

December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the end of term approaches, I wanted to thank you all for your ongoing support as we continue to work together as a school community for the benefit of our students; as always, it is greatly appreciated.

This year has been an incredibly busy year, bustling with new initiatives and I want to take this opportunity to share some of the success stories with you:

Attendance Matters

It has been fantastic to witness the masses of Westleigh students enjoying our Attendance Extravaganzas this term. We have seen everything from ice cream, inflatables, live music and now we are preparing for our Winter Wonderland! We all know how important good attendance is to school success and it has been pleasing to see increased engagement from year 11 in their mock exams and mock interview day. Our attendance champions are driving positive change as a team and students are enjoying regular, short-term rewards. The new year presents an exciting opportunity for our students to join in even more positive experiences at school.

College Model

This September, we proudly launched our new and exciting college model that supports students' holistic development. Each student is now part of one of four colleges: Warburton, Drew-Baker, Wilkinson, and Hilton. Each college is led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, serving as Head of College, and supported by a Director of Standards. We have witnessed fantastic weekly competitions focused on behaviour points and attendance, alongside our engaging 'Fun Fridays.' Our students have embraced this model wholeheartedly, relishing the sense of belonging and pride it fosters. They eagerly anticipate the weekly points announcements which further enhances their enthusiasm and commitment to their college family.

We are thrilled to share that our efforts have led to a remarkable improvement in student attitudes and behaviour within the school, with suspensions decreasing by an impressive 73% compared to the same period last year. Additionally, we have awarded 891 bronze badges, and several students have already achieved the silver milestone by earning over 500 positive points. We hope to see some gold badges before Easter!

In our recent survey, parents spoke positively in how we respond to concerns, and an increased number of students tell us they enjoy school and feel safe. The 'Proud Wednesday' initiative affords students the opportunity to celebrate their excellent work each week and our Green Slip Rewards shop continues to thrive with items such as



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footballs, rugby balls, perfume, sweets, and stationary for sale. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements and the outstanding work they have accomplished this term!

Digital Strategy

One of our most significant achievements, as we embrace 21st century learning, has been the successful implementation of iPads into our teaching and learning strategy. This initiative supports our commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive education for every student.

The integration of iPads into lessons has already brought numerous benefits to our classrooms such as; increased engagement as our interactive lessons makes learning more dynamic and exciting; improved feedback as teachers can quickly assess understanding and provide immediate, constructive feedback and accessibility for all as the built-in accessibility features in the iPads ensure that students with diverse needs can fully participate and excel in their learning.

Our digital strategy has not only supported academic growth but also prepared our students for the future by developing critical digital literacy skills. We are incredibly proud of how both students and staff have embraced this change, showcasing resilience, creativity, and a shared passion for innovation and look forward to developing our digital strategy further in the new year.

Thrive

As a whole school we have invested heavily into The Thrive Approach and look forward to driving this trauma informed and relational approach to ensuring all of our students feel safe, secure, and contained within education. This approach allows us to take a holistic view of each child and support them in the preparation for adulthood developing character, culture, and wellbeing.

Arbor

As we progress with the use of Arbor (Our Management information system) we have now opened more features to parents and guardians that allow you to view; positive points, negative points, positive behavioural incidents, and negative behavioural incidents. This should provide a greater understanding of how your child is engaging with school.

We have opened the Arbor app for students too and will be supporting them in the new year to log in and have access to their timetable which will inform them of any room changes.

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER: MR CARLTON BRAMWELL

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Closure and opening arrangements

School closes on Friday 20th December at 12.25pm

Unfortunately, the bus company were not able to offer an earlier bus service so pupils will have to make their own arrangements for getting home.

School will re-open on Tuesday 7th January at 8.25am for all students

I look forward to welcoming our returning students in January after what I hope will be a wonderful Christmas break for them all.

From all at The Westleigh School, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Bramwell
Executive Headteacher