

**This week: Higher expectations; new Year 7 students; Exam results from this summer; Homework; Attendance; New staff; Other news items; Mental Health update**

## Welcome back to the start of a new term and a new school year !

It's been an interesting first week back in terms of our new **higher expectations** agenda, and I want to start by addressing that immediately. Thank you very much to those parents who have taken the time to contact us and thank us for the changes to our behaviour systems in school. We gave you an overview of those changes at the end of last term, but we explained them fully to students this week in our assemblies and they started on Monday. This was in the very clear context of raising our expectations around standards in school - behaviour, punctuality to school and lessons, uniform and positive relationships. I am delighted to say we have seen an immediate improvement in behaviour and learning in classrooms - teachers are very pleased with our new approach and learning has been very positive as a result. Most of our students get it right every day and we recognise that! Rewards will again be a key focus this year for those who get it right.

Equally, our new, enhanced uniform expectations has been an issue for a small number of students. We started the week with around 50 students ( that's around 4.5% of our population ) incorrectly dressed and - as the week has progressed - we have reduced that to a minimum number. I know we have upset some children and parents in the process, but I am unapologetic on the need to improve our standards there. It makes a difference in setting the right tone within school, and it's something we have to work on every day as a school community.

A welcome to parents and carers of our **new Year 7 students**. Year 7 have made a very positive start and their worries about getting lost have - as usual - not been an issue in the main. I have received very positive feedback from teachers and they have settled in well.

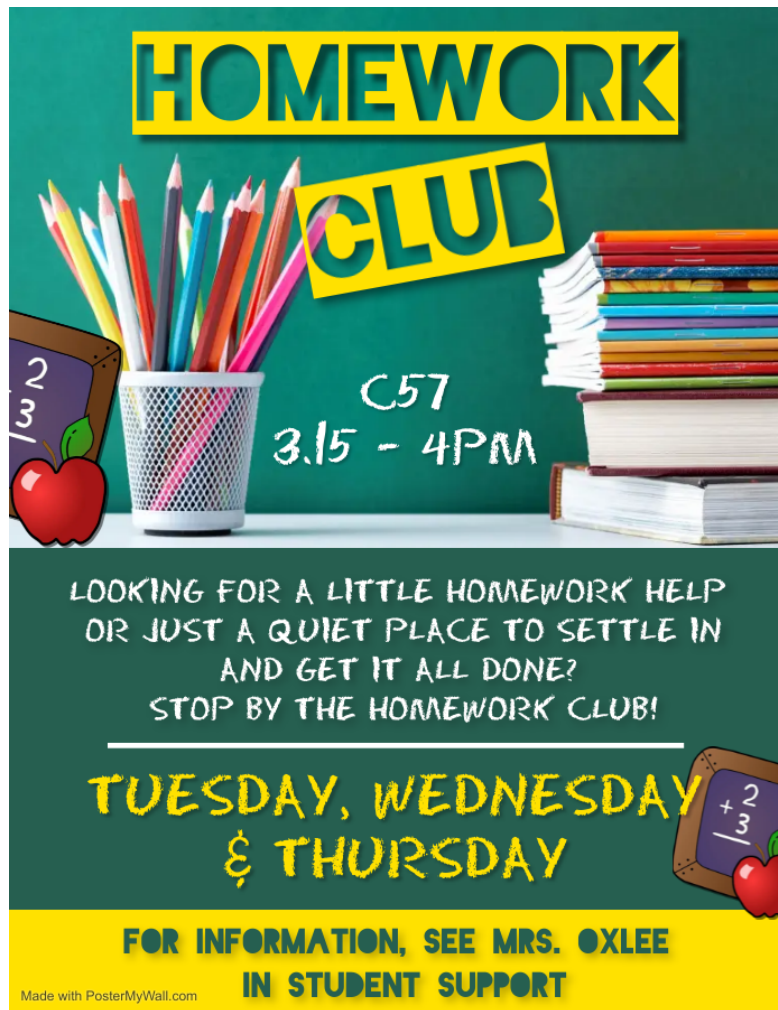
**Final Examination Results 2022** - COVID19 could easily have been used as an excuse for our ex-Year 11 students in terms of their achievement. We know how hard they worked last year to make sure they were not disadvantaged, and I was therefore delighted that they achieved some very pleasing results that allowed them to progress to the next step in life, whether that be college, apprenticeship or a career step.

Our results continue the upward trend of the school's performance, and we were keen this year to measure our results against the last set of examinations in 2019. As you will see below, they showed real improvement across the board. So well done to all of our students and their teachers!

	<b>2022 results</b>	<b>Relative to 2019</b>
Standard pass (9-4) in both English and Maths	53%	+9%
Achieved English pass (9-4)	76%	+15%
Achieved Maths pass (9-4)	55%	+7%
Achieved at least 2 Sciences (9-4)	51%	+9%

17% of all grades were the highest grades of 7-9. The core subjects were supported by a whole range of other subjects, and our trend in almost every subject was an improvement from 2019. We also saw large improvements for our middle and lower ability learners in particular.

And our attention moves towards our new Year 11 students, who have the task to match and even beat them! A vital year ahead. As I said to Year 11 on Monday, attendance and hard work are the keys to GCSE success. If they take the support and opportunities on offer, they could also be achieving the very highest grades.



### Home Learning - Homework

Parents will be able to see the homework that has been set for their child by using the Edulink App. Simply click on the Homework icon at the "Circle page" and you will be able to see the homework that has currently been set for your child. There is also an option to see the homework that has been set for your child in the recent past.

