



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mrs E. Hole Executive Headteacher: Ms P. Kane M.A.



Whalley Range 11-18 High School, Wilbraham Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8GW
T: 0161 861 9727 E: head@wrhs1118.co.uk W: www.wrhs1118.co.uk

February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Half Term: Monday 18th February 2019 – Friday 22nd February 2019

It has been another busy half term and I would like to thank students for their focus and hard work with many students preparing for external exams. We are very proud of our class of 2018 results which were in the top 10% in the country for progress at GCSE and our students have made outstanding progress at A Level and there were very pleasing vocational results. Again our students this half term have taken part in a wide variety of visits and opportunities which you can see on our website.

Behaviour, punctuality and attendance

Behaviour is better than ever and attendance continues to improve. We are delighted to be achieving 96.1% attendance in the main school. Please continue to help us by not taking any holiday or family visits during term time. Punctuality is also improving, it is important that your daughter arrives on time to school every day, in her full school uniform and is in her form room at 8.30am each morning, in order to ensure that accurate registers are taken.

Parental Responsibilities

- It is your legal responsibility to advise us if you are going away and for how long you will be away.
- Who is looking after your daughter/acting in loco parentis during your absence from the family home.
- Full details of all up-to-date contacts and addresses.
- Failure to do the above will result in school sharing concerns with Children's Services.

SIMS Parent App

Thank you to the parents who have downloaded and been using the SIMS parent app. This means that your daughter's progress reports can be easily accessed and you can update any information such as phone numbers and changes to address on the app and this will then automatically update the school's systems. The app also allows you to stay informed about your daughter's attendance, homework and gold awards.

For any parent/carers who have not downloaded the SIMS parent app we have sent you an email which has the link to access the app. If you have any issues accessing the app please visit the school website <http://www.wrhs1118.co.uk/parents/sims-parent-app> or email parentapp@wrhs1118.co.uk for help and support.

Homework

The role of homework is to help students consolidate and extend their learning. It is important that students are proactive about organising their homework, using their planner or a digital device. When students complete homework with thought, care and on time, it really supports the learning process and helps them to make better progress in lessons. It would be helpful if you could support us by talking to your daughter about the homework she is getting, checking that she is managing the recording of homework and that she is organising her time to complete work to deadlines. Independent learning skills are important for success and the more we can do to help our students to develop these strategies, the better equipped they will be for college and university courses. You can see all of the homework that your daughter has been set and the deadlines, which will enable you in supporting your daughter's organisation and progress Please encourage your daughter to read at least one book over the holiday.

Examinations

Many of our students have external examinations coming up in May and June. Parents/Carers can help by encouraging their daughters to revise steadily each day, and keep up some physical exercise – even a ten minute walk will keep their brains fresh. Sixth Form and Year 11 students need to work on their actions from their pre-public exams over the half term holiday. Students have been given a range of resources and revision techniques to use to help with revision. There are some revision classes for students in Year 13 and Year 11 in the half term break. It is important that if your daughter has been invited to a class, that she attends the session from 10.00am – 1.00pm.

Social Time

It is important that all students engage in the positive activities available at lunchtime. Also at lunchtime, Year 11 students have rooms that they can study in and the Library is available for students to do work.

Duke of Edinburgh

We are very pleased that over 200 Year 10 students are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh this year and we wish them the very best.

Work Experience

All students in Year 10 are given the valuable opportunity to complete a week's work experience. Year 10 students are going out week beginning 4th March and need to have read the job descriptions and contacted their employer before they go.

Parking

Parents/Carers, it is really important that you help us to keep our students safe by not parking on the double yellow lines outside the school entrance and by not doing U-turns in the road, as this can cause accidents. It will also help your daughter to build more exercise into her day if you park a little further away.

Health and Safety

For Health and safety reasons, it is essential that we know who is in the building at any point in time. All visitors and parents/carers must report to the Main Reception when they are coming into school, except for Parents Evenings when they are directed to come through the Student Entrance.

All students should leave the building by 3.15pm, unless they are in the Learning Resource Centre, in an after-school club, an organised subject study session or in detention. After the session or if using the Learning Resource Centre, all students must leave the building by 5.30pm.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask that you remind your daughter of the importance of looking after her own personal safety on the way to and from school and being mindful of her own surroundings when crossing the road or walking to school.

Health and Wellbeing

At Whalley Range, the health and wellbeing of our students is vitally important and we ask that parents/carers ensure that students do not bring any fizzy drinks into school.

Sixth Form

It is the Sixth Form Parents' Evening on **Monday 4th March, 2019**. We are looking forward to this opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress and share revision strategies that your daughter should be engaging with. You will be receiving a letter to explain how to book an appointment online.

There are many opportunities in the Sixth Form for students to get involved with local businesses and Universities. We also have an excellent enrichment offer for all students in the Sixth Form. We have had many applications for the Sixth Form for next year. If your daughter has not yet applied, please get your application in as quickly as possible so that we can set up an interview.

Manchester United Foundation

Our school is partnered with the Manchester United Foundation. The Manchester United Foundation is a charitable organisation that works with us to deliver motivational and inspiring projects to our students, with the goal of helping them reach their full potential. You can find out more about the Manchester United Foundation and its work at www.mufoundation.org. To ensure that the safety and welfare of our students is properly safeguarded and that the projects are delivered in an efficient manner, we provide Manchester United Foundation with basic information about each student taking part, when you have given permission. This includes the student's name, date of birth, gender and basic details of any disabilities or medical conditions which may affect their ability to take part in the projects or necessitate special adjustments being made. We may also provide emergency contact details if required. Any information we supply to the Manchester United Foundation is securely held and used only for the purposes of delivering the projects and evaluating their success. All information is processed and safeguarded strictly in accordance with applicable data protection laws. If you require any further information about Manchester United Foundation or require a copy of their privacy policy, please contact 'privacy@mufoundation.org'.

Improving Safeguarding Practice in Out of School Settings

Manchester has been chosen as one of the pilot LAs for a new DfE project which is aimed at improving safeguarding practice in out of school settings (OOSS). OOSS means any organisation which provides tuition, training, instruction, or activities to children in England without their parents' or carers' supervision, that is not school, college, 16-19 academy, provider caring for children under 8 years old which is registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency.

The DfE is currently consulting on a voluntary Code of Practice for OOSS and also Questions for Parents and Carers which is intended to support parents to make appropriate choices when choosing OOSS for their children. If you wish to respond, please use the link below. The closing date is 24th February, 2019.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/regulatory-framework-unit/out-of-school-settings-voluntary-safeguarding-code/>

Key Contact Information

If you would like to speak to someone about your daughter's progress, personal development or have any concerns, please contact your daughter's House/Sixth Form Office on one of the numbers given below:

Angelou House (Phone 0161 860 2975)

Head of House – Miss Bakare
House Coordinator – Mr Ellis-Scott
House Admin – Mrs Luker

Franklin House (0161 860 2977)

Head of House – Ms Birchenough
House Coordinator – Mr Mustafa
House Admin – Miss Rani

Germain House (0161 860 2978)

Head of House – Miss Bevan
House Coordinator – Mrs Mackenzie
House Admin – Mrs Hannan

Hepburn House (0161 860 2976)

Head of House – Mr Mustafa
House Coordinator – Miss Burrows
House Admin – Mrs Booth

Parks House (0161 860 2979)

Head of House – Miss Costello
House Coordinator – Mrs Osikoya
House Admin – Ms Carroll

Sixth Form (0161 860 2984)

Head of Year 12 – Mrs Z Maloney-Rock
Head of Year 13 – Mrs Z Davies
Assistant Head of Year 13 – Miss Oliver
Sixth Form Admin – Mrs Khaliq

Please find enclosed the Term Dates for the remaining of this academic year and the new Term Dates for the 2019-2020 academic year.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support in helping your daughter to achieve success.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Hole
Academy Headteacher

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Term dates for the Academic Year September 2018 – July 2019

Spring Term

Half term holiday: Monday 18 February 2019 – Friday 22 February 2019

Term ends: Friday 5 April 2019

Easter break: Monday 8 April – Monday 22 April 2019

Summer Term

Term starts: Tuesday 23 April 2019

Half term holiday: Monday 27 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019

Teacher Training Day: **to be taken around** 4 or 5 June 2019 – **closed to students (Date to be confirmed nearer the time).**

Term ends: Friday 19 July 2019

Teacher Training Days: Monday 22 July and Tuesday 23 July 2019 – **closed to students.**

Public Holidays

Good Friday – Friday 19 April 2019

Easter Monday – Monday 22 April 2019

May Day – Monday 6 May 2019

Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 27 May 2019

Teacher Training Days – School closed to students

Teacher Training day scheduled to be taken around 4 or 5 June 2019 **(date to be confirmed).**

Monday 22 July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Leave of absence in Term Time

If your daughter has time off before or after any school holiday, her absence will be classed as Unauthorised Absence and the Local Authority may issue a penalty notice. (You should also be aware that if her absence exceeds 20 days, her name may be removed from our register).

Any leave of absence in term time must be applied for at least 10 days in advance. Official forms for this purpose are obtainable from Student Services. I would also advise you that any Unauthorised Leave taken during term time may incur a penalty fine from the Local Authority. The fine will be £120 per parent per child reduced to £60 per parent per child if paid with 21 days.

Term dates for the Academic Year September 2019- July 2020

Autumn Term

Teacher Training Day: Monday 2 September 2019 – closed to students
Teacher Training Day: Tuesday 3 September 2019 – closed to students
Term starts: Wednesday 4 September 2019
Half term holiday: Monday 28 October 2019 – Friday 1 November 2019
Teacher Training Day: Friday 29 November 2019 – closed to students
Term ends: Friday 20 December 2019
Christmas holiday: Monday 23 December 2019 – Friday 3 January 2020

Spring Term

Term starts: Monday 6 January 2020
Half term holiday: Monday 17 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020
Term ends: Friday 3 April 2020
Easter break: Monday 6 April 2020 – Friday 17 April 2020

Summer Term

Term starts: Monday 20 April 2020
May Day holiday: Monday 4 May 2020
Teacher Training Day: Friday 22 May 2020 – closed to students **Year 11 students to attend any scheduled GCSE exams**
Half term holiday: Monday 25 May 2020 – Friday 29 May 2020
Term ends: Friday 17 July 2020
Teacher Training Days: Monday 20 July 2020 – closed to students

Public Holidays

Christmas Day – Wednesday 25 December 2019
Boxing Day – Thursday 26 December 2019
New Year's Day – Wednesday 1 January 2020
Good Friday – Friday 10 April 2020
Easter Monday – Monday 13 April 2020
May Day – Monday 4 May 2020
Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 25 May 2020