

Year 8 at West Hill School



West Hill School

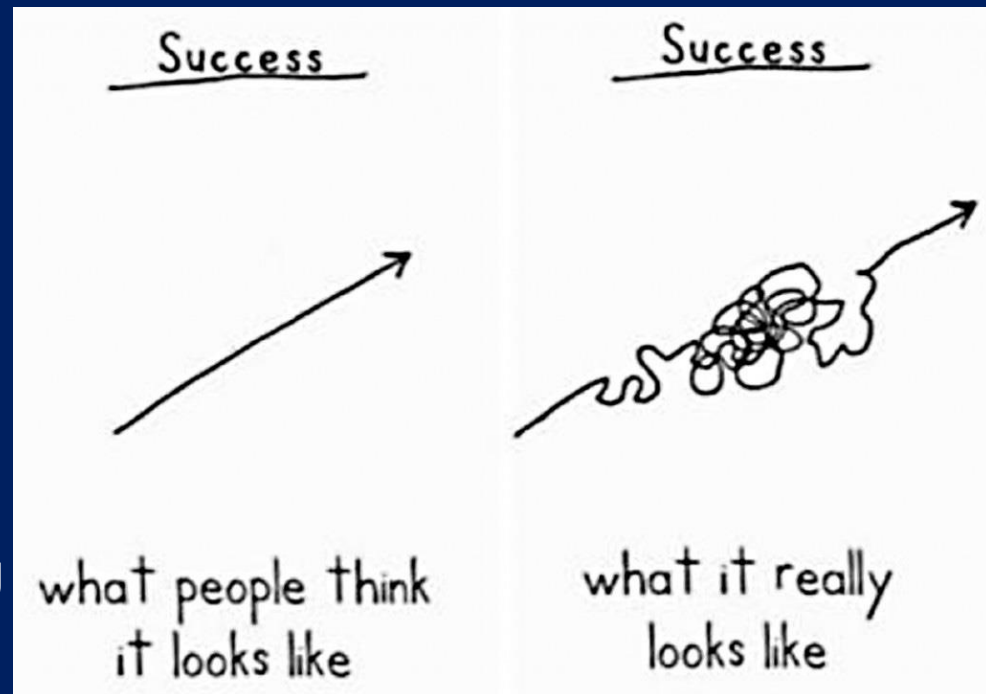
Aiming High Since 1927



The progress journey so far

Your son is 1 year into his 5 year journey!

- Hard Work
- Great moments
- Challenges
- All sorts of emotions
- **FAILURE: First Attempt In Learning**



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



Importance of Year 8

The attitude can be:

- In year 8 there are no tests of any great importance, no big decisions to make, and nothing is particularly new or exciting anymore. New school is now old hat. What's more, it is often the year in which students' hormones begin to rage. As a result, towards the end of year 7 and during year 8, students begin to get demotivated and their progress slows or stalls.
- If the problem is that year 8 isn't regarded as new or exciting, then we need to make it feel new and exciting. If the problem is that year 8 is the year in which students usually start puberty and their hormones kick in with a vengeance as they begin the journey towards maturity, then we need to recognise this increasing maturity.
- If the problem is that year 8 is regarded as a meaningless stop-gap year, then we need to make it feel meaningful and use assessment and feedback to motivate students to make better progress.

This a research based approach from Sec Ed



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



Key things for success in Year 8

- Continue to follow the 3Rs
- Be here! Exemplary Attendance (96%+)
- Be punctual
- Be organised – equipment
- Complete Home learning
- Attend co-curricular clubs
- Go above and beyond in all subjects and display excellent learning habits
- Respond effectively to feedback
- Be polite, kind and an approachable person

The West Hill Way, Excellence and Success

Ready looks like:

- When inside, hoods down, hats off.
- Learning from our mistakes to enjoy our successes.
 - Being on time.
 - Being equipped to learn.
- No mobile phones distracting us during the school day.

Respectful looks like:

- Hands off others.
- Walking on the left when inside buildings.
- Indoor voices for a calm environment.
- Listening and valuing the voices of other students.
- Sitting inside to eat our meals, tidying our plates and litter.

Responsible looks like:

- Using the subject habits to be a successful learner.
 - Supporting peers as an upstander.
- Honestly reflecting on our behaviour and its impact.
- Always doing the right thing, showing our manners.



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



Change

- Friendship groups – met new people along the way
- Hormones
- No longer the youngest in the school
- Family dynamics

...But all of this is normal and OKAY!



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



What we ask of parents

- Support us, even when decisions are tough
- Monitor home learning
- Attend meetings/events that concern your child



Reach more parents

- Continuous parental contact via direct messaging to subject teachers and Head of Year
- You can track attendance, behaviour and achievement
- Keep up-to-date with all things West Hill via the news feed (similar to social media)
- Monitor home learning



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



Attendance

96%

- Any absence could result in:
- Missing key information from subjects
- Missing important deadlines
- Missing friendships, co-curricular and trips
- Missing IDP and character development opportunities



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



Home learning and Policy

- Why home learning is set:
 - *Teaches students to manage their time*
 - *Builds independence*
 - *Extends knowledge*
 - *Builds subject confidence*
 - *Allows the subject teacher to assess their learning/knowledge*
 - *It is a life skill – in future employment students may have to take work home and manage their own workload.*
 - *Homework may practice or extend what has been learnt in lesson and strengthen knowledge and learning.*
 - *Or prepare students for learning to come in future lessons.*
- **School policy: once per week/per subject, 30 mins.**

'Evidence-based research has shown that students who regularly complete homework tend to make greater academic progress than those who don't' – Education Endowment Foundation



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927



What we will do to support your child

- Keep them safe
- Provide them with a caring environment in which you thrive
- Give them a chance to grow, develop and improve
- Let them know when things aren't going well and how they can make it better
- Listen and act

However, none of the above can happen without you being on board



West Hill School

Aiming High Since 1927

