

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE

27 February 2018

Dear Parents

SPRING TERM NOTICES

Price & Buckland Uniform Shop

Our uniform suppliers have asked us to advise you that the cost of certain uniform items will be rising on Thursday 1 March 2018. The last price increase was in February 2017. Prices for trousers and shirts remain unchanged. We appreciate that price rises are never welcome but they are inevitable and we do our utmost to ensure they are minimal. When comparing the cost of our uniform with other local schools, it still compares favourably and offers value for money. We have negotiated a special offer with Price & Buckland who have agreed to waive their usual £3.95 carriage charge and deliver uniform orders for free to home/work for the month of July 2018.

We have a supply of preloved jackets for sale in school in a range of sizes, costing £10 each. Please ask your child to speak to their Assistant Head of House in the first instance, if you wish to purchase or arrange to try one on.

Attendance

Attendance at the academy has been rising steadily and, at the end of academic year 2016/17, we were just 0.1% below the government's UK target of 95%. This term attendance has dropped by 2% to 93%, which is below the UK and our own academy target. The fluctuating temperatures in January and February resulted in a wave of illness striking students and staff alike but we look forward to whole academy attendance returning to its previously good levels as the cold, dark days of January and February pass us by.

In the event your child feels unwell at school, they will be seen by either their Assistant Head of House or a member of Students Services. If their condition is deemed serious enough to warrant going home, parents will be contacted. Please ensure that we are kept informed of any changes to mobile contact numbers or changes in circumstance, ie moving house.

Free School Meals

It is now quicker and easier to apply for Free School Meals (FSM). For the majority of claimants, there is no longer any need to send proof of benefits with the application form. Suffolk County Council will check eligibility against the Government's benefits database and, as long as you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, the provision of Free School Meals will commence. Since January 2018, all applications for FSM are dealt with online by Suffolk County Council; there is a link on the Parents page of our website.

If your child is currently entitled to a FSM, please remind them to use their daily allowance of £2.20 in the Food Hall, at morning break or at lunchtime. If the daily allowance is not spent by the end of lunch at 2.50pm, it cannot be carried over to the following day. There are in the region of 70 students who receive the FSM allowance at the academy but who are not using it and we would encourage them to do so. Vertas have launched a new range of hot and cold food this half term; full details may be found on our website under Students/Catering & Food Hall.

The FSM allowance is accessed through the academy's biometric fingerprint (or 4 digit PIN) system and parents can also top up their child's allowance through ParentPay or PayPoint if they wish to do so.



The daily FSM allowance will not show as a £2.20 credit on a cashless catering account. The total available spend will show as £0.00 but food and drink up to the value of £2.20 can be deducted from the FSM allowance each day. Any additional money that you pay into your child's catering account is spent *after* the FSM allowance has been deducted, ie the FSM allowance is always used up first.

Academy Uniform Expectations

Many thanks to the vast majority of you who support us to keep uniform standards high. We appreciate that there are occasions when school shoes need replacing 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, we will provide 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.

A number of students are opting to wear trainers to school in the mornings. We recognise that some students travel significant distances to and from school. Students are welcome to change out of their trainers on arrival at school or during break time if they are playing on the field so long as they change into their school shoes before lessons.

At present, it is expected that students will come to school in their full academy uniform. As and when the decision arises to apply warm weather rules (ie when jumpers are optional), students will be informed in school by their class teachers.

Academy Calendar

We will shortly be announcing the confirmed staff training days for 2018/2019 and this information will be posted on our academy website. Below is a summary of key dates and events this term:

Mon 26 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV immunisation for Y8 girls (and Y9 girls catch-up) subject to written consent.
Tue 27 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.30 - 10.30am: Support Your Child in Literacy with Ms Abbott; open to all parents. 6.00 – 7.00pm: The above Support Your Child event is repeated.
Wed 14 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.30 – 10.30am: Support Your Child at KS4 with Ms Abbott; open to parents of students in Years 10/11. 6.00 – 7.00pm: The above Support Your Child event is repeated.
Thu 15 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from all years will be dismissed at the earlier time of 2.30pm. Period 5 will be reduced to 40 minutes. There will be no extra-curricular clubs, after school detentions or period 6 sessions for Year 11. Key Stage 4 Pathway information evening for Year 9 students and their parents between 6.00 – 8.00pm. Further details will be emailed and sent home with students shortly.
Tue 20 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.00 – 9.00pm: Achieving Maths Success event in the main hall for Year 11 students.
Wed 21 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.00 – 9.00pm: Battle of the Bands musical event in the main hall. Further information to follow from Mrs Tinkler.
Thu 29 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kittle Photography will be with us to take friendship photos of Year 11s at lunchtime and a panoramic photograph in period 5 (full uniform must be worn).
Fri 30 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two weeks Easter holiday starts with Good Friday. Students return for the first day of the summer term on Mon 16 April (week 1). Students will report to tutor bases on arrival at 8.25am with period 1 starting at 8.50am.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. I look forward to meeting Year 9 students and parents on 15 March and to sharing the next edition of our academy newsletter with you in the next couple of weeks.

Yours sincerely



Garry Trott
Principal