



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High since 1927

Headteacher: **Ms C Cronin (MA)**

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Tuesday 21st October 2025

Subject: Autumn, end of half-term

Dear families,

As our first half-term of the academic draws to close, I start with the usual appreciation and thank you to you as our parent body. We have made plenty of changes to improve the school site and provision, alongside the new communication platform that we are still embedding, but your support and feedback has been much appreciated. The boys have had a terrific start to the school year, and I am incredibly proud to see their enjoyment of school, engagement in the student cabinets and leadership opportunities alongside their pride in keeping our school smart, tidy and respected. We owe a big thank you to all who took part in *Hello Yellow* this month, in total we raised £489.42 for the YoungMinds charity alongside some poignant student-led assemblies discussing mental health.

After October half-term, we return to school on Monday 3rd November 2025, for a normal school day. Our uniform code resumes with trousers only, summer shorts are no longer to be worn, with the reintroduction to shorts in our summer term. On the thread of being prepared for school, I would like to ask that all families check that boys are fully equipped for learning with school bags, and a top-up of pens/pencils occurs so that all boys are ready to learn. Additionally, for any families of boys who cycle into school, it is a reminder that bike helmets should be worn by all boys. May I take this chance to remind families that despite having gates, we do not have drop-offs or collections on the school site, for safety of all boys entering and exiting via the central driveways. Thank you for your understanding.

Upcoming Events next Half-term:

Monday 27th October-Friday 31st October: Half-term week.

Monday 3rd November: Students return to school and Year 11 in-class assessment week.

W/C 24th November: Year 11 academic reports issued.

Thursday 4th December: Year 11 parents' consultation evening.

W/C 8th December: KS3 English, Maths and Science assessment week. Year 10 academic reports issued.

Monday 8th-Tuesday 9th December: Carol Concert.

W/C 15th December: Celebration evenings of student achievement: invitation-only event.

Friday 19th December: End of term, 12:30pm dismissal of all students for holidays.

Tuesday 6th January: Students return to school and Year 10 in-class assessment week.

Community Events

Our Winter Fair is just around the corner, on Sunday 30th November 11am-2pm. Alongside games and fundraising activities, we will also be selling uniform from our Unicycle shop and running a partywear pop-up for those wanting to grab a bargain ahead of the festive season. The fair is here, on the school grounds, for all the family to enjoy; if you have younger children and would like to book in to visit Santa, please fill out this form: [Santa's Grotto booking](#). We also open our fair to makers, bakers, crafters and creators in the community. If you, or someone you know, would like a stall at our fair, please fill out the following booking form: [Stallholder form](#). We will be asking for volunteers closer to the time, so please keep an eye out via the West Hill app for messages from Mrs Barton.

Throughout the month of November, our staff will be fundraising for Young Lives vs Cancer as they participate in *Movember*. Boys will be spoken to about this, and opportunities that they can join in, by Mr Williams who is leading the team effort. For any families who can donate, we would greatly appreciate the support for a worthy cause that some of our boys in school benefit from. Our social media pages will be updated with a direct link to support via our school JustGiving page.

**Parent/Carer Survey**

As outlined in the summer, this year we will move to request as many families as possible to complete a start of year and end of year Ofsted-style survey, moving to two instead of three. These take less than 5 minutes and are fully anonymous. It allows for us to identify patterns, celebrate what is going well and share this with our staff and review ways to continue to improve. As a result of these surveys, many changes have occurred over the three years, thank you. Surveys are now open and will **close on Friday 7th November at 4pm**. Once again, this is anonymous so requests for us to contact you are impossible, queries like this should come through direct contact to the school via the West Hill School app, email or telephone. In the summer we had 103 parental responses, I would love for this to be higher, ensuring we have a broader range of views. For our new families, we conduct a similar voice with the students and staff to enable senior leaders to identify common patterns and ensure all voices are heard.

Family survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/sEm1TP2eSS> or via the QR code below



Thank you for your continued support on our journey to excellence and a personal thank you for the excellent attendance to the events we have held this year, alongside kind words that have been shared around the satisfaction and recognition of the hard work our team are proud to provide your son.

Kind regards,

Ms C. Cronin