

13 December 2021

School will close at 12.00 (midday) on Friday 17 December 2021 for the 2-week Christmas holiday.

It will reopen on Tuesday 4 January 2022 for all year groups. Pupils need to arrive at school by 8.25 a.m. ready for a prompt start to form time at 8.30 a.m.

Dear Parents/carers

As I write this letter, we are in the final week of the autumn term and what a busy one it has been. Staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard to ensure that Westborough continues to be a brilliant place to work and learn. There has been a real focus this term on looking at the knowledge and skills pupils need to gain in all their subjects and making sure that gaps in learning from the pandemic last year are addressed by teachers. It is simply wonderful to see the pupils working so hard in their lessons. Westborough continues to offer a broad and rich curriculum to all pupils: from the core curriculum of English, mathematics and science to the arts, history, French, computing to name but a few. We continue to be staffed with subject specialists – teachers have a degree in their relevant subjects and this is an important part of Westborough's success.

Year 11 in particular are realising how hard they need to work to prepare for their GCSEs and BTECs in summer 2022. We are offering lots of strategies to help them with their studies, including extra learning support in form time, after school sessions in English, mathematics and science as well as school led tutoring outside of school hours. They have just had mock examination results and will be given guidance this week on how to spend the two week break wisely, ensuring they get rest and relaxation but also spend some of their time revising and focusing on areas that have been identified in the mocks as needing more focus. Both you as parents/carers and we as teachers understand the pressure Year 11 are under but we know that the approach needs to be 100% effort in all lessons and study outside of school. If pupils have this approach it will avoid last minute panic and stress. If you have any concerns, please contact Mr Aziz (assistant headteacher in charge of raising standards saziz2@w-h-s.org.uk)

Westborough also has an impressive pastoral team who are there to help your child/ren settle into the demands of learning 5 different subjects a day whilst making friends and being happy at school. They work tirelessly to ensure pupils feel cared for and any issues are solved quickly. This would not happen without excellent partnership working with you – their parents and carers. I would like to thank you for all your support in working with us to make sure pupils come to school in the correct uniform, with the right equipment and a positive attitude towards learning. In this way pupils do not miss out on lesson time as a result of uniform and planner issues.

Continued .../2

13 December 2021

Please see the important notices below

Class charts parent App

From January 2022 the school will no longer be using the text service. All important school information will now be sent as notifications on the class charts parent app.

Please download the class charts parent app from both the google and apple app stores if you haven't already done so and turn on your notifications in the settings. If you require help and support or your sign-in details please contact: datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk

Attendance

Attendance remains a top priority at Westborough High School, access to face-to-face education every day prevents further gaps in knowledge and improves pupils' physical and mental wellbeing particularly with the impact of the pandemic. Regular attendance to school ensures your child achieves their full academic potential. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school every day.

For all attendance related queries, if you require any help or support, the attendance team can be contacted from 7.30 a.m. by calling the main school office on **01924 469549** and **selecting option 3**.

Please note the following attendance routines:

- If your child is absent from school due to illness, this must be reported between 7.30 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.
- All routine and non-urgent medical appointments need to be made outside of school hours.
- Any leave of absences must not be arranged during term time and requests should be made in writing. Leave of absence will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- Children are only required to self-isolate if they have tested positive for Covid-19 or are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, a new and continuous cough, loss of taste or smell).
- If your child is displaying any of these symptoms please ensure they get a PCR test as soon as possible and send a copy of the PCR result to 07444 400875 or email: acheshire@w-h-s.org.uk

Covid-19 lateral flow testing

Please ensure your child continues to test twice weekly and log the results both with the school and the NHS. This can be done through the school website.

Following government guidance, pupils will be offered a lateral flow test on their return to school in January. This way we can help to reduce transmission and keep the school community safe.

13 December 2021

Vaccination programme

All students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. These can be booked through the NHS website.

Free school meal vouchers

If your child is eligible for free school meals, a voucher covering the holiday period will be emailed to your child's account. Please check your child's account to redeem your voucher. If you have any issues with this please email datarequests@w-h-s.org.uk.

If your child is currently not in receipt of free school meals and you believe your child should be, please visit the free school meals section of the school website and complete the application form.

Year 11 leavers summer 2021

If you have a child who received GCSE results in summer 2021, certificates have now arrived in school. We will notify you in January with a date and time when these can be collected from the school office.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish our school community a very peaceful and restful Christmas holiday. Hopefully you will all get time to spend with family and friends as we continue to live in the uncertain times of the pandemic. Take care from all at Westborough.

Very best wishes

Jennifer Napper
Headteacher