

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE
15 September 2017



Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome to a new academic year here at Westbourne Academy. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday and enjoyed the reasonably good weather. We also welcome 215 new students into Year 7 and they are settling in very successfully.

In August, we had some fantastic GCSE results. The Ofsted inspectors who came in December 2016 said they wanted students to make better progress and we are pleased to report that there has been significant improvement in this area.

I would like to thank the vast majority of you who have supported the high standards we expect in terms of uniform, behaviour for learning and attendance. We have been very impressed by the smart appearance of most students as they arrive for school in the mornings. You have been fantastic in the way you have adapted to the online ordering system for uniform and I thank you for your patience as a few items are still to arrive in the post. Our pastoral staff will be in touch with parents if trousers and shoes do not meet our uniform requirements and expectations.

This term we are fortunate to welcome a range of new staff to the academy who will make a significant contribution towards our continued improvement.

- Miss H McCollin - Teacher of Science
- Mr D Day - Teacher of Humanities
- Miss P Popat - Teacher of Maths
- Miss S Mazur - Teaching Assistant
- Mrs L Rickards - Learning Resource Centre Assistant

Mr Clarke and Mr Durrant, who worked for us as Teaching Assistants last year, are now starting their teacher training with us in History and Geography respectively. Mrs Jacobs has been appointed as our new Careers Advisor having previously been the LRC Coordinator.

I wanted to take this opportunity to outline some of the events that are taking place in the academy this term:

Friday 8th September – Academy Photographs: The school photographers were in school last week and parents will have an opportunity to purchase photographs when the proof cards/orders are sent home with students today. Please note that we are unable to give change so payment must be enclosed for the exact amount of your order.

Friday 15th September – Y7/Y8 PSHE Show: We are pleased to announce that we have arranged for students in Years 7 (period 2) and 8 (period 1) to take part in an interactive cyberbullying presentation by musician and singer, Sion Hill.

Thursday 21st September – Parent Information Evening (Year 7): This week, students in Year 7 were sent home with a letter inviting parents/carers to an information evening in the main hall between 6.00 – 7.00pm on 21st September. The purpose of the evening is to explain the new grading systems for GCSE, and ways in which you may support your child with studying at home. There will also be an opportunity for you to look at Accelerated Reader, MathsWatch and Show My Homework.

Friday 22nd September – Y9 PSHE/Drama Workshop: During periods 2 and 3, students in Year 9 will participate in a series of drug and alcohol awareness workshops called 'Who to Follow?' which are being delivered by the New Wolsey Theatre.

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Thursday 28th September – Year 6 Open Evening: Parents and pupils who are looking to transfer to high school in September 2018, will have an opportunity to look around the academy and talk with subject teachers and student ambassadors on the evening of Thursday 28th September between 6.00 – 8.00pm.

School place applications for the normal year of entry to high school are dealt with through Suffolk County Council's Admissions Team (0345-600-0981). The closing date for current Year 6 applications for Year 7 transfer to high school is midnight on 31 October 2017.

We still have spaces in Years 8, 9 and 10 and a few remaining in Year 7. If you have family or friends who are moving to the area or looking for a high school place, please ask them to contact us for an application form and Prospectus.

Thursday 5th October – Y11 Revision Information Evening: At 6.00pm there will be another opportunity for parents and students in Year 11 to participate in a revision skills workshop in the main hall.

Thursday 12th October – Careers Fair: Our annual careers fair for students in all year groups takes place in the main hall. A host of post-16 providers and local employers will be on hand to talk to students about apprenticeships, career pathways and post-16 education opportunities.

Thursday 16th November – 2016/2017 Academy Awards Evening

If your child is in current years 8 to 11 and receiving an award at this event, you will receive a separate letter of invitation.

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term Holiday

The academy is closed for a week at half term. Please note that Monday 30th October is a staff training day and the academy is closed to students. Students return on Tuesday 31st October 2017.

Parent Evenings & Parent/Tutor Meetings

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Parent Evening Thu 3 rd May'18 4 – 7pm	Parent Evening Thu 23 Nov'17 4 – 7pm	Pathway Evening Thu 15 March 4 – 7pm	Parent Evening Thu 11 Jan'18 4 – 7pm	Parent Evening Thu 1 Feb'18 4 – 7pm
Parent/Tutor Meetings w/c 16 Oct'17	Parent/Tutor Meetings w/c 14 May'18	Parent/Tutor Calls (Pathway/Options) w/c 19 Mar'18	Parent/Tutor Meetings w/c 4 Jun'18	Parent/Tutor Meetings w/c 31 Oct'17

Finance

As you will have no doubt heard in the media, schools in the UK are going to be facing significant funding pressures over the next couple of years. Westbourne Academy is no different. You may rest assured that we will always put the quality of your child's education first.

Increasingly over the year, our academy communication with parents will be sent by electronic means such as email and/or text message. It is therefore vital that you keep us up to date with your current mobile phone number and an email address. If you have changed your contact details or email address, please do contact us on 01473-466161 or 466148 so we can update your details. It is essential that we are able to contact you in the event your child fails to arrive at school for any reason or feels unwell. Your child's subject teachers, form tutors and Head of House may also need to contact you from time to time and we use mobile numbers to send automated text reminders about parent evenings, school trips and such like.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require more information. There is a wealth of information available on our academy website, including details of the new autumn Food Hall menus, the extra-curricular clubs and activities on offer to students, our shared calendar, term dates and safeguarding contact details. To receive regular updates and announcements, you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

We look forward to a positive half term.

Yours sincerely


Garry Trott - Principal