



## Wellfield Academy

Executive Headteacher Mrs L Gwinnett  
Head of School Mr J Lewis

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### Parental Update Letter

#### Anti-Bullying Week

After this week's Remembrance theme, during which students engaged in house assemblies and reflecting upon the importance of Remembrance Day, next week will see us focussing upon Anti-Bullying Week.

The Anti Bullying Alliance, which is based at the National Children's Bureau, coordinates Anti-Bullying Week. This is their explanation for this year's theme of 'One Kind Word':

"In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point. It can change someone's perspective. It can change their day. It can change the course of a conversation and break the cycle of bullying. Best of all, one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. So, from the playground to Parliament, and from our phones to our homes, together, our actions can fire a chain reaction that powers positivity. It starts with one kind word. It starts today and we need your help to make it happen!"

As you are already aware, we have done a lot of work so far this academic year in our PSHCE programme about positive relationships, respect, feeling safe at school, celebrating our differences and inclusion. So, we want to continue these themes by celebrating Odd Socks Day. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity for us to spread awareness of the core values Anti-Bullying Week promotes.

To be involved, students simply need to wear a pair of odd socks to school on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**. Although we will not be collecting the money in school, if you would like to donate £1, please do so directly using the Anti Bullying Alliance website: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/get-involved-0/donate>

**Please contact school if you think your child may be experiencing bullying so that we can support them.**

#### Parents Events

It was lovely to see so many parents coming into school this week. First of all, we enjoyed a really successful Year 11 Revision Technique Evening on Wednesday night. This was followed by our Year 8 Tutor Evening on Thursday, during which we were able to give an update on how students have started the year and to discuss areas for development. Both evenings were very positive and it was great to talk to so many parents face to face once again. Thank you for all of your support!

Separately, whilst we work incredibly hard to build positive relationships with parents and encourage open dialogue, please remember that we aim to return calls/emails within 48 hours. In the vast majority of cases, we are able to reply much sooner, however, we would ask you to remember that our staffing capacity continues to be stretched with Covid related absences. Although we endeavour to return calls or emails as



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📞 01772 421303  
✉ [enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org)  
📍 Yewlands Dr, Leyland PR25 2TP  
🌐 [wellfieldacademy.org](http://wellfieldacademy.org)

soon as possible, this may not always happen on the same day you make contact, as some parents are insisting.

### **COVID-19 Impact on Staffing**

Staff absence, when it occurs, creates significant ongoing challenges to the day to day running of the school. We continue to work closely with Public Health England (PHE), Lancashire County Council (LCC) and the Department for Education (DfE) so that we are able to respond swiftly to any new guidance and advice that we receive.

Staff, like students, are continuing to test twice weekly at home to reduce the spread of the virus. As you will be aware, in the event of a positive test result, this then leads to 10 days' isolation at home. So far, we have largely managed to cover staff absences, although it has been incredibly difficult at times. As with many schools, teaching supply agencies are now informing us that there are extremely low numbers of supply teachers available and, in one case two weeks ago, we contacted five agencies before sourcing a teacher for the day.

It must be stressed at this stage that we remain absolutely committed to school operating as normal on a day to day basis. Should, however, this level of absence increase further we may need to consider if we are able to operate the school safely. There may come a time when we consider a short period of remote learning for some year groups. Hopefully this will not need to happen but, in the event it does, any decision will be subject to advice and will always be clearly communicated to all parents and students.

### **Upcoming Events**

There are so many things to look forward to over the final five weeks of term, most of which are highlighted below. We would like to highlight our exciting Cinderella performance in early December which the students have been working hard to prepare for. Tickets are now available from the general office. We are also looking forward to our first PTFA Christmas Fair. This will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December in our sports hall. There are lots of exciting stalls and activities planned so please come along and join in the fun from 11am!

### **Key Dates**

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| • Week commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> November:           | Anti-bullying week                       |
| • Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November:                 | PSHCE Day 2                              |
| • Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November:                  | Year 11 Parents' Evening                 |
| • Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November:                    | School closure- Jubilee                  |
| • Week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> December:            | Start of Year 11 Practice Exams          |
| • Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December                    | PTFA event- 11am-3pm                     |
| • Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> December: | Cinderella Christmas Panto from 6pm      |
| • Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December:                  | Christmas jumper/dinner day- provisional |
| • Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December:                    | School closes to students at 12.30pm     |

As always, please contact us using the school email address ([enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org)) if you have any feedback or queries. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



**Head of School**