



13<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

This term has been particularly successful at Wexham with improvements in many areas of the school's work. I would like to thank all parents and students for their continued support and cooperation.

### **Woodside Building**

Our new Woodside Building has been opened and learning has been taking place for several weeks in our fantastic new classrooms. All English and Humanities lessons are currently being taught in Woodside. Our new Library has now opened, Year 13 have a dedicated quiet study room and by the end of term Foreign Languages will also have moved in. I have also moved our Special Needs and student support areas to Woodside and we have also taken possession of our two new science laboratories where lessons are now taking place.

There is still though considerable works to be undertaken on site. The Fowler Building has now been demolished. This was met with joy but also a few a few tears were shed! This will be laid back to grass over the coming weeks, weather dependent. By mid-January all work should be finished on site. This will also mean our Church Road entrance and car park will be back in operation relieving some of the congestion at the start and end of the school day on Norway Drive.

### **Start of the School Day – Punctuality**

The School day starts at 8.40am. Students must be onsite **before this time**. Being punctual means the day starts positive. We have seen in recent weeks a very sharp increase in the number of students late to school. The most common reason for this is traffic. Majority of our students are close enough to walk to school which is beneficial to their health. Parents that do need to drive their child to school please allow enough time to ensure they are punctual. Slough roads are extremely congested every morning so journeys should be made which allow for this. I also recognise that the vast majority of students are onsite punctually every morning so thank you to all those parents that do ensure this happens.

### **Changes to timetables**

Since September the school has enrolled over 80 new students. Many students have come from other local secondary schools or from further afield in the UK or are new/returning to the country. Some students who left us in the past have returned. I would like to welcome all our new students and thank parents for choosing Wexham. A large number of our new students are in Years 9 and 10 and this has put increasing pressure since September on some of our class sizes, some are currently exceeding 30 students. Whilst unlike in primary school, there is no legal limit on class sizes at secondary I always try to keep them below 30. Currently our Year 7 and 8 class sizes average 20. From January I have opened up new classes in Year 9 and 10 to relieve this pressure and will distribute some in Year 7 and 8. The vast majority of students will not be effected. In the long term this will evenly distribute student numbers and ensure high quality teaching, learning and behaviour continues.

### **Emergency Closure**

A reminder of our 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.



### Upcoming Important Dates and End of Term Notification

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day and close at 1pm.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019	Christmas Holiday
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Sixth Form Open Evening 5 - 6.30pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4 – 7pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019	Half Term Holiday
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4 – 7pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4 – 7pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Year 8 Pathways Evening – Parental Appointments
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day and close at 1pm.

### Communication

In my past letters I have included a section on recent good news and highlights of what has been happening at Wexham. As we now have our @Wexham Newsletter regularly being published I will cease doing this on letters. For the latest version please do check our website. Also please do keep in touch with what we are doing via the news section on our website and by following us on Twitter, our address is @Wexham\_School.

We also have the Wexham School 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, or you can type in the schools postcode and click on '**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 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 so please do ensure we always have your most up to date contact details.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish all parents and students a Happy Christmas Holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Lawrence Smith**  
Headteacher