

January 2019

Our Ref: KD/Letters

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and I hope the Christmas break presented some opportunity for rest and relaxation. The holiday gives us all an opportunity to reflect and receiving our World Class Status was a wonderful way to end a really good term. This recognition beyond our 'Outstanding' rating is testament to our talented and inspirational students, the dedicated and hardworking staff and your continued support and excellent partnership with the school. Being a World Class School means you can be confident in knowing that the school is exceptional in all areas and has an enhanced internationally esteemed reputation for education that rivals those of the best schools in the country. Universities will now recognise Weatherhead as preparing students to excel in higher education and businesses will see that we are developing the brightest potential employees.

The Spring Term is set to be a very busy and focused term, particularly for students taking external examinations this year. Please see attached for some important information and key dates for your diary.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Students have had a great start to this academic year and whole school attendance for the Autumn Term was 95%. Attendance continues to be a key focus for Weatherhead and regular attendance is so important in ensuring your child achieves their very best in the end of term exams and in particular with exam season approaching. The highest number of absences during last term were due to illness so unless your child is really poorly, please continue to support the school by encouraging them to attend, as often students feel better once they are in school. If your child is absent from school, it is important that you do contact our attendance team on each day of the absence. Please note that, where possible, medical appointments should be made outside of school hours and holidays should not be taken during term time. 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**

Thank you for your support in maintaining our high standards with regard to school uniform over the Autumn Term, our students continue to look very smart and wear our uniform with pride. As a reminder regarding jewellery after the Christmas break, students are permitted to wear one pair of discreet stud earrings in the lower ear only and one plain ring is allowed. Additionally, students are not permitted to wear false or acrylic nails and I appreciate your continued support with this. A full uniform guide is available on the school website for further details. As you will be aware, we do not allow our students to use mobile phones during the school day and Apple iWatches or other smart watch devices are also not permitted. I hope you can appreciate for a school population of our size, we are trying to minimise the amount of expensive items in the school building and it is important to note that Weatherhead High School is not responsible or insured for the loss of any personal items that go missing during the school day.

## **Social Media**

Further to our policy on the use of mobile devices during the school day, I must again highlight that staff at Weatherhead High School are not in a position to deal with the magnitude of issues brought into school caused by social media activity outside of school hours. It is important that you talk regularly with your child about how they use technology, including their favourite sites and accounts, and how being online makes them feel. There are lots of tools to help you manage the devices used by your family and you can visit [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) for more information about safety online.

## **Weather & Parking Safety**

Information in relation to procedures and communication in the event of adverse weather is available on the school website – [www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk](http://www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk).

As mentioned at the start of the academic year, the school car park is already very busy at the start and end of the school day and in order to protect the safety of staff and students, it is important to keep congestion down. In addition, when dropping off/collecting your child from school, please be mindful of our local residents and ensure driveways/garages are not obstructed.

## **Free School Meals**

I recently contacted all parents & carers regarding free school meals and pupil premium which attracts additional funding for school if your child is eligible to receive a free school meal. Please remember to complete an eligibility enquiry as soon as possible if you think you may qualify. You can either do this direct at <http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral> or, if you prefer, we can do this on your behalf via our website at [www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/fsm](http://www.weatherheadhigh.co.uk/fsm).

## **Extra-Curricular**

There are over 100 clubs and activities available to students at Weatherhead during lunch time and after school, please look out for our new Spring Term programme which will be available via the school website. In addition, our fantastic breakfast club runs every morning during term time offering free tea and toast in the canteen from 8am – 8.25am and the school is open every day until 5.30pm apart from Friday (4.30pm) with facilities for students to study and to receive support with their homework.

## **Medicines in School**

As of 7th January 2019 we will be changing our Medicines Policy, the (draft) document can be found on the school website under the 'School Policies' section. A major change, which should have a positive impact upon school and families, is that the update allows school to administer paracetamol and antihistamine when a student becomes unwell during the school day, for example minor headaches, stomach cramps etc. We do ask that, where possible, all students take medication outside of school hours (before leaving for school and upon returning home). As this is a new procedure, please see the attached proforma and select which medication you would be happy for your child to receive, and then sign, date and return the proforma to your child's form tutor. Such medication will only be administered by staff if the form has been completed and we have spoken to a parent/carer on the day, to ensure that no other medication has been taken. If we do not receive a completed declaration, staff will not be able to administer medication to your child in school. Please see the full policy for any additional information.

## **Communication**

It is important that we have the most accurate and up to date contact information for parents/carers and any other emergency contacts. We will also continue to use email as a means of communication, so I would ask that you ensure that all information is up to date and any changes are received via your child's planner/Form Tutor. Please could I remind you when contacting the school that some staff will teach throughout the day and may not be available immediately. Please be assured that staff will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible

but that you should allow up to 48 hours before contacting the school again. This term will also see the launch of our new Careers Website which will evidence how Weatherhead High School is meeting the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks in terms of careers and guidance in school, please look out for further details coming soon.

My Headteacher's drop-in session will be available 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 27<sup>th</sup> February

Finally, I would like to once again thank you for your continued support and partnership with the school. I am looking forward to what I am confident will be another World Class term with outstanding progress and achievement from all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Whelan', written in a cursive style.

**Miss A Whelan**  
Headteacher

## Spring Term 2019 – Key Dates

| Date                     | Event  | Time                  |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Wed 16 Jan 2019          | Y11 Mock Results and Sixth Form Interviews                   | All day (15 mins)     |
| Thu 17 Jan 2019          | Y11 Parents' Evening   | 5.00-8.00pm           |
| W/c 21 Jan 2019          | Y11 Resit Mocks  | All week after school |
| Wed 23-Fri 25 Jan 2019   | 'Suessical the Musical' – School Production                  | 7.00-9.45pm           |
| Thu 31 Jan 2019          | Y9 Options Evening   | 5.45-8.00pm           |
| Thu 7 Feb 2019           | Y10 Parents' Evening   | 5.00-8.00pm           |
| W/c 11 Feb 2019          | Y8 Skills Tests  | In lesson time        |
| 18 – 22 Feb 2019         | Half Term Break  |                       |
| W/c 25 Feb 2019          | Y11 English and Maths Mock 2                                 | In lesson time        |
| Wed 27 Feb 2019          | Y9 Well-Being Day & Y9 Well-Being Evening for Parents/Carers | 6.00-7.30pm           |
| Wed 6 Mar 2019           | Learn to Learn – Year 11 Parent/Carer Workshop               | 6.00-7.30pm           |
| Thu 7 Mar 2019           | Y7 Parents' Evening  | 5.00-8.00pm           |
| Thu 14 Mar 2019          | Y8 Parents' Evening  | 5.00-8.00pm           |
| Mon 18 Mar- Fri 29 March | End of Term 2 Tests (Y7-10)                                  | In lesson time        |
| Fri 29 Mar 2019          | Close for Spring Break                                       |                       |

## Parent/carer consent to administer short-term non-prescribed medicines

The school will not administer medication unless this form is completed and signed. This information will be kept securely with your child's other records. If further information is needed, we will contact you. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if there are any issues you wish to discuss.

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Student's Name: | DOB:  |
| Year Group:     | Form: |

The Medicines Policy permits the school to administer the following non-prescription medication if your child develops the relevant symptoms during the school day. Students will be given a standard dose suitable to their age and weight. A note will be made in your child's planner to inform you when the school has administered medication. The school holds a small stock of the following medicines:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paracetamol |
|--------------------------|-------------|

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Anti-histamine |
|--------------------------|----------------|

***Tick the non-prescription medications above that you give your consent for the school to administer during the school day and confirm that you have administered these medications in the past without adverse effect. Please keep the school informed of any changes to this consent.***

Signature(s) Parent/Carer: .....

Print name:.....

Date:.....