



# WEST HILL SCHOOL

*Aiming High Since 1927*

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Dear Parent/Carer

I want to extend a warm welcome back to the families of all returning boys, and offer a special welcome to the families of our new Year 7 intake.

This past 18 months or so has been a particularly challenging period in regards the impact of Covid restrictions on how we operate. I want to thank all of you for the support you have given in helping us negotiate through the challenges, to where we are today. It is highly likely that there will be further adjustments needed moving forward, to ensure the impact on our boys' experiences are minimised. Continuing to follow the messages around personal hygiene, as well as maintaining the Lateral Flow testing at home, will be key in achieving our goal.

One event that we will now be cancelling is our Open Evening, scheduled for later this month. Many of you will have attended this in the past, as a prospective Year 6 family considering applying to West Hill. The evening is very popular, you will remember the large numbers attending. The Guidance we have received from Greater Manchester Public Health references; "*...avoid large crowding...reduce occasions where larger numbers of adults come into the building and where possible...utilise remote connect methods*". Our Open Evening is in that category, especially given the very high case numbers we have in Tameside. I have a duty of care to the staff, and in particular the boys, your sons, who we would be asking to attend the evening. Having considered the guidance from the Public Health authorities; the potential risk of disruption to the education of our boys in the following weeks, as a result of holding the event, is one I wish to avoid.

This means we will not have the opportunity to showcase the school in the style we traditionally would. My request therefore to yourselves as a parent body is; if you know families who are considering West Hill for their son, if you can share your experiences with these families to enable them to make an informed decision.

We will be providing the information families need on our website, with links to the video giving them a flavour of West Hill, as well as the possibility of controlled tours during the school day. This does not quite meet the ideal, as many families have commented in the past on the warmth in relationships they can observe on the evening. My first commitment though remains to our staff and our boys, I hope you will understand and support that decision.

Yours sincerely

Mr Owens  
Head Teacher