



# Great Wyrley Academy

**A part of the Windsor Academy Trust**

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Dear Parent/Guardian

As we reach the end of this most unusual, extraordinary and most difficult and demanding academic year any of us have ever known, we have a lot to reflect back upon. I want to begin this end of year letter to you by firstly thanking my staff here at Great Wyrley Academy. Without their professionalism, dedication, resolve and flexibility, providing remote learning would've been so much more difficult. I wouldn't want to work with any other staff. They have been brilliant. I also want to thank and pay tribute to you, the parents and carers, who have adapted so incredibly to the circumstances and have helped so diligently with home-schooling.

Whilst I'm waxing lyrical I must mention our students. The lockdown has demonstrated what I already knew; just how brilliant the young people we have the privilege to work with everyday actually are. Their dedication and positivity in the face of adversity has been incredible. The collective resolve of our whole school community makes me so proud to be Headteacher of Great Wyrley Academy.

The lockdown has meant that so many planned celebrations and events have been harshly cancelled. We have missed out honouring the many and varied successes that our students have at awards evening. It was such a shame that the exams that Year 11 and 13 students had been working towards were abruptly halted before they began. They had been working so hard and I know they would have performed brilliantly. Students also unfortunately missed out on exciting trips, including skiing in France and visiting Krakow and sadly Year 10 couldn't complete their work experience. The important 'rite of passage' that is the Year 11 Prom will hopefully be rearranged as a Winter Ball. When we reflect back on this unprecedented time I hope we take comfort from our continued health and wellbeing. We will do everything we can to make up for students' lost experiences wherever we can.

Many students have received acknowledgement of their efforts via our Character Awards. The ASPIRE virtues that run throughout Windsor Academy Trust have been recognised by the teachers in the work and efforts of the students during lockdown. Some incredible work has been produced by many of our young people and much has been celebrated on our social media platforms. Well done to everyone who has received these rewards.

Lockdown has meant that we have been able to start many of the planned improvements to the school site early. Serious structural improvements have been made to the parapet roof above the school hall already and new toilets have been fitted in the theatre block, which has also been decorated. Many of you will have seen the investment in the school's sporting facilities already; as I write this we are putting the finishing touches to the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).



Having a state-of-the-art 3G pitch at Great Wyrley Academy is a brilliant investment for use by our students and the local community. I can't wait for it to be in use.

## Hello and Goodbye

Just before the lockdown began our receptionist Miss Barnes left us to pursue other ventures. In addition to this Mr Peacock is leaving us to start another part-time MFL role at QMGS in Walsall in September, having taught at GWA for three years. We wish them both well for the future.

I'm also sad to announce that Mrs Osbourne is leaving us at the end of the academic year. Mrs Osbourne has taught at Great Wyrley for seventeen years and helped make Business Studies into the most successful department in the school. We are desperately sad to be losing her and know that our loss will very much be Aldridge School's gain. I hope you will join me in thanking Mrs Osbourne for her tireless and committed service to the students of Great Wyrley Academy.

I'm pleased to announce some new staff who will be joining us in September:

Mr Pattinson - Curriculum Lead for Business Studies

Miss Slade - Teacher of Drama/English

Miss Nicholson - Assistant SENCO

Miss Jackson - Admin Assistant.

In addition, Mr Bourne will be based at Cheslyn Hay Academy on secondment, although he will remain as our SENCO and will still be in school regularly. Finally, Mr Fielder has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher from September.

## School reopening - Autumn Term September 2020

We must now turn our attention to September. I know that you are all eager to understand how a full return to school will work. I will endeavour to explain all here. The plans will also be available on our school website.

We have followed the government guidance closely and have tried to mitigate the risks that reopening the school for 600 people brings. Ensuring the safety of all the staff and students at all times is paramount.

I have previously communicated with you plans to alter the timings of the school day. We must now override these plans to enable us to stagger the start and end of the school day for all year groups.

We will be staggering the start of the Autumn Term for students.

**Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12** students will start back on **Thursday 3rd September**.

**Year 8, 9 and 10** students will start back on **Monday 7th September**.

**Year 13** students will start back on **Friday 4th September** and will be in school between 10am and 12noon.

The staggered start and dismissal times are as follows (these times will remain in place until further notice)-

	Staggered Start time	Staggered Dismissal time
Year 7	8.30am	2.40pm
Year 8	8.35am	2.45pm
Year 9	8.40am	2.50pm
Year 10	8.45am	2.55pm
Year 11	8.50am	4.00pm *

\* From September Year 11 students will attend a compulsory Period 7 on Monday - Thursday (On Fridays they will be dismissed at 3pm). Period 7 will be our opportunity to accelerate progress and will take the form of subject-specific intervention, revision and guided study. **This will commence from Monday 14 September.**

The school day will run as follows-

	<b>Time</b>
<b>Tutor time</b>	Staggered from 8.30
Period 1	9.00 - 9.50
Period 2	9.50 - 10.40
<b>Break</b>	10.40 - 10.50
Period 3	10.50 - 11.40
Period 4	11.40 - 12.30
<b>Lunch</b>	12.30 - 1.00
Period 5	1.00 - 1.50
Period 6	1.50 - 2.40
<b>Tutor time</b>	Dismissal staggered from 2.40
<b>Break</b>	Year 11 only 3.00 - 3.10
<b>Period 7</b>	Year 11 only 3.10 - 4.00

Each year group has a designated entry point into the building. Upon arriving in school this is where they must go (they will not be permitted to use another entrance)

The entry points are-

Year 7 - Science block

Year 8 - Under the bridge into the main quad

Year 9 - Canteen external door (by Mrs Moore's office)

Year 10 - Old humanities / Sixth form block (by minibuses)

Year 11 - Main school reception entrance

School will be split into year group zones and the majority of lessons will be delivered in these distinct zones. Students will only move out for certain lessons (IT, PE, Art / DT, Music and Drama). To assist with this, students will be given coloured lanyards to wear.

Until Tuesday 8 September only the main entrance gates will be open and students will be met and directed to their designated zone.

### **Before school**

Students who arrive early to school (before their designated time) will be able to sit in their Year group zone until tutor time starts. However, no food will be available and students must not go anywhere else around the site other than their designated zone.

### **Food – Break and Lunch time**

Students will have their break and lunch in their zones as well. Year groups will not be permitted to mix. All zones will have an allocated outdoor area and students will be permitted to use the new 3G MUGA on rotation during the week.

At break time no food will be available to purchase. This will hopefully change as we become more accustomed to the new arrangements.

At lunch time food will be taken to each zone for distribution and purchasing, or students may bring their own packed lunches. We will continue to use a cashless system; however, students will be unable to charge their account in-school via the finger-print scanner. Instead this must be accessed via the Scopay app or website <https://www.scopay.com/greatwyrley> (if you require access to this please email [jkavanagh@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:jkavanagh@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)). Year 7 will receive access codes in September.

### **Pastoral system – High expectations**

Although students will remain in their assigned houses, we will temporarily be moving to a Year pastoral system to enable us to monitor the year group zones. Heads of Year will be-

Year 7 - Mrs Foyle

Year 8 - Mrs Bailey

Year 9 - Mr McFarlane

Year 10 - Mrs Drury

Year 11 - Mrs McCarthy

Normal high standards of uniform are expected. A full list is available on the school website. The only exception from September will be on the days when students have their double lesson of PE. Students will be permitted to come to school in their PE kit on this specific day as no changing facilities for PE will be available in school.

PE kit will have to be correct (as per our uniform regulations), smart and clean. Only school PE tracksuits and PE hoodie / jumpers will be allowed. No branded hoodies.

Students will need to bring their own equipment with them. Whilst this has always been expected it is crucial from September. Please ensure that your child brings with them a bag and all of the essential equipment they need for their lessons - pens, pencils, crayons, ruler, calculator, apron (D&T). In addition, we are recommending that students in Year 10 and 11 obtain the set GCSE English texts: 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley, 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson and 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare.

Homework will be set on Google Classroom and be known as 'Remote Learning'. This is because it has worked so successfully during lockdown and to cut down on the amount of paper handed out to reduce contact. Students will be assigned to new Google classrooms as per their new timetables in September. This will also mean that, should we go into another lockdown or partial lockdown, we will have continuity of their education.

Government guidance is that student attendance, from September, is compulsory. As such we will be enforcing the usual attendance policy and procedures. Having already missed several months of face-to-face learning it is crucial that you do not take holidays during term time and that students attend school unless they are poorly.

You will be aware of our Prepared for Excellence behaviour and rewards system. This will be running from September with the added expectation that students will respect and abide by the social distancing principles where appropriate. Additional guidance will be given to students regarding this in September.

### **Public transport**

As per the government guidance, the use of public transport should be avoided wherever possible. If students are able to come to school by any other means, then it should be encouraged. If this is unavoidable, it is statutory for them to wear a face mask whilst on the bus / train.

## **PPE**

Based on government guidance, students and staff are not permitted to wear face masks or other PPE in school. Those wearing them on public transport will have to remove face masks before getting into school. Neither should students bring to school their own hand sanitiser. We have soap dispensers in all toilets and hand sanitiser stations around the school site. We will be actively promoting hand washing and good hygiene during the school day.

## **School site access and parking**

To help support our staggered starts and ends to the day, I ask you to consider the safety of the staff and students by not driving onto the school site if the gates are open. It is not permitted for you to park in the school grounds, nor on Hall Lane where double yellow lines are clearly marked. Increased patrols by traffic wardens will be in place in September. Additionally, if you wish to see a member of staff it must be via prior appointment. Where possible please speak to staff over the phone. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

## **Chromebooks**

If you have loaned a Chromebook and charger during the lockdown period can this be brought back into school during the week commencing Monday 17 August and handed in to reception.

Thank you once again for the excellent support you have provided us this year as parents and carers, particularly with home schooling; I know you appreciate how important that partnership is for success. I hope you all have a relaxing summer and a pleasant few weeks. I look forward to welcoming all the students back at the start of September, refreshed and ready for the rigours of a new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton  
Headteacher

## **Key dates**

- 1 September – Staff INSET
- 2 September – Staff INSET
- 3 September – Years 7, 11 & 13 return to school
- 4 September – Year 12 return / enrol
- 7 September – Years 8, 9 & 10 return to school
- 25 September – Staff INSET
- 23 October – Break up for half term