

MJC/jr
6 April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another incredibly busy term that has not only brought it's challenges, but has also shown in many ways how wonderful our students, your children are, I thought I would share with you some reminders of what next term brings, but also some news about some of the things taking place pastorally.

This letter contains:

- Changes to pastoral staff
- News about First Aid
- Uniform reminders
- Attendance and punctuality
- Wellbeing support

Changes to Pastoral Staff:

There has been a change in structure within the pastoral team to increase the capacity to support our young people with the ever increasing spectrum of needs that we have at school as we continue to see the impact that the last 2 years have had on our community.

We are delighted that Mr Bateman and Mrs Cooper have taken up positions as Senior Pastoral Practitioners who will be in post to oversee things like inclusion, attendance and Student Services across the school. We also welcome them both as Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads (DDSL).

This of course means that Mr Bateman will be leaving his position as Director of Progress and Achievement for Year 8 after doing a great job in settling in our largest ever year group. He will be replaced by Mrs Marshall who will be joining the school after Easter and has many years' experience as a Head of Year in her previous schools. Mr Bateman will obviously still be around to support the year group alongside Mr Clissold as this transition period starts.

We are also delighted to appoint additional Assistant Directors of Progress and Achievement in order to allocate this support to each Director of Progress and Achievement. Mr Morrison, Mrs Thomas (English) and Miss Wiley will all start their roles after Easter.

These are exciting times for the pastoral team, who alongside the excellent Student Services team do a fantastic job in supporting the wellbeing of our students.

First Aid

Our First Aid room is a busy and valuable part of the school. To put it in some context, it had 3300 visits just for medical reasons alone in the first term! To support the work they do with some of our more medically vulnerable students we are making some tweaks to how the room operates. The room will be closed between lessons to students other than emergencies. We will also not dispense paracetamol before 10am and after 2pm. This is so we can ensure that we are giving medication to students in appropriate timeframes in the day and ensure we are not doubling up on doses that may have been taken at home.

Uniform

As the nicer weather sets in it is worth a reminder that after the May Half Term break we can switch to summer uniform. Up until then the expectation is that uniform remains the same, with all students in jumpers, ties, trousers or skirts and appropriate shoes.

The weather is a little unpredictable to say the least, so please encourage your child to look ahead at the forecast and come suitably prepared to school, with a coat if needed.

We have seen leggings creeping into school uniform recently, please ensure that suitable school trousers or skirts are being worn. If after Easter students are in leggings for uniform (other than PE/Dance) then they will be asked to return home to change or a parent will be asked to bring in the correct attire.

If there are any issues in getting uniform, please remember we have plenty of pre-loved items, much of which is barely worn. We can always help out if needed.

Attendance & Punctuality

Absence rates nationally have been incredibly high this academic year and our rate is also higher than previous years. However we have been significantly better than the local, regional and national figures so I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in getting our young people into school during these confusing and difficult times.

There is still much to do. We know that students who are in school for less than 90% of the time, that is half a day's absence a week, achieve between 1 and 2 grades lower than their peers who are in over 95% of the time.

If your child is absent, please do tell us at school by using the Insight App or emailing absence@wildern.org. Please let us know each day that your child is unable to attend.

We have a number of students who are arriving late for school through choice. We will contact you if this is the case and unauthorise those lates. This could lead to a fixed penalty notice. If your child is receiving late marks in the morning, please remind them of the importance of arriving in

school on time, so much information is given in assembly and during tutor periods, it is a valuable time of the day.

Wellbeing Support

I would just like to remind you of the wonderful Wellbeing Hub on the school website. It contains so many valuable links and support pages, all of our wellbeing newsletters as well as a direct link to the CAMHs website which is outstanding in the support, advice and guidance it provides.

In the Wellbeing Hub, you will also find the #Ineedsupport button which is an online facility that students can use if they want to contact a member of staff without a face to face conversation.

If you are concerned about anything in the approach to the Easter holidays with regards to your child or whether you are concerned and in need of advice and guidance, please do not hesitate to contact Student Services here at school and we may be able to signpost the right support.

Thank you for your support and kindness with the charity projects this term, it has been truly wonderful to see the local community pull together to support the effort to provide aid to people locally and abroad.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Chance
Deputy Headteacher