

19th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to welcome everyone to a new term at Wexham and especially all those joining us for the very first time.

I have been particularly impressed with the behavior and attitude of students since we returned in September. Of particular note is the high standard of uniform and I would like to thank all parents for your support and dedication in making sure your children leave for school properly dressed each morning. Wearing full uniform creates a more focused learning environment and therefore I urge all parents and students to continue with the extremely high standards that have been set.

GCSE, A Level and BTEC results

I am particularly pleased to announce that both our Year 11 and Year 13 results have improved since 2023. Indeed, our GCSE results are now better than they were in 2019 (before the Covid 19 disruption), this is incredibly welcome as many schools are yet to improve their performance from before the pandemic.

Whilst I cannot share individual names we have had some remarkable success at GCSE this year. Our top student achieved eight Grade 9s and one Grade 8, a fantastic achievement. Another achieved six Grade 9s and three Grade 8s. These are both amazing performances. Indeed 9 of our students between them were awarded 28 Grade 9s, 16 Grade 8s and 24 Grade 7s. In old money that is 68 A*/A from just 9 students. We are incredibly proud of their performance, which reflects their hard work and determination to succeed. However, for an inclusive school students that achieved lower grades can also reflect equally hard work and determination by overcoming barriers to learning or because they have only recently started to learn English or their past experiences in other schools. I would like to praise all our students last year for their tremendous effort. Well done.

Open Evening

The School's Open Evening for prospective students and parents will take place on Thursday 26th September between 5.30 and 7.30pm. As staff and very large numbers of students will be in school considerably late on this day the school will open slightly later than normal on Friday 27th September. Students should report for registration at 9.40am.

Parent Governor Vacancies

Our current Parent Governor's Term of Office has concluded and therefore we have a vacancy for a governor directly elected by parents. Please see letter and information on our website. This is an important role for the school and as such if a parent would like to meet with me to discuss this before submitting a nomination, please do contact the school either by calling main reception or emailing kkelly@wexham.slough.sch.uk.

Start of the School Day

The school day starts at 8.40am. Students should be onsite before this time. Being punctual means the day starts positive. The most common reason given for lateness is traffic problems. I urge you, wherever possible, to encourage and/or let your child walk or cycle to school. This will help them be healthier, improve our environment and reduce traffic problems in the local area.

Can I also remind some of our parents that do drive to school NOT to block local residents' driveways and please do not park on pavements, cycle lanes and grass verges.

Academic Progress Day

This will take place on Monday 7th October. For those parents new to the school this event is so parents can come into school through the day, via appointments, to meet with their child's tutor to discuss academic achievement from the prior year and to set priorities for the new year. Students will remain at home on this day with learning set by their subject teachers and come to school at their allocated time with the parents.

These meetings are approximately 15 minutes long. They will take place during the day at Wexham School, and we hope all parents will attend.

The arrangements for the day are as follows:

- Academic Progress Day runs from 8.15am until 4.45pm
- All students will be required to remain at home on the day and attend the meeting in full school uniform with their parent/carer at the allocated time.
- Students will be set work to complete at home on the day by the teachers who would normally teach them.
- Please aim to arrive at least 15 minutes before your appointment in order to register and obtain vital information.

Booking your appointment slot

The school has moved to a new online booking system to allow you to select an appointment time convenient to you.

Please follow the link [SchoolCloud - Wexham School](#) or search <https://wexham.schoolcloud.co.uk/> where you will see the page below. Please input the details you provided to the school to log in. If you have shared with the school your child's sibling/s, they will also be visible allowing you to book their appointments at the same time. If they are not visible, you will need to log on for each child separately.

Please do not book the same appointment times for all your children as each child has a different tutor.

If you are unable to log in, please contact the main reception who will be able to help you. The school will be moving to this platform for booking all parental evening meetings.

Wexham School

SchoolCloud

Welcome to the Wexham School booking system. Bookings can be amended via a link from the email confirmation - please ensure your email address is correct.

Your Details

Title First Name Surname

Email Confirm Email

Student's Details

First Name Surname

Date of Birth

1 January 2010

Log In

Wexham School Ofsted Report

For all those parents new to the school we were inspected by Ofsted on the 24th and 25th May 2023. Their judgment was that **Wexham School continues to be a good school in all aspects**. Of note Ofsted found us to be a friendly and highly inclusive school, where pupils appreciate the relationships that they develop with staff. They found that we have a supportive and caring culture where pupils feel happy and safe. They found pupils enjoy taking part in the wide range of clubs and school trips. Ofsted praised our well planned and delivered, broad and balanced curriculum which all pupils, including those with SEND, benefit from.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress and success. It not only allows them to fully engage in the learning process but also fosters a sense of routine and responsibility that will benefit them in the long run. At Wexham, an attendance rate of 95% and above is considered acceptable.

What you can do to help:

- Avoid scheduling holidays when school is in session. They are considered unauthorised absences and will result in a fine.
- Build regular routines for bedtime and the morning.
- Avoid medical appointments when school is in session.

We want to ensure that all our students have the best possible educational experience, and this can only be achieved through regular attendance and a commitment to following government guidelines.

If you anticipate any absences due to exceptional circumstances, we kindly request that you contact the school in advance to discuss your situation. We will do our best to work with you to minimise any impact on your child's education.

