

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE
14 September 2018



Dear Parent

PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN – 1ST HALF AUTUMN TERM 2018

A warm welcome to a new academic year here at Westbourne Academy. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday and enjoyed the good weather. This year, we welcome 206 new students into Year 7 and they are settling in very successfully. In August, we had some pleasing GCSE results with 13 students achieving a level 9 in their GCSE Maths! Many students achieved well and have now embarked on their next stage of education at college or on an apprenticeship. We look forward to seeing them again at their graduation evening on Wednesday 14 November.

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 the majority of students as they arrive for school in the mornings. Our pastoral staff will be in touch with parents if there is a particular issue with uniform. We appreciate that some of you are waiting for your orders from Price & Buckland. We can supply replacement House Ties for £6 in school from the Assistant Heads of House (cash is accepted).

As part of our ongoing improvement, we are adopting 100% ties, leather/leather-look black shoes and basic equipment. If students forget their tie they will be loaned one for the day. Students who arrive without black shoes, who do not have an ongoing medical condition, will be loaned black shoes for the day. These shoes will be treated with antibacterial spray upon return. We are expecting all students to have two black pens, a pencil and a ruler out on the desk for all lessons where this is applicable. Staff will write in Standards Cards when this basic equipment is missing; so you will be able to check that your child is prepared for learning.

Our catering contract has been taken over by a new company called 'Chartwells.' I apologise for the late publication of menus as these were only presented to us recently. The new catering company are keen to give students variety and healthy options in terms of food. They also want to move away from the takeaway cardboard packaging, which had been part of the old catering company's service. Instead students will be served food on plates with cutlery so they may sit and eat at the table. This will also help eliminate the amount of food waste and litter left on the ground at break times. We are unsure what the implications will be on the duration of lunchtime in the longer term but we will be in touch if we need to change any timings.

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. We currently have a vacancy on our website for a Cover Supervisor, which would be ideal for somebody who is planning to take up teacher training.

- Miss K Cousins - Teacher of Languages
- Miss L Sharpe – Teacher of Science
- Mrs C Williamson - Teaching Assistant
- Mrs D Hutchinson – Teacher of Music
- Mrs K Jacobs has been appointed as the Assistant Head of House for Ramsey
- Miss L Compton – Teacher of English
- Mr B Myers - Teacher of Maths
- Mr J Clarke - Teacher of Religious Studies
- Mr C Littlechild – Teacher of Technology
- Mr A Durrant - Teacher of Geography
- Mr P McGrath – School Staff Instructor for Combined Cadet Force

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

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



Tuesday 25 September – Bin It! Roadshow: Students in Years 7 and 8 will be watching the Bin It! Roadshow in the main hall during lessons 3 and 4. This presentation forms part of their PSHE provision and we hope it will make them think about the effect that litter has on their local community and the wider environment.

Friday 28 September – MacMillan Cake Sale: Once again we will be holding our cake sale and baking competition in the main hall at morning break in order to raise funds for MacMillan. Students will hear more about this in assemblies.

Thursday 4 October – Year 6 Open Evening: Parents and pupils who are looking to transfer to high school in September 2019, will have an opportunity to look around the academy and talk with subject teachers and student ambassadors 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 2018. We have spaces in Years 7 and 10 and a few places remaining in Years 8, 9 and 11. If you have family or friends who are moving to the area or who are looking for a high school place (in year application), please ask them to contact Mrs Wiernicki on 01473-466136 for an application form and Prospectus.

Tuesday 16 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 15 November – 2017/2018 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 before half term.

Monday 22 – Monday 29 October – Half Term Holiday: The academy is closed for a week at half term. Please note that Monday 29 October is a staff training day and the academy is closed to students. Students return on Tuesday 30 October 2018.

Friday 21 December – End of Autumn Term: The last day of the autumn term will be Friday 21 December when students will be dismissed at the earlier time of 1.30pm after our traditional whole school assembly in the sports hall.

Parent Evenings 2018/2019:

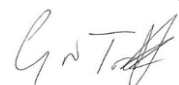
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Parent/Tutor Evening Thu 18 Oct 2018 3.30-5.30pm	Parent Evening Thu 22 Nov 3.30pm – 7.00pm	Pathway Evening Thu 14 March 6.00 – 8.00pm	Parent Evening Thu 17 Jan 3.30 – 7.00pm	Parent Evening Thu 7 Feb 3.30pm – 7.00pm
Parent Evening Thu 2 May 3.30pm – 7.00pm				

In a change to previous years, this year we will be giving parents an opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor at parent evenings (between 3.30-5.30pm for tutors and between 4.00-7.00pm for subject teachers). We will write to you approximately two weeks beforehand to let you know that the online appointment booking system is open.

We increasingly use mobile phones, email and text message to keep in contact with parents and carers. 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 tell us or send your child with a note from home 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