



# WEST HILL SCHOOL

*Aiming High since 1927*

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## Subject: End of half-term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we break up for half-term on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 2:55pm, it is time to reflect on a busy few weeks. As you know, our Year 11s are in full swing of their GCSE exam series, many students are half-way through their exams at this point. As a year group that did not sit any KS2 SATS, due to Covid restrictions, we do not overlook that these are the first formal exams that they have taken. Their exam conduct has been excellent, their resilience has shone and we are very proud of them - and the amount of toast, pastries and apples they are consuming each morning! Our wider school have conducted themselves respectfully around our exam areas too, which is pleasing to observe. Our planned fire drill was impeccable with silence from boys, clear routines and therefore the drill was completed in less than 10 minutes. Another **thank you** to you, for your support around helmet and bike safety, and for supporting us with communication around blazers and uniform in hot weather. This has led to smooth days in school with families and school staff working together to ensure students are clear around expectations, and therefore, minimum disruption to learning. Our stance of bike helmets will remain as a standard expectation to keep our boys safe: boys arriving without helmets will have bikes stored by us, until a helmet is brought to school or a parent/carer collects their bike.

### Key Dates for Next Half-Term to Aid your Planning:

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Return for normal school day and beginning of Year 8 Assessment Week 2.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** Year 10 Form Tutor Consultation (FTC) and Post-16 Information Evening, 3:30-6:30pm (in-person). FTC will take place in the school canteen with post-16 information available from post-16 providers in the Main Hall and face-to-face presentations about next steps in our Conference Room.

**W/C 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 7 and 9 reports sent, electronically.

**W/C 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** Year 8 reports sent, electronically and Year 10 mock exams commence.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 11 Leavers' Prom.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Year 6 parents 'transition evening'.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Year 6 student 'transition day' in school and Year 10 Ashton Sixth Form College visit.

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 10 Tameside College/Clarendon Sixth Form visit.

**W/C 7<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 10 Careers Week/Work Experience.

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Sports Day (9<sup>th</sup> July as the reserve day).

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Activities Day for years 7-9.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 9 & 10 Celebration Evening, invite only, 5pm.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July:** Year 7 & 8 Celebration Evening, invite only, 5pm.

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** 12pm school dismissal for school holiday.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September-Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:** Inset Days: staff attendance only.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** School reopens for students.

Please refer to Mrs Barton's separate newsletter outlining upcoming community events in the summer term.

### Communication Platform to and from School: Volunteers

We are in the construction stages of our new parent/carer and student communication app that will be rolled out to all parents in the final weeks of summer term. The new app allows parents/carers to access school data, reports, trip information, details about achievement and behaviour but also allows contact with staff in a clearer manner. I am seeking a small group of parent/carer volunteers who are happy to download the app and help us ensure its features are easy to use. If you are willing and able, please email [admin@westhillschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@westhillschool.co.uk) subject: Volunteer and we will communicate the steps and ways to feedback on the app. This will have an optional face-to-face meeting but your support could just be virtual.

**Gate and Site Security**

Our project around site safety improvements will commence in May half-term with our back and fence perimeter and gates, altered. During the summer break, the front fence will be improved/extended alongside the installation of two intercom gates ensuring that we become a more secure site for September when our school community returns.

**Staff Leavers**

On Friday we say goodbye to our Business Studies trainee teacher Mr Abobaker who has been incredible for our learners and has secured a role overseas for his first teaching position. We also say goodbye to two members of our Science team, Mr Carty our Head of Science and Ms Thirkettle our Science Technician. We thank our staff for their long commitment to the school over the years, and wish them every success in their future endeavours. We welcome our new Head of Science, Mr Tabernor from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June to ensure minimal impact on the learning of our students.

**Parent/Carer Voice**

When we return after half-term, we will launch our end of year parent/carers survey with a two-week period to complete. I encourage as many families as possible to complete this; it really allows us to hear the positives about our school but also to act on developments from your experiences as families this year.

For our Year 11 families, a goodbye from us and well wishes to you and your sons, separate Year 11 correspondence will follow around reminders on key dates for the summer and results collection. Thank you for your investment and support in our school and your son, we hope to have met or exceeded your expectation around our investment in your son, too.

Have a lovely half-term break, once it arrives, and we will eagerly greet our students back on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Kind regards,

Ms. C Cronin