

13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a very busy but rewarding start to the academic year. I have been exceptionally pleased with the sheer number of parents that have attended the school since September. It was a real pleasure to host so many of you for our Annual Awards Evening last week, the extremely well attended Progress Day, our Year 11 evening and lots of visitors during Open Evening. The school now has the highest number of students in its history, and we are now the second largest school in Slough, when Post 16 is not included. Our sixth form is growing though, and we have enrolled more students this year than in the previous two years. I am particularly pleased that many students that are starting with us have transferred from other local secondary schools, proving Wexham's popularity.

## Surveys

On Progress Day 692 parental surveys were completed. When considering parents who have more than one child in the school it represents approx. 90% of all parents. This was an exceptional turn out and thank you for visiting us on the day. I am very pleased to report that 93% of parents agreed that their children are happy at Wexham (5% disagreed) and 95% agree they are safe (3% disagreed). These are incredible statistics and I thank you for your recognition of the work we do for your children.

I would also like to thank parents for the many positive comments that were received and those providing constructive feedback of where we can improve further. There was an overall trend from last year of more parents strongly agreeing with the criteria given which was very pleasing.

One question that has come out poorer than others was about the information we provide of what your child will learn throughout the year. Please remember that on our website each department has a huge amount of information. This includes parent friendly curriculum maps, i.e. what your children will be learning and when, Learning Journeys, details of specifications studies at GCSE and A Level and useful websites and revision material. Please do browse through these, they are there for your use.

## Non Uniform Day

The school will be holding a non uniform day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Proceeds will go to 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.

## Governing Board

I am pleased to announce the school has a new Chair of Governors, Alison Hibbert. Alison joined the board in the summer and is also our Local Authority Governor. Alison is a former teacher and currently works in a senior position in the local authority. She knows and understands the school and its wider work well having also been a board member of the Slough School's Sports Partnership for many years.

## 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](mailto: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 your child to walk or cycle to school. This will help them be healthier, improve our environment and reduce traffic problems. Students should not be on site before 8am. 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.

### **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, please 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.

### **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 always comment on the positive atmosphere that is found in the school. If at times your child is struggling, please contact us 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](mailto: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.

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