

Westbourne Academy

Marlow Road T 01473 742315
Ipswich F 01473 464825
Suffolk E office@westbourne.atrust.org.uk
IP1 5JN W www.westbourne.atrust.org.uk



Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTr/EPE

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Dear Parents/Carers



Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 16th December

As an academy community, we will be supporting Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16th December. In exchange for a £1 donation, which will be collected at the entrance gates in the morning, students are invited to come to school wearing a festive themed top or jumper. Students are still expected to wear their academy trousers and shoes but if they are wearing a festive jumper or top they do not need to wear their uniform shirt/tie, jumper or jacket. Students do not have to join in and anybody who chooses not to wear a festive jumper, should please wear their regulation uniform as normal.



Christmas Meal – Friday 16th December

As a prelude to the Christmas holidays, students will be offered a traditional roast turkey Christmas meal in the Food Hall on Friday 16th December. Students will need £2.20 in their cashless catering accounts in order to purchase the meal. The vegetarian alternative is a cheddar cheese and parsnip roulade. The speedy bar will only be open at morning break and not at lunchtime.

Whole School Assembly – Tuesday 20th December

On Tuesday 20th December, we will be holding a whole school assembly in the sports hall at 12.00noon. As a result students will be dismissed at the earlier time of 1.00pm approximately. Food will only be available at morning break; there will be no lunch time food service. Students will have lessons 1, 2 and tutor time as usual. Lesson 3 will be shortened to 40 minutes. At 11.50am the bell will ring and students will go back to their tutor bases before proceeding to assembly with their form tutors.

First Day Back – Thursday 5th January 2017

The last non-pupil day/staff training day for this academic year is on Wednesday 4th January. If you are booking a holiday for the summer or autumn of 2017, please first check our term dates which are listed on the academy's website.

Students return for the spring term on Thursday 5th January at 8.25am (week 1 of timetables). The timings for the first day back will change slightly. At 8.25am, students should report to their tutor bases where they will be given new standards cards and copy timetables. At 8.50am the bell will ring for lesson 1. At 9.50am the bell will ring for lesson 2. Morning break will be at 10.50am as usual. Lessons 3, 4, lunch and lesson 5 will continue as normal at the usual times.

Westbourne Academy Newsletter

Please look out for the next edition of our academy newsletter which will be sent home with students at the end of term. Within it you will find dates for your calendar, details about changes to GCSEs and grades, community news, post-16 advice and lots of useful resources and information for parents, carers and students.



Footwear

We appreciate that there are occasions when school shoes need replacing or repairing and can become unwearable as a result. Please be advised that students will be permitted to wear alternative footwear for a maximum of 2 school days when accompanied by a note from parents. On the third day, the academy will be providing students with a temporary pair of shoes to wear whilst they are in school. These shoes will need to be returned at the end of the school day.

House Charities

The generosity shown by parents, friends, family, students and staff when it comes to supporting the academy's fundraising efforts is always hugely appreciated. It is fair to say that what we have achieved over the years would not be possible without it. This term, House Ambassadors have liaised with their respective form groups and worked together to nominate a charity for their House to support.

Along with the Churchill Café which is open at lunchtimes to students in the LRC, Churchill are hosting a Christmas Karaoke disco in school in support of Guide Dogs for the Blind. This takes place on the evening of Thursday 15th December in the main hall. Students from all years and Houses are welcome to attend. Tickets and consent forms are available in school from Ms Salter at a cost of £2.50 per person.

Ennis are supporting BLISS, a charity that helps support the families of sick new born babies that need neonatal care. For Christmas, it was decided that we would bring this a little closer to home and we will be making Christmas boxes to deliver to parents who have to spend Christmas in the neonatal unit at Ipswich hospital.


Once again Nightingale have chosen to help the local Lighthouse Women's Refuge which is a charitable organisation based in Suffolk, providing emotional support to women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse in their personal or family relationships. They are looking for in date non-perishable foods, toiletries, personal hygiene products as well as good quality children's clothing, toys, games, books, colouring pencils, women's clothing and blankets. In addition, Nightingale have been busy collecting small gifts and groceries for making up into Christmas parcels for the elderly in our community.

Ramsey house are supporting the St Elizabeth Hospice and a troupe of hardy students lead by Mr Payne will be plunging into the icy waters off Felixstowe beach on Christmas Day.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank everybody who made a donation through school to the Ipswich Hospital Charity's Christmas Giving Tree. I know the charity organisers were overwhelmed by how generous everyone has been and they are well on their way to making sure all of their patients have a gift on Christmas Day. Westbourne Academy was one of the first schools and businesses in the Ipswich area to pledge their support to this appeal, which is also supporting community groups including the Ipswich Local Homelessness Partnership, the Lighthouse charity and the Salvation Army.

On behalf of the Trust, the staff and the governing body, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this term. We wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and a joyful 2017.

Yours sincerely



G Trott
Principal