



Friday, 18 September 2020

Teaching and Learning Update – Important Information

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It gives me great pleasure to write and inform you that the first two weeks of school have been highly productive and pupils have settled into their lessons and are learning well. I am full of admiration for their positivity and hold the utmost respect for them as young people returning with such determination and energy. Having now had two weeks of the school operating its new systems, I write to inform you of some important changes we will be making in the short term to support pupils' re-engagement in school and promote pupils' wellbeing and their enjoyment of school.

Essential Equipment – Glue and Scissors now included.

In order to ensure the safety of our pupils, the use of shared resources between groups has been limited. In order to allow teachers to deliver more interactive and creative activities, it is essential that pupils have additional equipment which they have previously been accustomed to us providing. Please ensure your child has a **glue stick** and **scissors** as part of their everyday equipment to allow us to deliver more practical-based lessons effectively.

Homework and Independent Learning Challenges – Valued, recognised, and rewarded.

We have worked incredibly hard to raise our expectations of pupils to complete all homework on time and witnessed the positive impact this made in pupil outcomes, organisation and independence. However, having discussed pupil wellbeing and the current challenges many of our pupils face, we feel the need to adopt a different strategy in the short term. Homework will continue to be set as individual subject tasks or half-termly ILCs. **In the Autumn term these homework tasks will be set to support current learning and submission will remain an expectation.** However, at a time when we want pupils to feel positive, mindful and confident **we have made the decision to reward pupils with positive reward points when they submit homework tasks on time, as an alternative to issuing negative reward points and sanctions.** It is essential that we continue to hold the expectation that pupils complete homework to a high standard as they gain significant knowledge from these tasks and are likely to be more successful in their subjects, meaning they will also be rewarded for their dedication with improved outcomes.

Headteacher: Mr. A. Roll

School Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9EL

Tel: 0121 453 5211 Email: office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk

www.waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk



Submission of homework remains an essential part of all examination courses as it supports learning and may also be a valuable tool to establish, and justify, Centre Assessed grades should final examinations not take place at any time in the future.

This approach puts pupil wellbeing at the forefront of our decisions as we feel this is our main priority at this time.

Rewards and Sanctions – School and home link improved as now available through Weduc app.

Parents can now see pupils' Positive (R1-5) and Negative (L1-5) Achievement Points via the Weduc app. We aim to reward pupils as they re-engage by recognising their achievements with reward points. Points will continue to be subtracted for negative conduct and we ask that you monitor, discuss and celebrate your child's achievements points with them. Should pupils receive negative points, a supportive discussion and parental guidance would also be invaluable.

Marking and Feedback.

Having settled into the new term, we now plan to relax the current restriction on book submissions and allow pupils to submit paper work in order to allow teachers to provide valuable feedback. This will be done in a controlled manner with work submissions being subject to a quarantine process. Teaching staff recognise the significant steps pupils can make in their learning by receiving quality feedback in verbal and written form. They are excited to be able to complete the improvement activity that we refer to as a 'Waseley Workout', a combined process in which pupils receive feedback and actively respond to this by making improvements to their work.

Home Learning- Self Isolation Work now available on our website.

We have continued to develop our systems to be able to offer learning resources for pupils who are self –isolating. **On our school website menu we now have a link to a share drive which contains suggested activities for each subject.** This removed the need for pupils to navigate through folders on our HomeAccess+ drive and gives teachers greater flexibility to upload tasks. **We urge all pupils to continue to check their Office 365 email account and utilise the software available** through this system (Word, Excel and PowerPoint). Should we need to use Microsoft Teams for online learning, pupils will use the same login information to access the chat facility.

Recognition of Pupils' Lockdown Achievements

We have made the conscious decision to ask pupils not to return their work initially to ensure the safety of everyone in our school and allow us to prioritise managing our return effectively.



We are planning a range of recognition activities, the first of which gives pupils the opportunity to return a completed certificate template to school containing details of their achievements at home. These will form part of a large school-wide collage to mark the significant achievements our pupils have made, be they academic or personal triumphs, during lockdown. This project will begin next week so please support us by sharing your child's achievements on the template they bring home.

How you can support your child with their learning and re-engagement:

- Download the Weduc app. to stay up to date with school information and your child's reward points. Discuss this information with them.
- Support your child in completing homework on time by encouraging them and checking their SMHW accounts where you can see homework set and deadlines.
- Ensure your child is prepared for school by checking they have the correct equipment and books for school each day.

I appreciate this is a lot of information and should you have any questions please contact me at nbaker@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk.

We are currently having to make changes to our usual ways of working in order to ensure our pupils are safe and we continue to hold their wellbeing as young people as our main priority. I would encourage anyone who has not yet downloaded the Weduc app. to ensure that they have it installed on their mobile device as we are communicating frequently through this software.

Kindest regards,

Mr Baker
Assistant Headteacher
Teaching and Learning