WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High since 1927

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

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Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear families,

Please let me begin with a huge welcome to our newest parents and families, your sons have been incredibly resilient, personable and kind throughout their induction and again today in school. Our Year 8-11s have been kind and their usual personable and chatty selves too, making for a warm community atmosphere in school today. Genuinely, today was a lovely day with lots of discussion and excitement from the boys all around the site. As our Student Leadership and Council teams reboot, and our co-curricular clubs begin, please encourage your son's participation in wider school activities to help all students find a place and a team, leading to greater enjoyment of school.

Some key dates for the term are laid out below in this brief welcome back letter, but I wanted to take the time for some start of the year housekeeping too. Thank you to the vast majority of families for ensuring that your son was punctual, smartly dressed and prepared for school today. It is a reminder that students should attend with full equipment in a school bag. We have loaned some students equipment today, without behaviour cautions, but would ask for checks to occur to ensure that all boys are independently responsible for their learning, removing all barriers to doing so. Another reminder around students who cycle to school; all boys are expected to wear a helmet as anyone who arrives without one will have their bike kept in storage until a helmet is brought to school. We appreciate the battle this is but for road safety, we know that we have your backing in ensuring they are safe and responsible on the roads. Finally, another reminder that no drop offs or collections should occur on site or along the busy main road, instead the roads to the side and back of school have plenty of parking and side gate pedestrian access to and from school (accessibility issues or injuries are exempt) this does include taxi drop offs and collections when ordering.

The half-term ahead

Wednesday 9th September 2026: School photographs for Years 7, 9 and 11.
Wednesday 9th September 2026: Year 10 families invited to GCSE welcome evening, 5pm. Details to follow.
Thursday 24th September 2026: 1:30pm dismissal for Open Evening setup for Year 5-6 parents.
Thursday 1st October 2026: Year 9 and 10 Form Tutor Consultation on site, 3:30-6:30pm.
Friday 2nd October 2026: Inset Day 3, no students on-site.
Friday 9th October 2026: World Mental Health Day celebrated in school.
Thursday 22nd October 2026: Year 7 and 8 Form Tutor Consultation on site, 3:30-6:30pm.
Monday 26th October-Friday 30th October 2026: Half-term.
Monday 2nd November 2026: students return to school, normal timetable day.
Monday 2nd November 2026: Year 11 in-class assessment week.
Monday 9th November 2026: Anti-bullying Week including Odd Socks Day.
Wednesday 11th November 2026: Remembrance Day and 11am silence.*
*Any students with an external, voluntary uniformed-organisation may wear these uniforms for the day on the 11th November, such as Cadets, Scouts and St John's and celebrate remembrance with Ms Cronin in the Quad.

As you may have read or watched, there is greater national strategy around attendance in schools. Our Attendance Team will be outlining key information to you about the changes in further communication, however, something to note to all families is that any arrival after 9:15am constitutes a 'U' code and acts as a period of absence. If your child uses public transport from further afield, and is ever late on public transport, please contact the office or the West Hill App to make us aware of the delay to their travel.

The results from our parent voice surveys are summarised overleaf. Thank you for the feedback with actions for us to review and refine to continue to offer the best we can to our families and boys. From everyone here at West Hill School, we look forward to the year ahead.

Kind regards,



Ms C. Cronin

Summer Term Family Voice: Summary from 153 responses

94% state that students are happy at our school.	We will always aim for 100% but understand school can be harder for some than others. Within the 6% disagree comments were around struggling in school with peers, academic and routines, as well as wanting more practical subjects. As a school, we afford more time to practical subjects, and co-curricular, than many schools but have a duty to comply with the national curriculum expectations.
99% state that their child feels safe at school and know who to contact if concerns were present.	
Feedback on learning in school	Requests to half-termly or routinely remind and signpost the section of our website where the sequence of learning in stored, has been requested. We will look to build this into our communication and signposting.
As this survey is anonymous, there were some parents who named their child in order to have a discussion with our teams around experiences. Anyone who did so should have had or will shortly have contact from our teams. There were many useful suggestions and feedback. Our Senior Leaders and Heads of Year will be reviewing this to inform how we can use the feedback to improve systems and the daily experience as best we can. Thank you for the time and feedback as we do read it and where we can, will act.	