



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

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8th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a fantastic first week back at Whitelands – our new year 7s have settled in really well and the rest of the school have returned with a very positive attitude. We are looking forward to our first Parent event which will take place on Tuesday 19th September between 4:30-5:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come to school and meet your child's tutor, hear an informal presentation from each tutor and have the opportunity to discuss anything you may need to share. We have lots of new staff this year including three new members of the Senior Leadership Team who will also be here for you to meet. You will not be required to book, but we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

As you will know, we have made several refinements to our school policies this academic year – the students at Whitelands are exceptional and we want to continue to challenge them in their expectations to support the highest of outcomes by the time they leave us.

This week, the home school agreement has been shared with students. This is to highlight the fact that when a student, their school and their family work together, it helps us create the most supportive team to bring about success. We have a big focus this year on students being responsible and proactive – this is excellent preparation for adult life and encourages them to take action to address any uniform or equipment errors before the day begins. The home-school agreement was part of our induction process, however the lack of communication to families has created some confusion.

A document of this type is commonplace across secondary schools and can frequently be found in a child's school planner. The intention is to highlight to our students that we as a school, and you as their parents/carers both want the very best for them and that we all have a part to play. Building in positive habits such as consistent daily routines, an appropriate bedtime and our request for you to be part of your child's educational journey are intended to be supportive and positive to all parties. You will also see that point 11 in the parent section is about the use of EpiPen. As a school we are permitted to use an EpiPen on a child we believe to be having a severe allergic reaction if we have your consent. On the rare occasion this might occur, we felt that getting your consent through this document would be helpful.

We will be reissuing the home school agreement to students at the end of the week. We ask you to read it through with your child with the intention that they see we all have the same high expectations. We then invite you to sign the parent section. Please also delete the appropriate response in the EpiPen section to support our medical records.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes,

Miss Lyall
Vice Principal

