



9th October 2020

Dear Parent,

Weekly Updates and Reminders

We are now three quarters of the way through the first half term and, despite the downturn in the weather this week and the various difficulties we are all facing in the current situation, the student response to our routines and protocols continues to be excellent.

There were many who believed that students would struggle returning back to school routines, being able to adjust quickly to more normal sleeping patterns and having the resilience required with their learning following the partial closure of school back in March. However, our students have quickly settled back into the 'new normal' and quickly dispelled those doubts that anyone might have had. It has also been a pleasure to welcome back our Year 7 students who have returned to school following a period of isolation.

Virtual Open Evening

Last night was our first ever, and with any luck our only ever, Virtual Open Evening which, I have to say, proved a great success overall. Our amazing staff and fantastic students really managed to capture the true feeling of Wellfield throughout the webinar which included a number of short videos.

The webinar, along with all of the videos, can be found on our school website (www.whs.lancs.sch.uk) and, despite being developed for prospective parents, they are sure to provide current parents with a flavour for our school. Please take a look when you get the time and feel free to share with other parents to ensure more people hear about the excellent work that is happening day to day at Wellfield.

PSHCE Day

We had our first Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHCE) day of the academic year on Tuesday and, as always, the students responded brilliantly to the range of topics throughout. There are five PSHCE days throughout the year which are incredibly important to ensure our students develop into well rounded individuals who are prepared for life in the wider world and the current pandemic has only served to further increase the importance of these days. A big thank you and well done to all of the staff and students for making it a successful day!

Communication with staff

We recently asked for parents to contact us at school via the enquiries email and to not directly email our staff given the time pressures that all staff find in school at the moment. As ever, the response has been fantastic so thank you for responding to this request and helping us all support students more effectively across the day.

Throughout the past couple of weeks, we have also received a number of positive messages and emails from parents to simply thank us for our continued hard work and to praise our response to ever-changing and unpredictable situations. The impact of these messages is extremely positive and helps maintain our staff morale so I can only thank you for taking the time to do this.

The flip side of this, which does need to be highlighted, is the disappointment staff have felt following conversations with a very small number of parents and concerns about the way they have been spoken to. We expect every member of staff to be polite, respectful and well-mannered in all areas of school life, including when talking to one another, to our students and also when engaging in discussions with parents. Unfortunately, in some instances, this has not been reciprocated.

We have very high expectations with regards to verbal communication, as you would expect, and offer a polite and timely reminder to parents that no member of staff will accept verbal abuse or an aggressive tone over the phone. Although we understand there might be times when you may be frustrated, it is important that we work together to support your children and please remember that we always want the best for your child. Thank you again in advance for your support with this.

Year 9 and 11 Photographs and New Starters

We will have our Year 9 and Year 11 individual photographs taken by Tempest photography on Thursday 15 October. A reminder that our uniform and standards policies and expectations must be maintained for the day.

As we are now subject to increased local lockdown protocols, please take care over the weekend and stay safe. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions, feedback or concerns at enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Dunne

Executive Secondary Lead

Mr J Lewis

Head of School