



23rd October 2020

Dear Parent,

Updates and Reminders

As we now come towards the end of the first half term there are some updates and reminders for parents and students. We are sure that the break will be much appreciated by all of your children and also well-deserved for our incredibly hard working staff.

Reflection

Following the detailed planning for our return to school that took place over the summer holidays, there was certainly a level of nervousness amongst staff, parents and students. I cannot praise all of our staff enough for making this half term run so smoothly in times that have been challenging for us all, including mentally, physically and emotionally. Please remember that our teaching staff have continued to balance their teaching commitments, planning for home learning, tutor roles, duties and many more things (as well as running around the school to drop off and collect classes!) with their own personal challenges and home lives. We are incredibly grateful for the staff response throughout this half term and making it such a success overall.

Our amazing students should also be acknowledged at this stage. The vast majority have returned to school with energy, enthusiasm and a renewed desire to learn and engage which has been fantastic to see. The final week of a half term is always a good time for us to reflect on how much we have achieved together and it is clear to see how the Wellfield family has been brought closer together than ever.

Key Updates

We are continuing to reflect on and refine our current systems and protocols and, as you will have seen from today's earlier letter, updates that will come into effect upon the return of students on Monday 2nd November. We are sure that you will agree that all of the changes will be positive for both students and staff but the decisions have, as always, been taken after detailed discussions and reflections with our staff and with health and safety of all at the forefront of our minds. There are also some changes to our Key Stage 3 timetables that will come into effect upon the students' return in November and these will be discussed in tutor time on Monday 2nd November. All of the key changes were also communicated to the students during a virtual whole school assembly yesterday afternoon.

One of the main changes to come into effect after half term is that students will be making a return to some more practical PE lessons. Although we cannot yet offer the full range of sports, students will be able to get changed for lessons and also engage in an increased variety of activities.

Fire Drill

We had our first whole school fire drill practise on Wednesday afternoon which was very successful overall and our students responded in a mature manner. In the event of a fire, we clearly cannot prioritise maintaining bubbles over the need to evacuate the building safely and quickly which is why a mature, calm manner was expected and clearly evident throughout the whole process so well done to all students involved.

Behaviour Updates

As you will be aware, we have extremely high standards and expectations with regards to behaviour and attitudes. Over recent weeks, we have been made aware of a minority of our students not meeting these expectations, particularly when outside of school. I would like to remind all parents and all students that, should a student be identifiable to the school and not meeting our expectations, sanctions can and will still be applied if the school is being brought into disrepute. Over recent weeks we have also seen an increase in behaviour warnings being given to students, which is often the case towards the end of a long and tiring half term. Therefore, one small change to our policy will come into effect after half term. Currently, students who have been given 4+ behaviour warnings in one week (Thursday to Wednesday) are given a SLT detention on a Friday. This will now be replaced and students will be given an after school detention every time they reach 4 behaviour warnings. This means students receive immediate sanctions and we will continue to ensure that parents are given 24 hours notice for all of these detentions

When planning for our return to school in September, we also introduced pastoral removals from class. These were introduced to all our pastoral team (PDC) to support students who may be struggling with the return to school routines and the new way of working after such an extended period out of school during lockdown. We now feel it is appropriate to replace the pastoral removal process and, where we are aware of ongoing issues (SEND, mental health etc) and deem it appropriate, an exit pass will be provided after half term. This pass should be shown to the teacher who will then call for a member of the pastoral team to collect from the lesson and we will continue to reflect upon which students would benefit from use of a pass and if they are being used correctly.

Year 7 Tutor Evening

Last night we had our first ever virtual Tutor Evening with our Year 7 students and parents. In normal circumstances, we would have met with all parents throughout the transition process and then completed the face to face tutor meetings earlier in this term. Unfortunately, we have not yet had the chance to fully meet all of our parents properly yet but last night was our first opportunity to 'meet' and provide an update on how the students have settled which is something we really enjoyed! Thank you to all of our parents for your support and positive comments throughout.

Positive Feedback

Human nature often means it can be much easier to express frustrations or disappointments than it is to say positives or give praise. However, we regularly talk in school about how important it is to 'be kind' and the impact this can have on people, particularly during these challenging times. Recently, many parents have taken the time to email or call us to provide positive feedback about the school overall or to thank individual staff for their help and support.

Wellfield High School

Yewlands Drive, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 2TP
Telephone: 01772 421303 Term time e-mail: enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk
www.whs.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs L A Gwinnett, Executive Head
Mr J Lewis, Head of School



Additionally, I was also made aware of a range of extremely positive comments recently about Wellfield on the Leyland Hub Facebook page. We have a happy, positive and vibrant atmosphere in school amongst staff and students but maintaining this consistently day after day throughout these challenging times has been more of a challenge than ever. Therefore, I would simply like to say thank you to all of our parents for your continued support and positive feedback. They genuinely provide all of our staff with a boost and offer reassurance about the excellent work they do.

It is also worth highlighting that we know that our school is not perfect and there will always be things we can improve upon. As we have previously requested, we will always ask that you do not take to social media to vent frustrations without giving us a chance to address any concerns so please just speak to us if we can help.

Please stay safe over the half term break and take care of one another. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions, feedback or concerns at enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk. Please note that this is a term time only email address and any queries throughout the half term will be responded to upon our return to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Dunne
Executive Secondary Lead

Mr J Lewis
Head of School