



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we step into the final half-term of the academic year, for some of our families this half-term from June into July marks the final weeks of their child's academic career at West Hill, with Wednesday 12th June acting as their Celebration Day and 21st June as the Year 11 Alton Towers rewards trip. We have been incredibly proud of the maturity displayed from our Year 11s during their final examination period. I, too, am incredibly proud of the support that they have received from a team of staff looking after them academically and pastorally alongside ensuring everyone is fed and watered before each morning exam. A particular thank you to Mrs Sykes, Mrs Hemmings, Ms Staples, Ms Kenworthy, Mrs Smith and Mr O'Dowd for excellent leadership and support during this time to ensure the needs of all students have been met. For parents and carers of younger years, the time will soon fall upon your son and it should bring confidence in the support that lies ahead.

Half-term Ahead

We finish school for the final half-term on Friday 24th May and return to school for a normal school day on Monday 3rd June. As of our return, students are invited to wear tailored shorts as per our previous correspondence. For ease, a reminder of the uniform guidance has been placed at the end of this letter.

Activities Day takes place for all KS3 (Years 7,8,9) on Friday 12th July. A visit from Mr Whippy is planned for those students who have maintained our expected, excellent behaviour throughout the year. Sports Day is planned on Tuesday 9th July (weather dependent). For our Year 10 families, our post-16 evening is being held on Wednesday 5th June from 5pm-7pm in our Main Hall and Conference Room. This is to outline the options for students when they leave West Hill and processes/timescales that are ahead. Our social media platforms outline more detail on the stalls that will be in attendance. Additionally for Year 10, work experience week is on the 8th-12th July.

For planning, a reminder that school will close for the summer at 12pm on Friday 19th July 2024 reopening to students on Wednesday 4th September. GCSE results are available for collection for Year 11 families on Thursday 22nd August. More guidance on this will follow directly to families involved.

The Duke of Edinburgh commenced with both Bronze Award and Silver Award groups this half-term. I extend a huge congratulations to the boys undertaking the expeditions and a thank you to the staff giving their time over weekends to support the experience, notably to Mr Lawton and Mr Carty for their leadership. The groups will be off again in June and July and we wish them well in developing their leadership, group work and memory-making. I may make a guest appearance to see their hard grit and team work in full flow.

School Vision

As I end my first year as the Headteacher, I feel it healthy to review the school vision. This has been discussed with staff, will be discussed with a student voice but I feel it healthy to canvass the views of our parents and carers. If you could afford a few minutes of your time to offer your views via the link below, I would appreciate your perspective and views which will be collated and used in our rewrite with all parties' views considered. Three questions form this survey on <https://forms.office.com/e/ex5LTcNduC> or via scanning the QR code. Deadline for collection is 9am on 6th June.



Student Leadership

The Diversity Council has been busy this term. Students have established a vision statement outlining the importance and purpose of their work and designed a webpage and display board to share key messages. They have worked alongside the School Council and attended 'Bullies Out!' training, have met with the Mayor of Tameside and The Right Reverend Prof. Walker, the Bishop of Manchester. To raise awareness, they helped plan and lead the 'International



Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' and the 'International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia' assemblies and served refreshments during the fundraising coffee morning.

There are 11 members of the Diversity Council and they are easily identifiable by their purple badges. Members are available for all students to speak to if they need information or support. Please visit their webpage to find out more information about their work: [West Hill School - Diversity Council](#)

Co-curricular Offer

You will remember from previous correspondence that 15th April marked the launch of our lunchtime co-curricular offer. We now have 75 lunchtime clubs and activities. These include Gaelic football, the climbing wall, a careers café, arts and crafts, music and anime. There are also quiet spaces and mindfulness groups for students who would like a more peaceful way to spend their lunchtime.

The afterschool co-curricular and weekend option is still strong and we have a total of 30 clubs and activities, with new opportunities arising all the time - most recently we set up an Eco Club. Let's not forget each Saturday morning we have a group of Stamford Park runners. Please visit our [co-curricular webpage](#) to find out more information.

Community

Our 'Friends of West Hill School' charity number 508413 (formerly Parents' Association) is now fully operational with a collective of wonderful parents and carers supporting school in forming stronger partnerships with the community. If we have any parents and carers wishing to get involved with activities and events in the school community then please get in touch with Mrs Barton via the admin email account.

The Friends of West Hill School Summer Fair takes place on Saturday 29th June. It promises to be a fun-filled day for all the family. Any families who would like to get involved please get in touch via the admin email account. On our planned Sports Day on Tuesday 9th July – a warm welcome is extended to families. The Friends of West Hill will be running a refreshments stall throughout the day. More details will follow regarding this.

Our 'Old Boys' are welcomed back into school on Monday 8th July. All ex-students are invited to mingle with fellow alumni, take a look through the archives and have a tour of the school to see the changes that have been made over the years. If, as a former student, you would like to attend the event please confirm your attendance via the admin email account.

Friday 24th May marks the end of the consultation period to families regarding the school day officially commencing at 8:40am from September 2024. Results of this consultation will be shared when we return, for clarity to all.

Finally, in closing for half-term we wish Mrs Healey in Art a happy maternity leave. The students will miss her wonderful Art lessons for a few months but Ms J Furlong, who commences after half-term, will enthuse them with Art as our maternity cover teacher. I am sure you will agree, it has been a busy half-term and an exciting one is still ahead. I wish all families a lovely break together.

Yours on the journey to excellence for all,

Ms C. Cronin
Headteacher



- Shorts must be black.
- Tailored shorts.
- Slim fit or sturdy fit.
- Mid-thigh to knee in length.



- No cargo-style shorts (with side pockets on the thigh).
- No denim.
- No sports shorts.
- No logos/branding.



From **Monday 3rd June 2024**, tailored shorts may be worn with normal uniform (shirt/tie/blazer). **White/black trainer or ankle socks** should accompany school shoes. No logos or branded shorts or socks.

