

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE

16th June 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN: 2nd HALF SUMMER TERM 2017

This second half of the summer term is always one of the busiest for the academy community and the last few weeks are now racing past. The academy 'General Election' on 8th June was a tremendous success and it was fantastic to see our young people engaging so confidently at the hustings and the ensuing political debates. Well done to the Labour candidates who enjoyed a landslide victory!

In May, the Department for Education (DfE) decided that the academy fell within their 'Coasting' definition as the Progress 8 score for students who left school in 2016 was below the -0.25 coasting criteria for academy performance. Progress 8 is based on student progress in a combination of 8 subjects. Whilst the academy is improving across a wide range of measures, the coasting definition says that this improvement needs to be faster and more rapid.

One of the key factors why students did not meet the benchmark across 8 subjects in 2016 was the curriculum structure that was put in place before I arrived. This meant that a group of students did not satisfy the curriculum combination to maximise the Progress 8 score, despite their achieving good exam results. Where students did take the correct combination of subjects across 8 subjects, their progress was above national expectations. This shows that where students have a broad and balanced curriculum, the teaching in the classroom at Westbourne Academy has the potential to ensure that all students succeed.

The Trust has the responsibility to ensure that the academy continues to make progress and has submitted a plan of action to the DfE. We are pleased to say that this plan has been approved by the DfE and the Trust have asked us to share what action is being taken to support the academy in improving. This plan is not limited to but includes:

1. Ensuring the curriculum meets the needs of all students in future years
2. Regular support from ATT Regional Improvement Director and Lead Practitioners
3. Ensuring improvements are made, where necessary, in the quality of teaching
4. A detailed Transformational Improvement Plan with specific actions to improve the academy
5. Regular ATT Board Meetings to ensure the academy leaders are acting on the Improvement Plan

I am pleased to report that academy attendance is now above national average and I would like to thank parents and students for supporting our drive in this area. This half term our focus is on reducing unauthorised lateness to the academy. With effect from Monday 19th June, students who are up to 20 minutes late will spend 20 minutes in detention at the end of the day. Students who arrive later than 20 minutes will make up the exact amount of time they are late and will be made to catch up on the work missed that morning. An hour's lateness will therefore mean an hour's detention.

As part of our next phase of improvement this half term, we are raising expectations with regards to the completion of home learning. Independent home learning is key to successful progress and gives our young people a sense of ownership and responsibility for their learning. It also prepares students for the work that they will need to put in at home when revising for their final examinations in Year 11. With effect from Monday 19th June, students will be given a half an hour detention for each piece of home learning missed and they will be asked to complete the home learning in the detention. Students can get support with their home learning in the Learning Resource Centre at lunchtime and after school. You can see what home learning has been set by logging onto 'ShowMyHomework', the link can be found on our website.

Academy Calendar

On Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July we are looking forward to meeting the Year 6 pupils who will be starting at the academy in September.



On Thursday 13th July we are hosting the 2017 Annual Sports Awards Evening and all of the students who have been nominated for an award will be receiving letters of invitation shortly.

This year sports day will be on Wednesday 12th July. The timing of the day will change slightly from periods 1 to 3 in order for us to start promptly just after midday. Mr Moore will be delivering House assemblies at the end of June and there will be a further letter sent about sports day, the events and what students will need to bring and wear. In the event of adverse weather, the reserve day is Thursday 13th July.

The last day of this academic year is Friday 21st July when students will be dismissed at the earlier time of 1.00pm approximately after a whole school assembly in the sports hall. Please keep this in mind when making any arrangements for your child's collection or home-to-academy transport on this day.

Our term dates and staff professional development days for 2017/18 are now available to view on our website and are as follows:

- Monday 4th September 2017 & Monday 30th October 2017
- Wednesday 3rd January 2018
- Monday 23rd July 2018 & Tuesday 24th July 2018

Data Collection: It is essential that we have up to date contact information for parents and carers if we need to contact you urgently.

Over the next few weeks we will be sending students home with a copy of the data information that is held on our records. It is essential that primary and secondary contact details are up to date at all times. Please look out for this letter. Please check the details and make any amendments to addresses, contacts, emails or telephone numbers. Please return the form even if there is nothing that requires amendment.

As an academy we are consistently reviewing our expenditure and looking for ways in which we can improve efficiency when it comes to photocopying and printing. All open correspondence is increasingly being sent by email unless a parental signature is required to give consent or letters are for named students only. If we do not have an email address for your child, please add it to the data form. All open correspondence is posted on the letters page of our website.

