

29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

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 very pleased to announce that our Year 11 results have improved since 2024. Indeed, our GCSE results are again 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. This marks year on year improvement in results and is a testament to both the hard work of students and staff and the support that parents provide. Thank you. We must remember though that we are a fully inclusive school in an exclusive local authority and many 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 am also particularly pleased by this year's A Level results. Like GCSE results these reflect year on year improvement, but there is a considerable leap forward from 2024. Nearly a quarter of all results were grades A\*-B and the A\*-E pass rate was nearly 100%. Our Applied General results (BTEC) were also exceptional and much higher than we predicted. Our students depart us to continue their studies in a wide range of subjects including aeronautics an astronautics, law, economics, biomedical engineering, politics, pharmaceutical chemistry, robotics, maths' and biomedical sciences to name but a few. Whilst many of our students choose to study degrees close to home an increasing number are also gaining entry to the prestigious Russel Group of universities, including this year Kings College London, University of Southampton, University of London Royal Holloway (multiple students), Cardiff University and the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> October between 5.00 and 7.00pm. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Students should report for registration at 9.30am.

### **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 residents' driveways and please do not park on pavements, cycle lanes and grass verges.

## Wexham School Ofsted Report

For all those parents new to the school we were inspected by Ofsted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Year 9

As you may know Wexham is now Slough's second largest school for 11-16 year olds and third largest for 11-19 year olds. The growth of the school has been tremendous over the last few years, and this has cemented the school's popularity I hope for many years to come. However, the Local Authority have asked if I would go above our published admission number of 240 in Year 9 and I have agreed. We do have the physical space and staffing in the school to achieve this. This means for the next few weeks class sizes in Year 9 may increase but once we get to know our new Year 9 students, we will create a new form entry to commence after half term. I apologise for any disruption this causes in the short term.

## 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. These are 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 parents can do is to monitor your child's phone usage. I am sure you do already.

### **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 week 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 2025 – 2026

Autumn Term	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	First Day of Term for Students in <b>Year 7</b> 8.35 for 8.40am start First Day of Term for Students in <b>Year 11</b> 9.00am start
	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Year 7 and 11 - 8.35 for 8.40am start <b>Years 8, 9, 10</b> First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	<b>Year 12 and 13</b> First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start*
	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Academic Progress Day – All Year Groups
	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	Delayed start to the day due to Open Evening the night before. School will open at 9.30 for students
	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> November 2025	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm	
	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm