

April 2018

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 2018. The focus of this term will be preparing students for their end of year examinations, this being a particularly crucial time for Year 13 as they undertake their external A Level exams and Year 12 students who are sitting BTEC and mid-course examinations.

Attendance

Attendance is 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 94.4%. Every student should be aiming to be above the school target and I cannot emphasise enough how important attending school is and the effect of just a few days absence can have on future learning.

Regular attendance is important in ensuring your son/daughter makes good progress and that he/she achieves 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 please can you 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 son/daughter's safety is paramount to us.

If your son/daughter is going to be absent from school please call the Attendance Office on 0151 631 4401 to report their absence. 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 son/daughter 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 son/daughter 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 son/daughter. 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.

Uniform & Standards

Sixth Form students are not required to wear uniform but are expected to dress appropriately for school. In practice this means that t-shirts, jeans and trainers are acceptable as long as these are reasonably smart and do not feature text or designs that could be deemed offensive or inappropriate.

As the weather improves could I please remind you that colourful, patterned 'beach' shorts, short skirts, denim shorts or cropped/vest tops are not permitted. I am sure you will agree that it is important that all our Sixth Form students are role models of Weatherhead in our community.

Examinations

The Summer Term marks the beginning of the examination season. For Year 13, public examinations start on Monday 14 May and Year 12 will sit mid-course exams in June. Please refer to the table on the reverse of this letter for full details regarding exam dates.

Parking Safety

The school car park continues to be very busy at the start and end of the school day and I ask for your support in keeping congestion to a minimum as there does need to be permanent access for emergency vehicles at all times of the day. 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.

Communication

As a reminder, our School App is available on all Apple and Android devices. It is free and easy to download, just search for *Weatherhead HS* in your app store. I hope you have had the chance to read our latest edition of Weather Report and a new version of Weatherhead TV is also now available on our school website highlighting just some of the fantastic experiences and opportunities at Weatherhead.

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 3.30-6.30pm on:

- Wednesday 16th May

Staffing Update

I am pleased to inform you that the Governing Body have approved the promotion of Miss Sullivan from Senior Assistant Headteacher to Deputy Headteacher responsible for Student Services and Wellbeing, and she starts this new position this term.

Key Dates for Parents & Carers

Event	Date
Year 13 GCE Examinations start	w/c Monday 14 May
Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations	Wednesday 27, Thursday 28 & Friday 29 June
Summer Sizzler Show	Tuesday 19 & Wednesday 20 June
Creative Showcase	Thursday 5 July
Sports Day	Friday 6 July
Year 12 Examinations Results Day	Wednesday 18 July
Year 13 GCE Examinations Results Day	Thursday 16 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 education for your son/daughter.

Yours sincerely



Miss A Whelan
Headteacher