



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

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20th December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I complete my first full term as Principal of Whitelands Academy, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome I have received from all students, parents, staff and governors. I feel incredibly fortunate to be leading such a fantastic school and excited about our future.

When I wrote to you in October, I promised that this term would see the development of our trips programme and I am pleased we have been able to fulfil this promise to you. From local trips to Tesco, to trips to the Theatre and Computer Museum, Year 7 residentials in the summer, a ski trip in 2024 and possibly an incredible experience to work with communities in Thailand, heavily funded by local partnerships, we are set to have a very broad programme for all year groups to suit all budgets. We appreciate this time of year, in a period of economic instability, is a tough one for considering trips and hope the extended notice and payment plans will help families access a range of trips for their children without the risk of further financial insecurity. As with all aspects of school, if you would like your child to attend a trip and are worried about the expenses, please contact us to see if we can do anything to support you.

Our behaviour policy has been the topic of much discussion this term and, committed to responding to parent voice, I am pleased to share some changes we will be making to our referral system, currently known as 'On Call'. From January, please note the following:

- 'On Call' will be renamed 'Reset' as its purpose is to enable children to take some time out to refocus and prepare to go back into lessons. It is also an opportunity for them to discuss what's going on with a member of staff so that their voice is heard;
- Reset will no longer roll onto a second day. If a student is sent to Reset by their teacher, they will remain there for the rest of the day but will return to normal lessons the following day. This will enable them to have a fresh start the following day;

- Children in Reset will eat their snack and lunch in the reset room, going to the canteen before the bell to collect food if you are using ParentPay.

We will communicate these changes to students when we return in January and it would be appreciated if you could also communicate these to your child so they are prepared in advance.

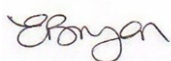
We are also developing our home learning to include independent wider reading and revision. You can find detailed information about each subject's content, resources, and extended home learning tasks for Term 3 by clicking on the Parental Guidance documents found at the end of each subject page on our curriculum tab on the school website: <https://www.whitelandsacademy.org/learning-and-education/curriculum/curriculum-overview>. Furthermore, we will be revising our home learning detentions so that they focus on study skills instead of being used to complete missed home learning, as part of our drive to support all students to be more motivated and supported with their learning at home. From a curriculum perspective, we are also pleased to confirm we have secured a specialist supply teacher for Music meaning Music will be back on our curriculum from January for all year groups.

As I communicated in October, can I please remind all parents that the road directly opposite the main school gate has double yellow lines and is not to be used for dropping off/collections; please use the car park in Whitelands Sports Pavilion. We are meeting residents in January to look at how we will enforce this from a legal perspective and thus your early cooperation is very much appreciated.

Next term we will have a focus on options for Year 9 with our parents' evening to discuss attainment in January 17th and our options evening and higher education fair on March 20th. Our careers programme is developing to include a range of experiences in house to students from Year 7 at no cost to parents and I aim to share a full plan by the February half term.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Wednesday 4th January.

Kind regards



Emma Bryson
Principal