



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 2 • JULY 2023



WHITELANDS ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

As we come to the end of this academic year, there is much to celebrate and a huge amount to be excited about for our return in September. This year, we received our first Ofsted Inspection, launched our first round of trips and successfully completed our first Year 9 Options process. The students have truly been a credit to the school throughout all of these firsts.

Next academic year we welcome our new Senior Leadership Team as well as new staff to the Academy. Over this past term, the Senior Leadership Team have been collaborating and networking with Principals across the trust to refine the implementation of our Academy policies. Attached, I have summarised the main refinements to our behaviour policy that will be noticeably different next academic year.

These refinements will be launched and implemented over the course of the year and your child will receive lessons on how these refinements will work. Thank you for supporting us with this, as we develop Whitelands Academy to excellence.

CELEBRATION REWARDS EVENING

This week we hosted our first annual celebration rewards evening and it was a huge success. I was privileged to be able to praise and congratulate all of the students who received these awards for their excellent attitudes and contributions to Whitelands Academy. The most exciting part of this process was seeing how many students were nominated for these awards. We look forward to making this an annual event and ensuring all students who deserve this recognition receive it.

The awards ranged from academic to values-based and students were nominated by our staff. The students who received the awards were invited to a special evening so that parents and carers could watch them be given the awards. This will then be repeated on a larger scale to each year group where our nominated students will also receive praise, recognition and a certificate. It has been a lovely way to end the school year and we are very proud of all our students at Whitelands Academy.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you for all the responses to the previous survey I invited you to complete. From this survey, the action points have been as follows:

1. Introduction of an Academy Newsletter.
2. Meet the trust meet and greet events over the next academic year.
3. Sharing of staff contact details for direct communication.
4. Providing staff with CPD on communication to parents and carers – particularly around response timeframes.
5. Adding capacity to our pastoral team by recruiting more non-teaching staff.

We will review the impact and progress of this with you in the new academic year through more of our Meet and Greet events.



BEHAVIOUR POLICY REFINEMENTS

In the new academic year, we will be implementing some refinements to our behaviour policy. Attached is an overview of where we are working towards for the next academic year. The proposed timeline for implementation will be as follows:

From September

1. **Equipment shop and Uniform Loan system.** Students will be asked to rectify missing equipment or uniform before the school day starts by attending our equipment shop and uniform loan shop.
2. **Merits and Demerits.** Students will receive merits for hard work in lessons and demerits for the occasions when incorrect behavioural choices are made. This will result in a net worth of House points. Students will receive rewards as they move up the number of House points that they achieve. Training for staff and students will begin in September.
3. **Banned items.** The school will hold onto any confiscated banned items until the last day of that half term. Mobile phones are the exception which will need to be collected by a parent or carer when they are available. We encourage you to remind students not to bring in anything from home that is not school equipment. This will begin from September. Students will be reminded on their first day what is meant by the term banned item.

Early 2024

1. **Same-day detentions.** We are very proud of our students at Whitelands Academy. However, on the rare occasion, students make incorrect choices and are given a detention, we would like students to sit these detentions on the day that they are given. This avoids anxiety for the child and allows a fresh start for the following day. We understand that some students are either picked up or catch a bus however, we would really appreciate your support in beginning to consider how your child would get home if this event was to occur. More communication on this to follow in the new academic year.

School Uniform

As you turn your thoughts to purchasing new uniform items for September, please refresh your memory of our uniform policy. We would hate to ask you to change anything that you have spent your money on. In particular, be mindful of the school shoes that are chosen and avoid any which look like trainers.

Examples of these can be found in the uniform policy. Please also consider when your son/daughter has any new piercings as we will only be permitting a single stud in each earlobe in September. We will not be allowing plasters to cover up new piercings.



SCHOOL DAY STRUCTURE

Next year we will be moving to a 6-lesson day. This allows a wider combination of option choices when timetabling, allows us to move to a simpler one-week timetable and allows us to introduce a split lunch so that we can serve our students in the canteen quicker.

The structure of the school day will be the following:

Years 9 and 10				Years 7 and 8			
	Start time	End Time	Duration		Start time	End time	Duration
Line-up	08:30	08:40	00:10	Line-up	08:30	08:40	00:10
Tutor Time	08:40	09:10	00:30	Tutor Time	08:40	09:10	00:30
Period 1	09:10	10:00	00:50	Period 1	09:10	10:00	00:50
Period 2	10:00	10:50	00:50	Period 2	10:00	10:50	00:50
Break	10:50	11:10	00:20	Break	10:50	11:10	00:20
Period 3	11:10	12:00	00:50	Period 3	11:10	12:00	00:50
Period 4	12:00	12:50	00:50	Period 4	12:00	12:50	00:50
Lunch	12:50	13:30	00:40	Period 5	12:50	13:40	00:50
Period 5	13:30	14:20	00:50	Lunch	13:40	14:20	00:40
Period 6	14:20	15:10	00:50	Period 6	14:20	15:10	00:50
Co-curriculum	15:10	16:10	01:00	Co-curriculum	15:10	16:10	01:00

Note: Taxi's and School buses have been informed.



TUTORS

Below you will find a list of the tutor that each group will have next academic year:

Tutor Group	Tutor
7 Cavell	Ms M Coles
7 Franklin	Mr R Tyler-Gunning
7 Hillary	Ms S Bushell
7 Mandela	Mr P Callow
8 Cavell	Mr J Morris
8 Franklin	Miss S Anglin-Archer
8 Hillary	Miss M Berthalon
8 Mandela	Mr P Rann
9 Cavell	Mr M Brown
9 Franklin	Mrs P Mofford
9 Hillary	Mr M Johnson
9 Mandela	Mr S Reed
10 Cavell	Miss C Montague
10 Franklin	Miss C Dawe
10 Hillary	Mr R Godfrey
10 Mandela	Mr C James

HEADS OF YEAR

The following staff will be Heads of Year:

Year 7 and 8 – Mr M Cartwright

Year 9 and 10 – Mrs K Amin



GOODBYE TO STAFF

We would like to say a massive thank you and farewell to the following staff members:

Miss M Billett. We wish Miss Billett the best in her new school.

Mrs J Strong. Mrs Strong has been a fantastic interim SENDCo for Whitelands Academy.

Mr H Frater. We thank Mr Frater for stepping in at short notice to be our interim Music teacher.

Mr A Hill. Mr Hill is a brilliant Vice principal and returns to Ridgeway School where he was seconded from.

Thank you to the White Horse Federation for the support here.

SEPTEMBER 2023

We look forward to welcoming students to Whitelands Academy on the following dates:

- **Monday 4th September** – Year 7 Only.
- Students are to wear full school uniform and bring in a packed lunch. This day will be spent with their tutors where their induction to Whitelands Academy is completed and their base line assessments are finished.
- **Tuesday 5th September** – All year groups.

Students are to wear full school uniform. This day will mainly be spent with their tutors followed by a normal timetable in the afternoon.

Have an amazing summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

