



5th January 2023

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Wellfield Academy

Headteacher Mr J Lewis

Spring Term Updates & Reminders

Wishing all of our school community a Happy New Year! As always, it has been brilliant to welcome students back into school following the Christmas break. This morning, we have enjoyed another whole school assembly to remind all students of our core values and expectations, as well as planning for the term ahead. It will be another busy term with lots to look forward to, including Year 11’s final full term at Wellfield, the start of Year 9 GCSE Options and Year 10 preparations for their work experience in the summer term amongst much more.

Attendance Reminder

As we start the term, a reminder that our attendance target is 97% or above for all students. We continue to work with students and parents to improve attendance where appropriate and, as always, we appreciate parental support in ensuring your child attends school each day.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days absent	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks (roughly)	Equivalent Hours Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	2 Weeks	54 Hours
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	4 Weeks	114 Hours
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	6 Weeks	174 Hours
80%	38 Days	72 Sessions	8 Weeks	228 Hours
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	10 Weeks	288 Hours
70%	57 Days	114 Sessions	11.5 Weeks	342 Hours

Policy Update

As we continue to review our policies and procedures to develop as a school, we have decided to make an adjustment to our behaviour policy on an initial trial basis this term. This will now mean that students who are removed from class for any reason will now have a one hour after-school detention (3-4pm) the following day rather than a 20-minute lunch detention on the same day. The rationale for this, which has been explained to all students this morning, is that we believe a removal should be followed by a more serious consequence than a short lunch detention. This will be reviewed throughout the term and any further updates will be fully communicated with all staff, students and parents. We appreciate your support and understanding with this as we continue to drive up standards within the school.

Staffing update

We are really pleased to welcome Miss Stevenson into the Wellfield family this term. Miss Stevenson joins us as Subject Leader of Spanish and we are sure her passion and experience will have a positive impact upon our students.



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Ongoing childhood illnesses update

Attendance at school and lessons continues to be the one of the key factors in how well a student achieves and it is essential that we avoid any unnecessary absences. However, with so many seasonal illnesses prevalent in the community, it is the case that there may be a time when a child is simply too unwell to attend school, or they are placing others at risk of infection if they do.

With this in mind, we have received correspondence from the UK Health Security Agency via the Department for Education about the current levels of seasonal illness and the steps that we can all take to reduce the spread. Here is the summary:

'Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.:

- **Routine handwashing.** Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.
- **High Temperature or Fever.** It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.
- **Positive Covid test.** If your child has symptoms that lead you to test for Covid and they test positive, they should stay at home for 3 days following the positive test and only return if they do not have a high temperature and they are well enough to participate.
- **Get a Flu Vaccination.** Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late. Eligible children include:
 1. Those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
 2. All primary school-aged children
 3. Some secondary school-aged children.'



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Upcoming Dates

A reminder of some key dates for the half term ahead:

- **Monday 9th January** Year 11 GCSE Food practical exams
- **Thursday 12th January** Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **Tuesday 17th January** Year 9 and Year 11 Photographs
- **Wednesday 25th January** PSHCE Day 3/Year 11 Brown Envelope Day (practice exam results)
- **Thursday 26th January** Year 10 Parents' Evening

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries for the term ahead or if we can support in any way (enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org).

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Headteacher