July
Year 13 GCE Examinations Results Day	Thursday 15 August
Year 11 GCSE Examinations Results Day	Thursday 22 August

I would like to once again thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school as it is so important that we work closely together to ensure the best possible education for your child.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Whelan
Headteacher