

1st November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been particularly impressed with the behavior and attitude of students over the last half term. Students have returned to a school where yet again there has been a lot of change over the summer and their patience and understanding in adapting to these changes has been most welcomed. This time it is the temporary loss of outside space as our new building is well underway and at the present running on time for completion in October 2018.

Upcoming Important Dates and End of Term Notification

- Tuesday 19th December 2017– Last Day of School Term. The School will operate a compact day and students will depart for the holidays at 1.00pm.
- Thursday 4th January 2018 – First Day of Spring Term. All students should arrive at school at 8.35am for 8.40am start and report to registration as normal.
- Thursday 4th January 2018 - Year 11 Parents' Evening with subject teachers between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.
- Thursday 11th January – Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening with subject teachers between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.
- Tuesday 23rd January – Year 8 Parents' Evening Thursday 26th January 2017 - Year 8 Parents Evening – With subject teachers between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.
- Thursday 1st February – Year 8 Pathways Evening – Parental Appointments will be provided with Senior Staff between 4.00pm and 7.00pm.
- Friday 9th February – End of Half Term 3 at 3.10pm.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Our current Parent Governors' Term of Office concluded in October and therefore we have two vacancies for governors directly elected by parents. Please see attached letter.

Uniform

The overall standard of uniform is very good and thank you for ensuring this. However, a few trainers, jeans and other non-uniform items have begun to slip back in. Please ensure that your child is in the correct school uniform. Should parents whose children are in receipt of Free School Meals require financial assistance for School Uniform please contact your child's Leader of Year to discuss this. In certain circumstances the School may be able to assist.

Attendance and Punctuality to School

Attendance at Wexham has improved considerably over the last two years. As at 20th October the overall attendance of Year 7 was 97%, Year 8 94%, Year 9 94%, Year 10 96%, Year 11 95%, Year 12 95% and Year 13 94%. I really do thank you for all your support in making sure your child attends school every day. There can still be room for improvement as all year groups should now be above 95%.

Whilst punctuality to school also continues to improve I am still very concerned in regards to the number of students who arrive late in the mornings due to traffic; please leave enough time to ensure your child arrives punctually to school. I would also encourage students for their own health to walk or cycle to school if they live close enough. This would also remove the large numbers of cars from Norway Drive at the start and end of the day making it safer for all the children.

Mufti Day

The school will be holding a mufti day on Friday 17th November in aid of Children in Need. Students wishing to take part and wear non uniform to school must bring £1. There is of course no charge for students attending in full school uniform.

Emergency Closure

Whilst I would endeavor never to close the school, with winter approaching and the possibility of poor weather, I thought I would take this opportunity to remind you of the school emergency closure procedure.

- The decision to close the school outside of core hours will be taken by 7.30am after an assessment of poor weather conditions or on the advice of Slough Borough Council or the emergency services. We will always aim to contact parents by text message as early as possible; normally this would be by 7.45am, before students leave for school. Messages will also be displayed on the school website.
- Should the school be forced to close during the day, or your child has arrived on school premises in the morning, you will be contacted before we send students home.
- Further text messages and our website will update parents of our situation. For this reason it is always vital that the school has up to date contact details.

Highlights of Half Term 1 – 2017/18

- Ten Year 12 students participated in the Deloitte Micro-Tyco competition.
- Year 8 Students have visited Hampton Court Palace as part of the History Curriculum. Here they were able to find out much more information about the Tudors, which is part of what they are studying this term.
- A group of Year 10 students as part of a 'Chemistry for All' project visited Thames Water on Wednesday 18th October.
- All Year 11 have been using **Kudos and E Clips** which are career exploration tools that will support them in planning for their future and exploring the world of careers, training and further education. Students discovered new ideas, helped with understanding which careers best suit them and uncover how and what they are learning in school links to future opportunities and their career destination.
- On Tuesday 10th October the Year 12 Travel and Tourism students visited Brighton all day. This is part of their coursework and they were able to explore different tourist and cultural attractions.
- In recognition of National Fitness Day on Wednesday 27th September some of the Year 8 students took part in a 30-minute high intensity interval training session (HIIT) led by 'The Body Coach' Joe Wicks. This was a tough challenge for the children and a great alternative to some of their usual curriculum activities.
- Year 7 students as part of their History Curriculum visited Windsor Castle.
- A full range of sporting fixture have been in operation during this half term. A real highlight is the creation of our first Girls Football Team in Year 7 and 8 and the flying start to the season with our Year 7 boys having had with big wins over both Churhmead and Herschel Grammar School.

Parent and student surveys results

Thank you for all parents and students that completed my survey at the recent Progress Review Day. 696 surveys were completed in total and I am very pleased that both parents and students are overall reporting that the school is continuing to improve.

This year 95% of parents agree that their child feels safe at Wexham and 98% agree that their child is happy at Wexham. All categories increased from last year but I was exceptionally pleased to see some quite significant shifts in satisfaction from those that last year agreed with the statements to those that now strongly agree. This includes a 10% increase in parents strongly agreeing that our students are well behaved and 9% increases in the quality of our teaching, leadership and management, students making progress and recommending us to another parent. However, whilst I am very pleased that overall there is an improving trend it is always my aim that we do even better.

All our parental surveys have been very positive but the shift in our student's responses over the last two years has been really exceptional. The following tables show the percentage changes in **positive** responses for our student survey when compared to the survey in May 2015. This is excellent feedback for the school and we will

always aim to improve further on this. This also reflects a very positive shift in overall student behaviour and I thank you for all your support.

Strongly Agree and Agree together	% Change from May 2015 Survey
I enjoy School	+29
I feel safe at School	+27
I am making progress at School	+18
My experience of teaching is good	+43
I feel supported at School	+27
Bullying is rare at School	+28
The School helps me prepare for my future	+22
I get the right amount of homework set at School	+22
I feel my personal needs are met by the School	+38
Unacceptable behaviour is always dealt with	+44
If I need to talk to someone there is an adult at School I can go to	+42
Teachers set challenging learning which stretches my academic ability	+31
Total	+29

The new Wexham School Twitter Feed

To follow us on Twitter please go to @Wexham_School

Alongside our new website this really does give you an amazing insight into daily life at Wexham.

Wexham School App

In order to help communication the school has launched an App. To access this please follow these instructions.

- Firstly, you will need to download the app from either the iTunes App Store , Google Play or Windows Store by clicking on the relevant buttons below or by loading up the app store on your phone and searching for 'School News'.
- Once you have located and downloaded the free app, launch the app and you will then be able to either click on the 'Find my school' button which uses the phones GPS to locate all the schools in the surrounding 20 miles radius, or you can type in the schools postcode and click on the 'Get my school' button. The school's postcode is: **SL2 5QP**. You will then see a list of schools that use the app. Click on Wexham School to view news and events.
- You will then be able to click on the 'News' button to view all of the latest news items that have been added to the Wexham School Website and also all of the upcoming calendar events by clicking on the 'Events' button.
- Clicking on 'My Schools' will display a list of schools that you can view news and events for. Clicking on one of the schools will the display the school address, telephone number and email address which you can click on to either phone or email the school directly from the app.

Please do remember that letters will not always be posted to you. When a new letter is placed on the website parents will be texted or emailed so please do check.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher