



Westborough
High School

Together we succeed

November 2023

Dear Parents/carers

Please note school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 24 November 2023 (staff professional development time)

Westborough High School remains a wonderful place to work and learn. We have had a very busy start to the academic year, with lots to celebrate. Firstly, I wanted to share the excellent GCSE and BTEC results that the Year 11 pupils achieved in the summer of 2023. It was another year with a positive progress score of 0.22 which means that our pupils on average perform better than they would at other schools with similar attainment. 37% of our pupils achieved a grade 5 or better in both English and maths which is fantastic as were results across a variety of subject areas including chemistry, physics and Urdu and we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back to a presentation event later this term; this is a special evening where they will receive their well-deserved examination certificates as well as listen to an inspiring speaker, catch up with staff and friends and have the opportunity to reflect on their futures and share how they are enjoying the next stage in their education.

Our current Year 11 pupils are in the middle of their mock GCSE exams. They continue to work hard, have good attendance, a positive attitude to their learning and are pro-active with self-study; they are predicted to do well.

Education transforms lives and everyone who works at Westborough has adopted this viewpoint which is central to all decision making. As a school we follow the national curriculum, ensuring pupils are taught a broad range of subjects from the traditional academic subjects such as English, mathematics and science to the arts, as well as PE, business studies, computing to name just some of the broad range of subjects on offer. Importantly, pupils also follow a curriculum that covers personal development; this learning helps pupils navigate the very complex world we live in, with all the influences good and bad that they may encounter in everyday life. The topics covered are available to see on the school's website <https://www.w-h-s.org.uk/religious-and-personal-studies/> The personal development curriculum also allows for a responsive approach to events and as a result of the incident that occurred outside of school on the 10 November 2023, the following was delivered to pupils:

- Making the right choice
- Responding to peer pressure

Class discussions provided pupils with effective social scripts to help them challenge the behaviour of their peers and support them to lead positive decision making within their peer group.

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Safeguarding is an essential part of school life and we are working closely with the police and the local authority to safeguard pupils and staff following the incident. There has been an increased police presence at the start and end of the school day to support with this and reassure the whole school community. In addition, staff responsible for safeguarding within school have supported individual family concerns. Staff have been briefed to be extra vigilant to any pupils who may be struggling and report any concern to the safeguarding team.

Also, we are working closely with the educational psychology team from the local authority who are supporting where needed. This is a police matter and I am sure you will understand that we cannot comment further, but it is useful to summarise the school approach from an education and safeguarding perspective. The school continues to go from strength to strength with a positive approach in all we do. It is a joy to work with your young people and as always, the support of parents/carers is valued and appreciated.

Enrichment opportunities are also a very important part of education. As I write this letter, we have a residential geography trip taking place in Wales with a number of Year 9 & 10 pupils and staff who have volunteered to run this trip. In order to capture some of the great events and clubs that pupils can take part in, we have published a newsletter to celebrate this. Please follow the link <https://www.w-h-s.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/enrichment-newsletter-summer-2023.pdf> and talk to your child/ren about clubs that they may like to join in with.

This is now my eleventh year as the headteacher of Westborough and I am excited to continue to lead and support the school through challenging times with the problems associated with economic hardship and social media influence and together, with your valued support, continue to build on the ambition of the school to provide a first-class education to support pupils to aspire to bright futures where they will take their place as educated, well-rounded, caring members of society.

Kind regards



Jennifer Cass
Headteacher