

25th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

I hope that all students and families have had a **fantastic summer break** and have been able to enjoy some well-earned time together.

As we prepare for the start of the new school year, we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to **The Westleigh School. We can't wait to see our students again**, hear about their summer and begin what we are confident will be another positive and successful year.

We also begin the year with a huge amount to celebrate. **Our Year 11 results this summer were incredible**, and we are immensely proud of what our students achieved. These results are a testament to the hard work, determination, and resilience of our students, alongside the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support of parents and carers. We congratulate every one of our Year 11 students and wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education, training, or employment.

Ahead of students returning, we would like to share a few important reminders to help everyone have a successful start.

Start of the New School Year

To support a smooth and positive start to the year, students will return as follows:

- **Year 7 – Wednesday 2nd September at 8.30am**
- **Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 – Thursday 3rd September at 8.30am**

We are particularly looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to the Westleigh community on Wednesday and giving them the opportunity to settle into school before all year groups return on Thursday.

Uniform and Equipment

We expect all students to return wearing the correct Westleigh School uniform and with the equipment they need to be Ready for learning. Wearing our uniform correctly demonstrates pride in belonging to our school community and helps us maintain the high standards we expect.

Full details of our uniform expectations, including information about appropriate clothing and footwear, can be found on the school website:

www.thewestleighschool.co.uk/parents/uniform

As part of our uniform expectations, students should not wear jewellery or piercings, false eyelashes or have unnatural hair colours. We ask parents and carers to support us by ensuring that students return to school meeting these expectations from their first day.



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Students must also arrive properly equipped for learning each day. Alongside their usual school equipment, students are required to have an appropriate iPad pen/stylus so that they can make full use of their iPad during lessons.

We would appreciate parents and carers checking both uniform and equipment before students return, so that every student can begin the new school year positively and ready to learn.

Attendance and Punctuality – Ready to Learn

Being Ready is one of our core school values, and attending school every day and arriving on time are important parts of this.

We were extremely pleased that attendance at The Westleigh School was above the national average last year, and this is something we want to build upon. Good attendance plays a huge part in the success of our students. Being in school every day means students benefit from consistent teaching, keep up with their learning and are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. Every day in school matters.

Alongside good attendance, punctuality is equally important. Students must be in their form room and ready to begin at 8.30am. Students should therefore arrive on the school site with sufficient time to make their way to their form room before 8.30am.

Arriving late means students miss important information and valuable learning time, as well as disrupting the positive start to the school day. We ask parents and carers to continue working with us to ensure students attend school regularly and arrive on time, taking account of traffic, public transport and other potential delays.

By working together to maintain high levels of attendance and punctuality, we can give every student the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and succeed.

Mobile Phones – We Are a Phone-Free School

A reminder that **The Westleigh School is a phone-free school.**

At the beginning of each school day, **all students must place their mobile phone in the designated phone locker in their form room.** Phones will be stored securely throughout the school day and **returned to students at the end of the day.**

We were extremely pleased with the positive way in which students responded to this approach last half term. Students adapted quickly to the routine and demonstrated maturity and responsibility in following our expectations. We would like to thank them, and our parents and carers, for their support in making this such a positive change.

Being phone-free during the school day helps students remain focused on their learning, reduces unnecessary distractions and encourages positive face-to-face interaction with their peers.

We ask parents and carers to continue supporting this expectation by reminding their child that their phone must be placed in their phone locker each morning.



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Squishy Toys and Similar Items

We are also asking students **not to bring squishy toys or similar gel-, liquid- or foam-filled toys into school.**

Although these items may appear harmless, if they split or burst their contents can create a significant mess in classrooms, corridors, bags and on students' clothing. They can also become an unnecessary distraction from learning.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

These simple expectations all contribute to our school values of being **Ready, Respectful and Safe.**

We hope everyone enjoys the remainder of the summer break, and we can't wait to welcome our students back to The Westleigh School.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

The Westleigh School