E-Scooters

Students must not bring e-scooters to school. E-Scooters come under the category of “powered transporters”; this covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor. E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax. It is not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on public roads and pavements or in public spaces. Private e-scooters can be seized under Section 165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance. If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car. Any scooters will be confiscated, and a parent must collect it. Should a repeat offence occur than this will be handed to the police. Any Slough backed e-scooter scheme will be treated in the same manner as riders must be 18 and above.

Mobile Phones

We have a clear policy on the use of mobile phones. These can be brought to school to support student's safety on the way to and from school. However, they MUST NEVER disrupt a lesson and should never be seen in lessons, unless a teacher specifically gives permission. Mobile phones can be used sensibly at break and lunchtimes. HEADPHONES cannot be used in school and therefore should not be seen, this is for Health and Safety reasons, the exception to this is where permission is granted for ear defenders for some of our autistic students.

Mobile phones and headphones will be confiscated if the above is not followed and a parent/carer will need to collect them from reception, no exception. The school will hold mobile phones until the next school day. If your child's phone is confiscated on a Monday the earliest it can be collected is on Tuesday, if it is confiscated on a Friday then it will be retained over the weekend and can be collected on Monday. Persistence breaches will result in a student receiving a complete ban and the law also allows us to confiscate property indefinitely.

As the school has expanded over the last few years so has my staff. Many new staff come from schools where the use of phones is stricter throughout the day but sanctions for misuse more lenient. Interestingly, as a direct consequence most staff report that disruption to learning by mobile phones is far less at Wexham than in other schools. Should a child refuse to hand over their phone this will be treated as defiance with greater sanctions. Overall, our policy serves us well and I firmly believe that mobile phones play such a role in our day to day lives that learning to use them responsibly is the most important matter.

New government guidance, which is not law, wants schools to completely ban mobile phones during the day. This is a direct result of them interrupting lessons, however, schools like us with strong policies and behaviour management, as praised by Ofsted, do not need such guidance in my opinion. The government's unease regarding inappropriate social media use I agree is an increasing concern. However, most issues we have with social media usage originates outside of the school day, therefore banning mobile phones during the school day will have no impact on this. We use mobile phones to aid learning and organisation for our students, they rarely disrupt lessons. The most helpful thing that can be done by parents is to monitor your child's phone usage, as I am sure most of you do.

Knife Crime

We understand that many parents are concerned with knife crime. Whilst those impacted by knife crime statistically remains very low, clearly this is a growing concern nationally. The school provides education on this through PSHE lessons, tutorials and speakers, for example from the police. However, all parents can play a role by reinforcing messages at home. For many years an integral part of our behaviour policy has been our right to search students, when the need arises. We also have handheld metal detectors to use when required. Some time ago Thames Valley Police visited schools in Slough with a walk-through metal detector to raise awareness of knife crime. To reassure parents and student further I have included this year as part of our behaviour policy that we will also conduct random searches at times, including potentially using a walk-through metal detector. When these are conducted it will be done sensitively to reassure students that we trust them never to bring banned items onto the school premises. Indeed, over the year I have been at Wexham such instances have been rare.

Behaviour

We pride ourselves on being a friendly and inclusive school which is achieved through mutual respect, tolerance, trust and good manners. We welcome students from a wide variety of backgrounds and we work tirelessly to ensure individual needs are met. Many of our new students and staff all comment on the warm welcome they receive. The many visitors we have to the school each year always comment on the positive atmosphere that is found in the school. If at times your child is struggling, please contact as soon as you can and respond to us if we contact you. Working together is always the best way to make sure your child is happy and achieving.

Contacting Us

If you need to contact us, please do so by telephone or email to post@wexham.slough.sch.uk or follow the link on the website. Please remember that we are busy school where staff may be teaching or in meetings. We always try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Communication

As a rule, we no longer post letters to parents. When a letter to parents is released, you will receive a text message alerting you of this with a link directly to our website embedded in the text. All our letters appear on our website.

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 school's 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.

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.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2024 – 2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 4 th September 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 5 th September – Tuesday 10 th September 2024	Students first day of the term
	Friday 27 th September 2024	Delayed start to the School Day due to Open Evening the night before. School will open at 9.30, registration will be at 9.40am
	Monday 7 th October 2024	Academic Progress Day – ALL STUDENTS
	Thursday 24 th October 2024	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Tuesday 15 th October	Year 11 Information Evening
	Friday 25 th October 2024	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 4 th November 2024	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 7 th November 2024	@Wexham Awards Evening – Invited guests only
	Thursday 12 th December 2024	Year 11 Parents' Evening 3.45pm – 6.45pm
	Friday 20 th December 2024	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Monday 6 th January 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Tuesday 7 th January 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 9 th January 2025	Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 23 rd January 2025	Wexham's Got Talent
	Tuesday 4 th February 2025	Year 8 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Friday 14 th February 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 24 th February 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 27 th February 2025	Year 10 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 7 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Friday 4 th April 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Year 9 Parents' Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Thursday 8 th May 2025	Year 9 Pathways Evening – 3.45 – 6.45pm
	Monday 5 th May 2025	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Culture Day Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 2 nd June 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 17 th July 2025	@Wexham PE and Sport Awards Evening – Invited guests only
	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm