



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Jonathan Souter

18th July 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

End of Summer Term 2025

As we complete another academic year here at Whytrig Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. Of course, this end of year is a special one as it marks the end of our time at Elsdon Avenue. Since our school moved from Western Avenue to share the site with Astley High School in 2014, it has nearly doubled in size. There have been ups and downs along the way and many challenges that we have overcome together. Over that time, we have seen some staff depart and new staff join our team, but all working towards the same common goal of helping and supporting the children to be the best versions of themselves. In September, we will now be able to do that at Prospect Avenue in the first class facilities that our children, staff and the wider community deserves. When we have time to take stock and look back over the past year I think we can be really proud of all that our students and staff have achieved. Especially in the final weeks at Elsdon Avenue, when we have been working hard to pack for the move at the same time as having to do all the usual things associated with school life at the end of an academic year,

It is reasonable to say that our last fortnight at Elsdon Avenue has not gone completely as we would have liked. The power cut and subsequent disruption to our network on the penultimate Tuesday impacted on the scheduled release of our Year 6 SAT results and the end of year reports. Please accept my apology for this delay; you should have now received your child's report for the academic year. At the end of last week our Year 8 pupils had successful transition days at the High School, which will be known as Seaton Valley High in September, whilst we welcomed Year 4 pupils (and children in other year groups) who will join Whytrig in September. Transition went well, although it was unusual in the fact that the children were not finding out about their new school building; it does mean though that we will all be starting from the same position together in September as we learn about our new surroundings. On Monday, our annual Gold Pupil trip to the beach was ruined by the weather; we have been really fortunate during our time at Elsdon Avenue that this has never really been a problem before. We will look at alternative dates for next year, as we do not want the children to miss out again on something they have earned, although there is always not a lot of room for movement around dates with everything that is taking place in school in the final weeks of term. I am happy to say that our year group end of year trips were not affected on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday though; we hope the children enjoyed their days out of school! Over the



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course of the week we have celebrated academic success in all year groups when presenting the certificates of achievement. This culminated with our end of year leavers assembly this morning, where we celebrated attendance, good behaviour, Year 8 achievement and presented our Year 8 awards, details of which can be found on our End of Year Newsdrop. We wish Year 8 well as they leave our school; their future is still a blank canvas and we hope they can go on and continue to flourish and make the most of what lies ahead for them!

As always at this time of year, we say goodbye to staff who are leaving Whytrig Middle School. Mr Brett is leaving us to embark on further study in education and Mrs McClellan is leaving to pursue other opportunities (she is much too young to be retiring)! Both leave with our thanks and warmest of good wishes; we wish them well in their endeavours. We will welcome two members of staff who already have teaching roles in school to our new look Key Stage 3 form teacher team in September, Miss Waterfall and Mrs Kelly, who will join Year 7 and Year 8 respectively.

2025 - 2026 Academic Year

We return to school in September at our fantastic new shared site at Prospect Avenue. We are expecting to take ownership of the building in late August as planned as the building work has been on schedule. In the last week of the holidays, the Senior Leadership Team of both schools will visit the site for a joint site walk in preparation for the new term. I would kindly ask parents to look out for any communications from the school and read them carefully in advance of the new term, so that you are up to date for the plans for the first week and beyond. For example, in the next weeks, the Business Director and communications team will write out to parents and carers about the School Travel Plan and how children should make journeys to and from school. This will include where to enter the new site on a morning. In order to help us settle all of the new children into the new site and establish routines, we will have a phased return to school in September. The schedule for the start of the new term will be as follows:

Monday 1st September

- Teacher Training Day - school is closed to pupils.

Tuesday 2nd September

- School is closed to pupils and work will be set on the school website.

Wednesday 3rd September

- Year 5 pupils arrive for 8:50am (gates open at 8:30am) and will be directed to the WMS building to be greeted by the Year 5 team.
- Year 6 pupils arrive for 11:20am (gates open at 11:00am) and will be directed to the WMS building to be greeted by the Year 6 team.
- Children in school should bring a packed lunch as the canteen will not be open.
- Year 5 and 6 pupils leave school at the usual end of day time of 3:30pm.
- Pupils in Years 7 and 8 complete work from the school website.

Thursday 4th September

- Year 5 and 6 pupils arrive for 8:50am (gates open at 8:30am) and will be directed to the WMS building to be greeted by their year group staff.



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- Year 7 pupils arrive for 8:50am (gates open at 8:30am) and will be directed to the WMS building to be greeted by the Year 7 team.
- Year 8 pupils arrive for 11:20am (gates open at 11:00am) and will be directed to the WMS building to be greeted by the Year 8 team.
- Children in school should bring a packed lunch as the canteen will not be open.
- All pupils leave school at the usual end of day time of 3:30pm.

Friday 5th September

- All pupils arrive for 8:50am (gates open at 8:30am) and will be directed to the WMS building ready for the start of the school day.
- Children in school should bring a packed lunch as the canteen will not be open.
- All pupils leave school at the usual end of day time of 3:30pm.

Please note that we require children to bring a packed lunch to school in the first week of term. A packed lunch will be provided by school to children eligible for Free School Meals. Children in Years 5 and 6 should not bring a backpack/rucksack to school initially; we ask that PE kit is brought in a drawstring PE bag which can remain in school each week until further notice, as we may not have lockers installed at the start of term.

Could I also remind parents/carers that pupils are expected to return in September smartly dressed in the correct regulation school uniform. In particular, could I reinforce that all students must wear formal black shoes as part of their uniform. Details of our uniform expectations and other useful information can be found in our 2025-26 Parent Information Pack on the school website at [Parent Information Pack | Seaton Valley Federation \(svf.org.uk\)](#). Uniform is ordered directly via Emblematic, our chosen supplier and details of the uniform can be found on their website at emblematic.co.uk/longbenton-store/whms/.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and friends of the school for their over-whelming support throughout this year. We have very much appreciated all the kind messages and thoughts that have been shared with us at the end of term. We hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday and wish you all the very best for the weeks ahead! We really do look forward to seeing everyone again in September, to begin our new journey together in our amazing new school.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J K Souter
Head of School



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