

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE

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Dear Parents

PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN – AUTUMN TERM 2ND HALF

Well I am not sure where the past seven weeks have gone. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you some important updates about the academy. Hopefully you will have seen in the local press that the progress 8 results for schools were published recently for the GCSE results in the summer. The progress 8 result measures the 'value' that a school gives to students from the time they leave primary school in Year 6 to the time they sit their GCSEs in Year 11. I am delighted to announce that our score was +0.08, which puts us in third place amongst eleven local secondary schools. This is a phenomenal achievement and reflects the ongoing improvements we are making here in terms of the quality of teaching and learning.

We have also had our biggest Year 7 ever join the academy with a total of 220 students and four spaces left. They have settled well and I know that staff have valued the chance to meet with you at parent/tutor meetings.

As an academy we have high expectations of our students in terms of their behaviour and encourage them to take responsibility for their actions. We are indeed very fortunate that the vast majority of our students are excellent ambassadors for the academy on a daily basis. This was clearly demonstrated on our Year 6 Open Evening, where over two hundred students spent the evening showcasing the very best Westbourne has to offer.

Unfortunately, in assemblies before half term, I had to mention a few issues where a minority of students do not present the academy or their families in a positive light. Over the last few weeks we received a range of complaints from the local community about general behaviour and swearing in local play parks. I have reminded students that the play parks are for students who are age twelve and under and that we should respect our neighbours and the young children for whom the park is intended.

I also mentioned the fact that smoking is illegal for those students who are below the age of sixteen. Students who are seen smoking whilst wearing their academy uniform are not only presenting a negative image of the academy and young people generally, they are exposing themselves to a range of health concerns.

You may have watched or heard about BBC East's 'Inside Out' programme (shown on 16th October) about gangs and the growing issues surrounding the distribution and smoking of illegal drugs within Ipswich. As a parent, I would recommend watching the fifteen minute documentary on BBC iPlayer if you are able to do so. The programme highlights the way that London drug gangs have targeted Ipswich to sell their drugs to a younger audience. They claimed that children as young as twelve



have been used to carry the drugs. They also covered some of the reasons why young people are attracted to being part of a gang.

In light of the programme, I have delivered assemblies to all year groups about the health and legal impacts of smoking and being caught in possession of cannabis. I hope you will help me by reinforcing the messages at home.

I also reminded students that, as an academy, we have a zero tolerance view towards any drug related issues entering the academy site. We have a duty to ensure that our students are safe and their well-being is paramount.

If you have any concerns about your son/daughter and the possible use of illegal drugs please do not hesitate to contact their Head or Assistant Head of House. We are here to work with and support parents and carers. It has become clear that many parents lack the knowledge of the current issues surrounding drug use and we intend to run an information evening early next term to address this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support through ensuring regular attendance and the wearing of correct uniform. Together we are making a difference to the achievements of young people here at Westbourne.

Yours sincerely



G Trott
Principal



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.atrust.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.atrust.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.atrust.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.atrust.org.uk

Limba română/Romanian - Informații/ General information letter

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