



19th May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

The school has had a very successful term. Thank you for all the continuing support you provide for your children in their learning and helping us to ensure they enjoy and achieve.

Last Day of ½ Term

Friday 22nd May is the last day of this half term and this will be a normal school day. The school will reopen to all students on Monday 1st June at the normal time.

Change to E-Safety, Social Media and Technology Policy (Mobile Phones) June 2026

I expect many of you wonder why Wexham has a very lenient mobile phone policy. I know the issue of mobile phones in school can be very divisive and many of you will agree with me and equally many will not. However, I think it is important for you to understand our current policy before understanding changes that are being made.

Our current policy emerged from when I first arrived here ten years ago and every student had a school iPad. Therefore, there was no need to have a ban on mobile phones. Whilst iPads have gone the policy remains as I think it is important students learn to use mobiles phones in a moderated way.

Therefore, we have a strict policy for mobile phone usage during lessons but have always allowed students to use them during non-lesson time. I have always felt our students on the whole respected this and understood it, as such we have very little issues with mobile phone usage compared to what some schools have reported in the media.

I do believe that social media should be more restricted, and not just for children! Technology companies have a huge role to play in this but governments find it very difficult to challenge them and this does need to be balanced with the freedom of speech. Therefore, times change and we need to move forward. The sheer volume of fake post on social media and the spread of misinformation is a concern. The constant attention it needs to maintain accounts and messages that student have means this is a distraction. I also believe that our screen time needs to be reduced for a whole variety of health and social reasons and that as adults we should set an example to children. However, I have always gone with the line that mobile phones and social media are just a fact of life, here to stay and we need to cope, manage and teach about them appropriately.

However, we know many schools really do struggle with students' usage of phones and those that have implemented bans do say learning is better and it creates a more social environment, so we need to embrace this to. I have held off changing our policy until now so we have a natural break in the order of things for when Year 11 and 13 leave. However, you will have seen all the headlines and talk about banning mobile phones in schools.

In February 2026 the government issued new guidance expecting all headteachers to ban phones in all schools and this will be monitored. Indeed, in the very near future they will make it illegal for students to have smart phones in school.

From June 1st 2026

- Students in Years 7,8,9,10 and 12 mobile phones must not be seen or heard in school. This includes during lessons, break and lunchtime, changeovers, entering school or leaving school. Phones can also no longer be used with teachers' permission, for example in photography.
- Should a phone be seen or heard it will be confiscated as an extension to our current policy. This means overnight.



The student council requested that as this is a big change for us, so the first week back students will be reminded and encouraged to resist the temptation.

There are practical issues surrounding this change in use.

- You will not be able to contact your child through the day. If you need to do this, please contact the main school office to get a message to your child. Messages must be either urgent or important or both.
- Student cannot contact you. If something is urgent, they will need to visit student services at break/lunchtime to call you.
- Students will need to ensure they learn their timetable instead of looking at class charts through the day.

Whilst this will take some adapting to it has worked perfectly well in schools for a hundred years and many of us would have been used to this in our own schools as children.

There will also be some exemptions to this. For example, some students monitor their blood sugar levels via phones, this means health plans will be updated and permission to use phones for this reason.

From September

Smart phones will be banned by **law** in schools from September. Due to the cross-party support for this it is expected to pass through parliament unchallenged. It will make it illegal for a child to use them during the school day. I will share more details on this nearer the time as the guidance on how this must be implemented may change. However, some schools have totally banned students from having phones to and from school. I do not want to and hope I do not have to do that for obvious safety reasons but also many students pay for buses with their phones.

I may go down the route of purchasing pouches for phones to be put into or that they are handed in to tutors AM and collected PM. But guidance from the government is required on whether this will be okay. I do not want to spend precious resources on this now, only for guidance to change before September.

I know for many students this will come as a significant change but it is important Wexham aligns to government guidance and many studies show this improve students' overall wellbeing and academic performance.

Start and end of the School Day

The school day starts at 8.40am. Students should be onsite before this time. The most common reason given for lateness to school 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. Please can I also remind you at the end of the day that cars should not be parked on verges, the pavement, cycle lanes or block access to resident's driveways.

E scooters and E bikes

A reminder please that Electronic Scooters are illegal in the UK, unless they are being used on private property. As we have a duty of care to students any child arriving on an E Scooter will have this confiscated and handed to the police. Whilst we do not have any issues presently with private E- Scooters some of our older children have begun to arrive on the Borough's Hire Scheme. To hire these scooters, you must be over 18 and have a driving licence. Unless this is a Year 13 student the E-Scooter registration number will be reported to the company who then have the ability to block the person who has hired it and if required points can be added to this person's driving license.

The laws surrounding E-Bike are more complicated. They are generally legal unless they have been modified. However, recently several students have brought modified bikes to school that are capable of very fast speeds. These will therefore be confiscated and the police called in future to collect the bikes. If you are unsure of the legalities surrounding electronic transportation please research before you buy.

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.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish everyone a happy and restful holiday period.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher

Term and Important Dates 2025 – 2026

	Thursday 11 th November 2025	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 19 th December 2025	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 22 nd December 2025 to Friday 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holiday
Spring Term	Monday 5 th January 2026	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 8 th January 2026	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Thursday 5 th February 2026	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Thursday 12 th February 2026	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 13 th February 2026	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 23 rd February 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 26 th March 2026	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 27 th March 2026	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holiday
Summer Term	Monday 13 th 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 4 th May 2026	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Thursday 7 th May 2026	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4-7pm
	Tuesday 12 th May 2026	School will close slightly early for training – 2.30pm finish
	Friday 22 nd May 2026	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 1 st June 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 17 th July 2026	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm



Term and Important Dates 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term	Tuesday 1 st September 2026	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	Staff ONLY Day - INSET
	Thursday 3 rd September 2026	First Day of Term for Students in Year 7 8.35 for 8.40am start First Day of Term for Students in Year 11 9.00am start
	Friday 4 th September 2026	Year 7 and 11 - 8.35 for 8.40am start Years 8, 9, 10 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 7 th September 2026	Year 12 and 13 First Day of Term 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Last day of Half Term – 3.00pm Finish
	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2026	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 2 nd November 2026	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 18 th December 2026	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Monday 21 st December 2026 to Friday 1 st January 2027	Christmas Holiday	
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January 2027	First Day of Term. All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 12 th February 2027	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February 2027	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 22 nd February 2027	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Last Day of Term. School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
Friday 26 th March to Friday 9 th April 2027	Easter Holiday	
Summer Term	Monday 12 th 2027	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Monday 3 rd May 2027	School Closed for May Bank Holiday
	Friday 28 th May 2027	Last day of Half Term – 3.10pm Finish
	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027	Half Term Holiday
	Monday 7 th June 2027	All students attend school at 8.35 for 8.40am start
	Friday 16 th July 2027	Last Day of Term for students School will operate a compact day finishing at 1pm
	Monday 19 th , Tuesday 20 th and Wednesday 21 st July 2027	Staff ONLY days - INSET

