



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

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Dear Parent/Carer

As we rapidly approach the final weeks of this academic year, I should like to thank you for your help and support in what has, once again, been a very busy year for West Hill school and its students.

I am sure that you would all also join the school in wishing those staff who have left us during the year or those who leave us at the end of this term, on to new ventures, all the very best for the future and thank them for all of their hard work and the dedication they have shown both the school and your son(s). We wish them all the very best of luck.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with a number of reminders.

Shoes

Please ensure that before you purchase shoes for the new school year that they are formal, plain, black and made of a material that can be polished. If the shoes have laces they must also be black. Casual, canvas shoes and hybrid shoes, which look similar to or like trainers, are not acceptable. Further details were in my previous letter, which can be found on the website. Please also avoid shoes that are partially black but have a band of material that is a different colour. If you are at all unsure in relation to whether a particular shoe is acceptable I would suggest you either refer to our website, contact school prior to closure or err on the side of caution.

I should also like to remind parents that tracksuit tops and "Hoodies" are not part of school uniform and are not allowed to be worn in place of an outside coat. Earrings and other jewellery are not allowed. Only wrist watches may be worn.

I should like to remind all parents that uniform can no longer be purchased from the school. Blazers, ties and PE kit can now be purchased from our approved stockist Debonair in Ashton-Under-Lyne. Debonair's store is located at 82 Old Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne. You may also purchase PE kit online from Kit Traders: <http://schoolsuniform.co.uk/>

Hair and facial hair

Haircuts and style should be formal, neat and tidy. Unusual or extreme hair styles are not allowed. Long hair which falls below the collar line must be tied up and off the face. Fully shaven heads are not allowed. If the hair is shaven at the sides and back it must be no shorter than a grade 1 and this should extend no further up the neck and head than the top of the ear. The main head of hair must be cut with scissors not clippers. 'Skin fades' are NOT allowed. There should be no discernible line between the shaved part and the main head of hair. Razored patterns or designs are NOT allowed on the head or eyebrows.

Boys not adhering to our uniform and appearance policy will be sent home to correct their appearance/uniform where this is appropriate or will be isolated until the issue is rectified.

Attendance

As you are aware, the government is determined to tackle poor school attendance and the Department for Education (DfE) has introduced amendments to the law which came into force on 1st September 2013. These amendments make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The new law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the head teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. The most recent Supreme Court case has reinforced schools' and local authorities right to fine parents who take their child out of school during school



time for a holiday if appropriate. We ask that parents support West Hill School in our efforts to help your son gain the best possible outcome from his education by not asking for leave of absence from school in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Pupils need to attend school regularly and missing lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both secondary school and their future life outside. From 1st September 2015 the DfE further reduced the Persistent Absentee threshold from 15% to 10% absence. This means that if your son's attendance falls below 90%, i.e. misses 19 or more school days in a year for whatever reason, he will be classed by the government and Local Education Authority as a Persistent Absentee. On a very positive note, our whole school attendance is currently running at 95.53%. I would ask all parents to refer to our school web site www.westhillschool.co.uk for information regarding the protocols for reporting absence and illness, attending medical appointments and applying for leave of absence.

A polite request from Stamford Court Nursing Home and West Hill School.

As we ask that parents who pick up their son from school in a car to not come on to the school site I realise that parking on the surrounding roads to the school can be challenging, especially at busy times. However, can I ask parents who pick their child up from school and park on the roads near school, especially those who park up on Astley Road to please do not park in the nursing home car park or near the entrance to the nursing home as it has at times blocked the access for ambulances.

Pupil Access Cards

Parents are reminded that all pupils require the use of their access card to move around the school site. We request that parents keep these cards in a safe place over the summer break ready for use again in September.

Closure for the summer break - Non-uniform Day

School will close for the summer break on Friday 14th July. Classes will be dismissed by their Head of Year and school will be closed by 12 noon. The dining room will be open for those pupils who wish to have lunch on the school site. On payment of £1 boys may attend school on the final day of term in smart casual wear that is non-offensive, we advise that clothing which supports any particular sports team are not acceptable. Jewellery and hats may not be worn. All proceeds will be donated to our nominated charity 'Mummy's Star'.

Dates for the Academic Year 2017 – 2018

Wednesday 6th September 2017 – school opens for pupils in year 7 at 8.45am and for years 8, 9, 10 and 11 at 11.25am

A comprehensive list of holiday dates are on our website and important events will be issued early next term.

You will see from the above list that school will open for the new academic year on Wednesday 6th September 2017. Pupils in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should report to school in good time for registration at the beginning of period 3 (11.25 am).

Boys in the new Year 7 will start at 8.45 am.
Please keep this portion of the letter for reference.

Finally, I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break and I wish you, your son and the school all the very best for the future.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. A. F. Harrison
Headteacher