Students can discover information about the homework they have been set in two ways. They too can use the Edulink App and can see the homework that has been set by clicking their Homework Icon. The second way is through Google Classroom. Your child should log onto their Google Classroom and can then look inside each of their classes to see the homework that has been set.

**Year 7 Homework:** Due to an issue with the Edulink App software Year 7 homeworks were not showing on the Edulink App. This has now been resolved and homeworks for

Year 7 should now be showing. Year 7 can still access their homework on Google Classroom as normal.

### Attendance Matters-Working Together to Improve School Attendance

The Attendance Team would like to thank you all for the fantastic start to this week with almost 1000 students having 100% Attendance! Your support for their education is invaluable and the benefits they gain from being at school every day cannot be underestimated. Guidelines make it very clear the irreparable damage absence from school has on a child's life chances: If a child's attendance falls below the 90% guideline for persistent absence then this equates to 20 days absence from school, which potentially is 100 lessons missed and the equivalent of one academic year of English, maths or Science lessons. Parents may not be aware of the cumulative effect of the absence. **Our attendance team is always on hand should you need any support with your child's attendance at school please see the website for contact details and further information [Attendance Webpage](#).**

The new school year always brings **a new set of teachers and support staff**. I want to introduce you to our new staff in school. Here is a pen portrait of each of our new teachers ...

**Mrs Cathcart - History.** "I have been teaching for 21 years, in Leicester, Runcorn, Cheshire, Manchester and Liverpool. I am a Humanities teacher and teach History at GCSE. I am a newly qualified counsellor but love teaching so I am staying in the profession until I retire, then I look into a role as a school counsellor as

mental health is such an important focus for our young people. I am excited to be starting at Werneth as the staff and students have been very welcoming.”

**Ms Elridge - Science.** “Hello, I'm from London and I've been teaching Science in Scotland for the past 4 years. I am delighted to now be a part of the Werneth Community. If you see me in the area don't hesitate to say hello. Ms. Eldridge”

**Mr White - English.** “Hello. My name's Mr White and I've just joined the English Department at Werneth School having previously worked at Rayner Stephens High School. Though originally from the local area, I spent many years living and working in North Yorkshire. I like travel and experiencing different cultures which is why I spent a few years teaching in the Czech Republic (where I'd walk to school in winter temperatures of minus 20C!) and then Italy after I left university. Having passed the summer trying to renovate my garden to 'Gardening Guru' Monty Don's exacting standards (and having failed), I'm now looking forward to the new term and working with the staff and students at Werneth School.”

**Miss Cowans - History.** “My name is Miss Cowans and I am joining the History Department. I am from Newcastle and moved to Manchester 6 years ago when I started teaching at another school in Stockport. My favourite topic to teach is The Tudors. I also love to travel. The best place I have been to is China, where I got to visit historical sites such as the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors.”

**Miss Francis - Modern Languages.** “Ola/Bonjour. I'm Miss Francis , I teach Spanish and French at the school. I'm originally from Wigan, I used to teach in a school in Warwickshire called Kenilworth School. I love the outdoors, walking, camping and travelling. I love animals and have a lovely black labrador who enjoys long walks . I love travelling (when I can), I often go to Spain or Italy and Rome is my favourite city . In the future I'd love to visit Alaska.”

**Mr Louth, IT Support Team.** “Hi, I'm Mr Louth the new Senior IT Technician at Werneth School. I grew up and currently live in Stockport. I've always enjoyed learning how computers work and I love continuing to learn new things especially computer related. I enjoy spending my time volunteering at different theatre groups providing technical support. I'm looking forward to getting started in my new role at Werneth School.”

*We also have a new Maths teacher, **Mr Huppertz**, who will join us later this term from Australia.*

Other matters ...

- [Here](#) is a link to our calendar for parents with key dates for the first half of the school year
- Photographs, We will be taking individual school photographs for Year 7 and Year 10 students on Tuesday 13th September. Our Year 11 panoramic photograph will also be taken. Your child will bring home a ticket with their individual login details to enable you to purchase photographs, if you wish to do so.
- We have been informed by the police that some youths - as yet unidentified - have been throwing rocks at Bredbury station, and a train was damaged. The police will be checking CCTV to identify possible culprits and, in the event that these youths are from Werneth, we will work with the police on the matter.
- Please check your child's personal detail information on Edulink. If you need to update any information, please do so. A reminder also that, if your child has medical needs that we may not be aware of, you can speak to our Medical Needs Officer Megan Rothwell or email her at [megan.rothwell@wernethschool.com](mailto:megan.rothwell@wernethschool.com)
- Next Wednesday is Open Evening for parents of prospective year 7 students in September 2023. The evening runs from 4pm to 7pm. Thank you in advance to the many students who always support us in school on this evening.

Finally, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Royal Family on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II yesterday. If your child is affected by this, please do let us know and we can offer some support in school talking through the matter, and we have resources to support parents in talking through bereavement with your child. .

It's a period for our country where we see history unfolding before our eyes, and we enter the reign of King Charles III. We will of course follow DfE guidelines in terms of this period of mourning, and we will update you in terms of any implications for schools.

**Have a good weekend!**

### **World Suicide Prevention Day - Saturday 10th September**

*An estimated 703,000 people a year take their life around the world. For every suicide, there are likely 20 other people making a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide. Millions of people suffer intense grief or are otherwise profoundly impacted by suicidal behaviours. **Please remember - support is available:***

If you are a **parent/carer**, and are experiencing suicidal feelings, reach out to [Samaritans](#) on **116123 (Phone)**. If you know a **young person** who is experiencing suicidal feelings, encourage them to reach out to [Papyrus](#) on **08000684141/ 07860039967 (Text)**. For further support please access this [Guide For Young People](#) for support around suicidal feelings.