



21st October 2022

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Wellfield Academy

Executive Headteacher Mrs L Gwinnett
Head of School Mr J Lewis

Autumn Term 1 Reflection and Updates

As the first half term of the academic year is now coming to an end, it is an opportunity for us to pause for reflection before looking ahead to what the next half term will bring. It has been such a brilliant start to the year with lots to be proud of. In addition to the work in lessons, tutor times, assemblies and other areas of the school, here is a list of some of the other exciting things that have taken place this term:

- Welcoming in nearly 150 Year 7 students into the Wellfield family
- SLT Information Evenings
- PSHCE Day 1
- Ongoing independent careers advice particularly focusing at Years 10 & 11
- Auditions ongoing in Drama for the performance in December
- Book fair
- Inktober (Art & Design competition)
- Year 7 Streetwise performance
- Beginning GCSE Music and Drama
- Lots of sporting activities and competitions
- An amazing Open Evening which was attended by 250+ families/700+ visitors
- Start of GCSE content for Year 10
- Bright Sparx Bonfire and Firework Safety Presentation

Year 7 Tutor Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents and students attend school for our face to face tutor evening last night. These evenings are a great opportunity for us to update parents/guardians about how the students have settled into life at Wellfield including how we are judging their engagement in lessons. The Year 7 cohort have made such a positive start to their secondary education so it was good to be able to share all of the positives so far whilst also raising any concerns where they were needed. Thank you to all parents/guardians for your continued support.

Staffing

We have an amazing staff team at Wellfield and I would like to thank them all for their continued hard work and dedication to giving all students the best they can every single day. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Miss Young, our Teacher of MFL, at half term. Miss Young was employed with us only on a short-term contract initially and she has since been snapped up into full time, permanent employment elsewhere. We thank Miss Young for her fabulous work this term and wish her well for the future. In the short term, we have appointed Mrs Safdar before we look forward to welcoming Mrs Stevenson who will add significant strength and experience to the team from January.

Uniform and Readiness to Learn

We have seen a number of students arriving for school recently who are clearly not ready for learning. For example, there are some without a tie, others without a bag and some without a pen. Please can I remind all parents and students of high expectations and that we will continue to challenge and sanction your child if they are not arriving for school with the correct uniform or equipment. We appreciate your support in addressing this over the half term if your child is missing items of uniform or requires stationery.



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Attendance

A reminder that our attendance target is 98% 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. The Tweak of the Week after half term will be focussed on attendance and all parents should receive information about your child's current attendance figure for the academic year after half term.

Similarly, we are continuing to raise the profile of the importance of attendance in school. Competitions between tutor groups have already started with weekly trophies presented and we will continue to communicate with you if your child's attendance is a concern. As always, we appreciate that there are occasions when absences cannot be avoided but we ask for your understanding if we do raise attendance figures as a concern.

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

Chromebooks

As you will be aware, all students in Years 7-10 now have access to a Chromebook that has been provided by our school. We are really pleased with how the majority of students use these, both in lessons and at home. Year 7 in particular have adapted really well to the devices. A reminder for all parents to ensure your child looks after the Chromebook, uses them appropriately over the half term and keeps them safe and secure to avoid any damages. Thanks for your support with this.

Additional music lessons

We have been working with Lancashire Music Services to secure music lessons for students where parents have expressed an interest. An email with the details will be sent out to those interested shortly after half term.

Upcoming Dates

Finally, some key dates for the half term ahead:

- **Monday 31st October** Return to school (8.40am)
- **Wednesday 2nd November** Year 11 Revision Evening from 5pm
- **Thursday 10th November** Year 8 Tutor Evening
- **WC 14th November** Anti-Bullying Week
- **Thursday 17th November** GCSE Awards Evening
- **Thursday 24th November** Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **Friday 25th November** INSET Day (school closed to all students)
- **WC 28th November** Year 11 Practice Exams begin

Thank you for all of your support so far this term and messages of support. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us on enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org or call us at school should you have any questions. Wishing all of our community a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Lewis
Headteacher