Year 11 News

During this week, some students will be allowed to leave earlier or start later, due to the timing of examinations or the attendance of booster revision sessions/lessons; a detailed schedule was given to students after their Science exam today. Students will need to continue attending timetabled lessons in Graphics, Science, Resistant Materials or History as these exams are not yet completed. By Tuesday 20th June, students will have completed all of their examinations with the exception of Russian and Greek and are not required to attend school unless they are involved with the ECDL course that starts on 10th July.

On Tuesday 20th June, we have the Year 11 leaver's assembly between 11.10am – 12.10pm in the main hall. Afterwards, students in Year 11 will be given any photographs or leaver's hoodies that they have ordered as well as their Careers Progression portfolios.

Year 10 News

Thanks to Mr Payne, Head of Ramsey House, Year 10 students have been invited to choose a post-16 taster day at either Suffolk New College (22nd June), Easton Otley College (4th July) or Suffolk One (11th July). Students will be receiving a letter about these visits to confirm the timing, dress code and transport. Except for Easton Otley College, students will be expected to make their own way to and from college as they would post-16. Parents should bear in mind that open days and evenings are frequently held at colleges and 6th Forms throughout the summer term.

From Monday 26th to Friday 30th June, Year 10 students will be taking Progress Review Examinations (PREs) under exam conditions in the sports hall. Mr Bouckley delivered an assembly on this topic last Friday and students have each been given an exam Handbook. Shortly they will receive a copy of the PRE programme which shows when they are due to take their exams in their core and options subjects. The Art and Photography PREs will be held separately on 3rd, 7th and 11th July in the Art department.

On Monday 10th July, I am looking forward to seeing what amazing ideas our Year 10 Business Studies students will present at the Dragon's Den. On Tuesday 20th June, there is a Year 10 Geography field trip to Clacton with our new Geography Team Leader, Mr George Cole and on Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th July, there is a Year 10 History Battlefields field trip to Belgium and France with Ms Walter.

Year 9 News

All students in Year 9 have now received confirmation of their Pathway choices for September from Mr Roche.

In a year group assembly on Friday 30th June, Mr Bouckley will be explaining about the PREs they will be taking between Monday 17th and Thursday 20th July in the sports hall. The Progress Review Examinations (PREs) are a useful way of assessing student progress over the year and since they started high school in Year 7 which is a progress measure required of all schools by the Department for Education. By holding the PREs in the sports hall under exam conditions it will also give students an opportunity to start developing the techniques needed for longer tests and exams culminating in their final exams in the summer of 2019.

Year 7 & 8 News

Similarly, in a Year 7 assembly this week, students heard from Mr Bouckley about the PREs they will be taking in the sports hall in Maths, English and Science between Monday 17th and Thursday 20th July. On Friday 23rd June, students in Year 8 will receive the same information.

Further information about the PREs will be given to students in tutor time. This will include information about the need to be properly equipped for taking the tests, as well as the date and time of the exams which will be during the normal school day. Subject teachers will be providing students with a list of the areas they need to revise and some suggested interactive revision sources such as BBC Bitesize.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, it is appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Garry Trott
Principal



Information

This is a letter about important school information. If you are unable to read this information because English is not your first language, please ask someone who speaks English to contact the school on 01473 742315 or email office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Lietuvių kalba/Lithuanian - Informacija/General information

Tai laiškas apie svarbią mokyklos informaciją. Jei negalite perskaityti šios informacijos, nes anglų nėra jūsų gimtoji kalba, kreipkitės į ką nors, kas kalba angliškai arba kreipkitės į mokyklą 01473 742315 arba el office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Polski/Polish - Informacja/information

Jest to pismo o ważnych informacjach o szkole. Jeśli nie możesz przeczytać tej informacji, ponieważ angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem, poproś kogoś, kto mówi po angielsku, lub skontaktuj się ze szkołą 01473 742315 lub e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Em português /Portuguese - Informações/information

Esta é uma carta sobre informações importantes sobre a escola. Se você é incapaz de ler esta informação, porque o Inglês não é sua língua nativa, por favor, pergunte a alguém que fala Inglês deve contactar a escola 01473 742315 ou e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Limba română/Romanian - Informații/ General information letter

Aceasta este o scrisoare cu privire la informații importante școlare. Dacă nu puteți citi această informație pentru că engleza nu este prima limbă, vă rugăm să întrebați pe cineva care vorbește limba engleză trebuie să contacteze școala 01473 742315 sau e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk