



Great Wyrley Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Ref:mne/gwaadmin/end of term reflection

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End of Term Reflection

Dear Parents / Carers and Students

As we near Christmas there is much to reflect on and be positive about in school. Staff and students have had to endure much upheaval and change to the site and daily routines since we returned in September. There has been a real 'Dunkirk' spirit – staff have been willing and adaptable; students have been incredibly resilient and upbeat. As a result, we have managed to successfully deliver our normal curriculum - albeit in year group bubbles and zones. This has meant that, despite the unusual circumstances and the many changes, we have been able to look forwards and continue to make improvements to the school. We have continued to benefit from the support of being a member of Windsor Academy Trust. The impact of the investment and professionalism from WAT policies and personnel makes a tangible difference every single day to the Great Wyrley Academy school community.

We have encountered many challenges this term; staggering the start and end of the day, delivering food in five different venues, extra cleaning, keeping bubbles separate, responding calmly and correctly when we receive a positive Covid-19 case; the list goes on. We have adapted and ensured that your child receives the best quality of education we can provide in the safest way possible. Ahead of us there are many more challenges in the new year. The roll-out of the vaccine will hopefully allow us to return to 'normal' in the future; for now, this is a long-way off so we must continue to be resilient, follow the HANDS – FACE – SPACE guidance and look after one another. **Please remember that wearing a face mask in communal spaces and corridors in compulsory. Please ensure that your child brings a mask to school each day.**

What we do know is that schools will be expected to remain open. We will have the rapid lateral flow testing available in school from January - meaning that bubbles won't need to be sent home any longer. It is therefore imperative that all our students attend school. They cannot afford to miss any more of their education. Attendance is the greatest predictor of outcomes. You have to attend to benefit fully from the life opportunities school will help you access in the future. We will be placing greater emphasis on attendance and punctuality in 2021.

Reporting Positive Covid-19 cases

We wouldn't normally expect parents / carers to report student illness during holidays. We are, however, obliged to provide test and trace information to Public Health England about new Covid-19 cases up until Christmas Eve.



Should your child test positive for Covid-19 up until Christmas Eve could you please report it via email to info@greatwyrley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk Somebody from school will then be in touch with you.

Despite the restrictions and changes we have much to celebrate this term. We held our annual Open Evening in late September. In addition to having a virtual tour we held a small number of face-to-face tours led by the Leadership Team around an empty school site. These were very well received in the community. Students have engaged well with their remote learning – both as homework and if they were forced to self-isolate. We have also engaged in a number of virtual activities including most recently a dance showcase across the Trust. Last week we launched our school improvement strategy powered-up by digital technology. All Year 7 now have access to an iPad to assist their learning. Already Year 7 students are doing some brilliant things in lessons. I look forward to seeing them in full use in the new year.

Classcharts

To help celebrate the positive behaviour we have invested in 'Classcharts'. To help support this we will be grateful if you could download the 'Classcharts Parent App' and encourage your child to download the 'Classcharts Student App'. Mr Studholme will have sent your log-in details in a separate communication.

We will always have the highest of expectations in all aspects of school life, both on-site and in the local community. These expectations are based on traditional values and underpinned by honesty, integrity and transparency in the way we do things. Our ethos of 'Relentlessly Pursuing Excellence' is the cornerstone of our community and we will continue in 2021 to develop our culture and values. They have to be an intrinsic part of who we are and what we do.

Students are fully aware of what the 'non-negotiables' of being a part of Great Wyrley Academy are and how these positively impact the running of the school and the education they receive. We place a huge emphasis on attendance, punctuality, smart uniform and correct equipment. These are fundamentally important and need to be right every day. Students know that not meeting these basic standards will result in them being challenged. When we return after Christmas we will continue to expect the highest of standards from all our students. Please note that hoodies are banned in school and must be removed at the school gate (In the cold weather students may wear a coat over their blazers, but not inside the building). Mobile phones will be confiscated if seen or heard between 8am and 3pm and facial piercings are prohibited.

We are still on course to make Great Wyrley Academy the school of choice in the local area. In the new year we will continue to seek investment in the school building and the site as we improve the facilities further. Looking ahead, the stakeholders in the school – the staff, students, parents and local community all have a role to play in cementing the school's reputation. In 2021 we are likely to have this reputation validated externally by Ofsted. Working together, we can ensure that students enjoy school, make good progress and leave as responsible, well-qualified, mature young people ready to make a valuable contribution to society. Thank you all for your support this academic year so far. I wish you all a safe Christmas and a better New Year.

Yours sincerely



Ian Moreton
Headteacher

Spring term 2021 arrangements

(The following is based on what we know to be correct as of Friday 18 December 2020)

As you will be aware from the media, there will be a staggered start to the Spring term with only exam year groups in school for the first week.

Monday 4 January will now be an Extraordinary Logistical Planning day for staff only. School is closed to all students on this day.

On **Tuesday 5 January 2021 Year 11 need to arrive at their normal time of 8.50am.** Period 7 will not run for Year 11 during the first week and will begin again on Monday 11 January.

Also, on **Tuesday 5 January 2021 Year 13 need to arrive at their normal times** for lessons and will continue to follow the previously communicated mock exam timetable.

The only other students in school during the first week of term will be critical workers' children and a small number who we have communicated with separately. If you qualify as a critical worker, your child is in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12 and you require supervision of your child during this week please complete the following [form](#)

For all other year groups- Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 – lessons will be done online for the first week of term as per the government announcement. **Students will need to log in to Google Classroom – beginning at 9.00am (Period 1) on Tuesday 5 January.** They will follow their normal timetable all week.

If your child needs a device to access the remote learning lessons, please contact school on Monday 4 January and arrange to collect one for use that week.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, you will receive a separate communication about the arrangements at the beginning of the spring term.

Year 7, 8, 9 10 and 12 return to school on Monday 11 January at their usual times.

There will be separate arrangements communicated to the small number of students in Year 12 who have external exams during the first week.