



Wellfield Academy

Headteacher Mr J Lewis

18th July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

End of Year Reflection

I am proud of the staff and students in our school. It has been another fantastic half term at Wellfield and, as we now look ahead to the summer holiday, I write to you all to reflect on the term and look ahead to September. Many people may feel that schools start to 'wind down' as the summer holiday approaches although it is actually quite the opposite! This half term alone there has been so many activities and events that we have enjoyed within school. These include:

- Rewards trip to a Spanish restaurant for a small number of students
- Charlie & chocolate factory theatre trip
- Two Geography field trips
- Primary masterclasses in a range of subjects
- Key Stage 3 end of year exams
- GCSE exams
- Year 11 leavers assembly and prom
- New staff induction day
- PSHCE Day 5
- Two transition days and a Year 6 Welcome Evening
- Y10 college trips
- PRIDE celebrations
- National Sports Week activities
- Year 10 Work Experience
- Creative showcase event

End of term arrangements

We have an exciting week planned for students to finish the year. It started with our annual sports day yesterday which was slightly disrupted by the rain so we will continue the activities tomorrow. It is trip day today, with most of the school heading to Blackpool whilst there are lots of exciting activities for those remaining in school. We have a non-uniform day planned for Thursday (£1 donation from each student) before we finish with individual and whole school celebrations in assemblies on Friday. A reminder that school does close to students at 12.30pm this Friday.

Thank you to our staff

Our mantra is 'Nothing but the best' and our staff really do live up to this every single day. We strive every single day to provide the very best for all of your children and each member of our staff continually go above and beyond in their day to day jobs to ensure this happens. I am extremely proud to lead such a fantastic team of passionate, dedicated and hardworking staff. The team we have at Wellfield really are special and their hard work has been greatly appreciated by me, our SLT and the team within our Trust.

Thank you to our parents and students

Not only am I proud to lead such a fabulous team of staff, I am also incredibly proud of our students. The overwhelming majority live up to the Wellfield standard day in, day out. I would also like to thank all parents/guardians, as well as our PTFA who continue to have a huge impact on the school, for your ongoing support throughout the year. We know we do not get every decision we make right, but every single decision is made with the best interests of our students at heart. As always, I, along with our staff, appreciate the time many of you take to send a positive email or make a quick call to us.



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Holiday, Activity, Fun Programme (HAF)

We regularly share information regarding the HAF programme which is a fantastic opportunity for young people aged 11-16 in South Ribble for all families who are eligible. Throughout the summer holidays, funding from the government will allow students who are in receipt of Free School Meals to access a range of activities and a meal will also be provided. The feedback about this programme is excellent so we would encourage you to take a look.

Staffing Updates

The number of students joining Wellfield continues to increase and we are looking forward to welcoming another 150 students into Year 7 next year. This means we have undertaken a significant amount of recruitment throughout the year to prepare for the increased numbers. Despite a national recruitment and retention crisis within education, I am delighted with the quality of staff joining the team. These include:

- Mrs Allmark- Teacher of English
- Miss West- Teacher of Spanish
- Mr Barrow- Teacher of Geography
- Mr Gibson-Story- Teacher of Computing (Part time)
- Mrs Ferguson- Teacher of Science (Part time)
- Mrs Wheeler- Pastoral Behaviour Manager
- Mrs Naylor- Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Fitzpatrick- Head of Maths
- Miss Duncan-Jameson- Head's PA

In addition, we have appointed Mrs Langton as Teacher of Maths and she will join the team after Christmas. Please also be aware that Mrs Sharrock has now started her maternity leave and, in the interim, Mr Fazal will be overseeing the SENDCo role.

Inevitably, the end of the school year does also often mean that we say goodbye to some colleagues. Mrs Jones, our part time teacher of MFL this year, will be moving to Tarleton Academy as Head of Foundation Faculty, and Mrs Walsh, who has taught Computing for one day a week since February, will move back to her role at Burscough Priory Academy. Mr Badin (Maths supply) and our three minibus drivers (Mr Harris, Mr Lumby & Mr Cottam) will also be leaving us this summer. Mr Evans, who joined us last year as Lead Practitioner of Maths, will also be moving into a new role at Penwortham Priory Academy. Finally, Mr Aindow, the Pastoral Behaviour Manager for Campbell house, will be finishing with us this year as his contract comes to an end.

I would like to thank every member of staff for their professionalism, hard work and dedication to providing the very best for all of our students. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well for the future.

Retirement

You may have noticed that, within our new staff recruitment list above, I have appointed a new PA, Miss Duncan-Jameson. This is due to the retirement of my current PA, Mrs Swift. After 18 years of commitment to Wellfield and 3 ½ of those as my PA, Mrs Swift certainly deserves the chance to unwind and enjoy her retirement. Once again, I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Swift for everything she has done throughout her time at the school and wish her all the very best in her retirement.



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Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers

Free school meal vouchers to the value of £90.00 will be sent out via Eden Red to parents of all eligible students on the 19th July 2023. Please remember to check your junk mail before contacting school. Some parents may be unaware that your child could be eligible so please check the link below for information.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals/lancashire>

Uniform

As an attachment alongside this letter, you will find information about the Pop-Up Uniform Shop. Clean, wearable and outgrown uniform has been collected and can be provided, free of charge, to families during the summer. I would strongly encourage you to have a look at this as we know uniforms can be expensive. Similarly, we are always open to donations to us as a school. If you know you will be purchasing a new blazer, tie, PE kit or shoes, for example, during the summer, we would greatly benefit from your child's older uniform being donated to us so please do hand these items into school at the end of the week if possible.

As a reminder, Mr Carroll sent out a letter last week about uniform. If you are purchasing items over the summer, please ensure they meet our standards as we would not like to contact you in September to inform that your child's skirt is too short or their shoes are not appropriate. If you are unsure, please just contact us or refer to our uniform policy on the website.

September's Return to School

Whilst in the past we have completed a Review Day when students return in September, we have made some changes for next year. All students in Year 7 and 11 (currently Year 6 and Year 10) are expected in school for 8.40am on Tuesday 5th September. Students in Year 11 will spend some time looking at the year ahead of them, developing understanding of the GCSE process and being supported in readiness for the important year ahead of them.

All students in Years 8, 9 and 10 (current Year 7, 8 and 9) are expected to arrive at school for 11am and congregate on the tennis courts. Following this, students will spend some time within tutor groups, reflect on the previous academic year and look ahead at what is to come. There will also be a whole school assembly as we come together as a community.

Important Dates in September

Here are some key dates which you may like to add to your diary for the start of the next academic year

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| • Thursday 24th August | GCSE Results Day |
| • Tuesday 5th September | All students return to school (see above) |
| • Thursday 21st September | Open Evening (school closes at 12.30pm) |
| • Thursday 28th September | SLT Information Evenings (Key Stage 3 at 5pm and Key Stage 4 at 6.15pm) |

I would like to reiterate our thanks for all of your support throughout the academic year. To all of the Wellfield Academy community; our students and parents and on behalf of everyone in the Endeavour Learning Trust, we wish you a lovely summer. After some rest and fun, we look forward to September 2023 and another exciting academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis
Headteacher