



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Another positive albeit shorter half-term at West Hill. Since the beginning of the academic year, we have launched our social media platforms (our handles are on the letterhead) and we would encourage parents/carers to follow these as another means of communication via a convenient and accessible platform, but mostly as a form of visually sharing events in the school day. Our updated school website also includes booking details for our Sports Hall services outside of school hours. The more our facilities are used by our community the better, as profits made go back into our curriculum for the experience of our learners.

Term Dates

This is a reminder that our half-term runs between Monday 12th February and Friday 16th February. Students return to learning on Monday 19th February. The Easter period commences on Friday 29th March until Friday 12th April, with learners returning to school on Monday 15th April. We have updated our school website with the 2024-2025 term dates to aid future planning for families in advance.

Upcoming within the Spring term we have our Year 10 progress evening on Thursday 29th February and our Year 8 progress evening on Thursday 14th March. More details will follow directly to parents/carers involved.

Parent/Carer Survey

As parents and carers, you are a huge asset to our school. Regularly collecting your opinions through surveys allows our school leaders to review what is going well, what has improved and what needs continued improvement through your eyes. As a result of the surveys in Autumn, we sent out our 'You said, we did' and plan to do the same with our mid-year survey. The link to complete will be sent as a separate email and School Gateway/text message, but is also here: <https://forms.office.com/e/fh1gjh4ZJf> The deadline to submit your feedback is Friday 23rd February at 9am, your feedback is hugely appreciated. We received 447 replies in Autumn and would like to surpass this in Spring.

Learning and Standards

Another reminder that our school website outlines the topics studied within each subject, ensuring that parents/carers are up to date with the current topics in lessons. At present, our Year 9 learners have been busy selecting their options with the deadline for entry Friday 9th February. Thank you to the parents who attended the Options Information Evening. Lastly, a huge well done to the Year 11 learners on their conduct and effort within the mock exam period. Its purpose is to show the students what awaits them in the summer time and to mentally prepare them with the expectations, demand and routines needed for summer success. Our Year 11 parents/carers will receive a further message regarding study support in the final push to the final exams.

Within our standards and learning, my Headteacher highlight this half-term has been the formation of our Diversity Council and Mental Health Ambassadors. These student groups work together to improve our understanding of oneself and others, reviewing our school practice and working to improve acceptance, understanding and support. We have guest speakers in to school on Monday 19th February to work with our Upstanders on 'bullies out', again, creating opportunities to empower our learners to better our school experience for all. I am proud of all the boys who have volunteered to join this.

Lastly, we launched our Parent Association this half-term. Thank you to the parents and carers that joined us for this. If you would like to get involved in their event planning and coordination to support West Hill, please email our admin account within the letterhead FAO: Parent Association where Mrs Barton will contact you directly.

Many thanks for reading and we wish you a restful break.

Ms C. Cronin