

Wellfield High School

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Mrs L A Gwinnett, Executive Head
Mr J Lewis, Head of School



28th May 2021

Dear Parents,

Parental Update Letter

As we are now at the end of this half term we wanted to write to you all to express our thanks for your continued support and to provide some general updates and reminders.

Half termly review

It has been a fantastic and extremely busy half term which is why our students (and staff!) are most certainly looking forward to a good rest next week. Whilst continuing to maintain the strict health and safety protocols, students and staff have worked incredibly hard to continue to juggle remote learning and in school provision once more. There has been so much to be proud of this term, including the attitude of Year 11 when dealing with all of their assessments, this week's brilliant PSHCE day and Year 10 Parents' Evening, our ongoing transition for next year's intake, the hard work students are putting in daily within subject areas, weekly sessions with the Year 5 at Northbrook and much, much more. The vast majority of our students have continued to live up to our expectations with regards to engagement in lessons, uniform standards, behaviour and attitude in and around school and generally just doing us proud. Despite all of the challenges we have faced over the past 15 months, I often pause to reflect on how much we have achieved together as a school community and this makes me proud to lead such brilliant staff and students. Over the past three weeks I have introduced a 'Hot chocolate with the Head of School' morning simply so that I can personally acknowledge those students who continue to meet our expectations, day in, day out and it has quickly become my favourite time of the week! We have also finished this half term with rewards assemblies within tutor time so your son/daughter may well have come home with some certificates this week.

Thank you

I have briefly alluded to the workload placed on our staff throughout this term, particularly with regards to Teacher Assessed Grades, which have replaced this year's GCSE examinations. When moving into education and working in a school, we are often prepared for long hours and high workload but our staff have never faced such an intense and pressurising half term. There are so many colleagues across the country who have talked about this half term being the most difficult in their careers and I simply wanted to say a huge thank you and well done to all of the staff at Wellfield. The students are lucky to have such a strong, passionate and committed team and, as I have highlighted above, I am so proud to work with this group of staff- both those who are teaching and those who are support staff.

It would be remiss of us not to acknowledge how well students have responded since returning to school fully in March. Whilst we know there is a very small minority who have not yet returned to the level we expect at Wellfield, the vast majority are doing us, and you as parents, very proud.

We would also like to thank those parents who often send in kind messages of appreciation. As shown within the Ofsted parental feedback in February, the vast, vast majority of parents support our systems, processes and the progress we are making as a school. Despite all of our endeavours, we know we are not perfect. We would like to remind all parents that our sole aim is to provide the best for your son/daughter. We want the best for them, just as you do. If you feel something is not quite right, please just talk to us and give us the chance to deal with and resolve any issues together.

Staffing

As Miss Scott (English) has started her maternity leave and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl this week, Eleanor Mae. I am sure you will all join us in congratulating Miss Scott as she becomes a parent for the first time.

At half term we will be saying farewell to Mrs Monk and we are very excited to be welcoming back Mrs Brook to Wellfield. Mrs Brook, who worked at Wellfield in 2018, will initially be covering Miss Scott within Key Stage 3 English and she will add significant experience and passion to our teaching team. We wish Mrs Monk well and would like to thank her for all of her hard work this half term.

Mr Corrick, our RE teacher, will be getting married over the half term break so we send our best wishes to him and his fiancée.

Class of 2021

The Class of 2021 said a very emotional goodbye to Wellfield today at the end of their leavers' assembly. A year group who have faced immense challenges and uncertainties but continued to attend, work hard and show incredible resilience- they are simply the best and a year group who are so highly thought of by the staff at Wellfield. They will be missed but we cannot wait to celebrate and reminisce together at prom in July.

Looking ahead

Just like this half term, summer term 2 is sure to be a busy one! The final term will see our students complete a range of assessments, Year 9 will be preparing for the start of their GCSE year, Year 10 will complete the first year of their GCSE course as well as events such as field trips, Year 8 will prepare for the creative subject choices in Year 9 and Year 7 will be coming towards the end of their very first year of life at Wellfield as we begin to induct the current Year 6 students into the Wellfield family. As the roadmap out of the national lockdown potentially lifts further within June, we are hopeful of enjoying some of the 'normal' whole school events such as sports day, enrichment days and college trips for Year 10. Although we remain cautious and extremely vigilant with regards to all health and safety guidelines (please note that, since our last update regarding masks which informed that we will review the wearing of masks on Monday 7th June that a subsequent local authority update informed that these must continue to be worn until mid June), we are hopeful of gradually moving back to a sense of normality for students and staff at Wellfield.

Detentions

A brief but important note that our system for informing parents of detentions has now moved from a text message to a ClassCharts notification and email. If you do have any issues or cannot access ClassCharts, please do contact us (enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk).

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Calendar updates

As you will be aware, we have had to respond to the current situation by changing a number of events on our calendar. For your information, the most relevant, for now, in the coming weeks are:

- **Monday 7th June**- Year 7- 10 students return to school, 8.40am
- **Monday 7th June**- Year 10 Practice Exams begin
- **Monday 7th June**- Year 7-9 in class assessments
- **Thursday 17th June**- Y6 Pastoral transition day

Wishing you all a safe, restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing students in Years 7 to 10 returning on Monday 7th June.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis
Head of School