



Tuesday 25th February 2020

Dear Parents,

Head of School Spring Term 2 Newsletter

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Head of School this past half term and I have been so proud of the hard work and effort shown by all staff and students. It is for this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a summary of the school's main achievements, along with some reminders for the half term ahead.

Half Term Summary

Every lesson counts at Wellfield, and in addition to the 150 hours of learning that students experienced since their return after Christmas, there were numerous activities both in and out of the classroom. A brilliant Year 8 trip to Blackpool helped to raise awareness of future careers, another excellent PSHE day developed awareness of relevant topics and numerous sporting successes were just some of the highlights. In addition, the school enjoyed a performance of A Christmas Carol and student rewards included a Subway VIP lunch and pizza for those Year 11 students judged by their teachers to be positively engaged in 100% of lessons. It was also a time for students to reflect on their futures beyond school, with Year 9 starting their options process and Year 11 planning for examination success in the summer having been given their practice GCSE exam results.

Behaviour and Standards

The term started with some reminders about expectations and standards. We have made great strides with regards to behaviour but we will never stop seeking to improve further. It has only taken a small number of tweaks and reminders about expectations for us to see significant improvements. I had the pleasure of welcoming numerous visitors and prospective parents to the school and they all commented on the positive, calm and engaging environment they experienced.

Punctuality Matters

There has been a marked improvement on student punctuality since Christmas. Poor habits will undermine future success for our students within the world of work or on Post-16 pathways so it's heartening to see the majority of students arrive for school on time and ready to learn. There are still a small number of students arriving at the school gate at 8.40am when they should already be in school but we will continue to work closely with students and their families to seek the improvement we all wish to see.

Regular Attendance

There is a clear link between high attendance and students making good progress. We are pleased with our school's rigorous and robust systems for challenging instances of persistent absenteeism and we have seen many improvements. I would like to thank parents on behalf of Miss Reed for their response

to my letter at the start of the term, in which we stressed the importance of parents contacting the school in person via phone by 8.40am on the day of their child's absence. However, there is still work to be done with improved attendance remaining a key school priority. All absences will be rigorously pursued, so please don't be offended by us contacting you, or requesting medical evidence for an absence.

Marketing

We are proud of the excellent work and the high standards we set at Wellfield. One of our priorities is to ensure more people now hear about all of this good work. To this end we are making great strides and I am delighted with Wellfield's recently formed Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA). This is a group that will play a significant role in supporting the school in the future. In addition to this, we are also in the process of updating the school's promotional video and developing a new website, as well as increasing our profile on social media.

I have also visited a number of our local primary school Headteachers, and been privileged in showing some of them around our school. They have been extremely complimentary about what they've seen at Wellfield and also enjoyed dropping into lessons to see some of their ex-pupils! Working collaboratively with our primary school partners is something I believe is vital in ensuring more people hear about the exciting things going on at Wellfield.

School Communication

We welcome and encourage open communication with our parents and the feedback from our parental surveys has been both informative and very positive. However, please can I ask that, should you have any concerns, you discuss them with us directly as a school so that we are given every opportunity to investigate, act and respond in an effective and timely fashion. Initially, we would signpost parents to the most appropriate member of staff to address those concerns, whether it be directing you to a House Progress Leader with regards to academic issues or to a Pastoral, Behaviour Manager regarding behaviour concerns. We can only support your child if we are aware of the concerns you might have so please don't hesitate to contact us no matter what the issue might be. We encourage open communication at all times with matters big and small.

Spring Term 2 Key Dates

- **Wednesday 26th February:** Review day/ Y11 Runshaw College interviews
- **Thursday 5th March:** Y11 Parents' Evening
- **Tuesday 10th March:** PSHCE Day
- **Thursday 19th March:** Y8 Parents' Evening
- **Monday 23rd March:** Y11 Practice Exams begin
- **Friday 3rd April:** Students finish at 12.30pm for Easter holidays

As always, should you wish to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact us via email (enquiries@whs.sch.lancs.uk) or give us a call.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School