



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that I find you are well and that you have had a good start to 2018.

I am writing to you this February to provide you with some important information, some reminders in terms of school expectations and some dates for your diary.

Progress 8 update

In January the Department of Education published the Secondary School Performance Tables. You can find details regarding our Progress 8 figure by following the link below.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137020>

This updated information is a fantastic outcome for the boys, the school and places West Hill School as the 5th highest performing 11 -16 boys school in the country for overall progress and in the top 25% of the highest performing schools in the country.

Other performance measures are also very impressive, our science, humanities and modern foreign languages value added figures also place us in the top 25% of schools.

Reminder about uniform and personal appearance

Hooded Tops

Can I remind parents that hooded tops are not appropriate for school and should not be worn either underneath or on top of the blazer. If the weather requires your son(s) to wear additional layers they can wear a suitable school coat over the top of their blazer and or a plain black v neck jumper underneath the blazer.

Facial Hair

Inevitably as boys mature into young men they will begin to grow facial hair. The school policy states clearly that boys' faces should be cleanly shaven. A number of boys have required reminding repeatedly of this recently. Can I ask that parents support us and ensure boys are cleanly shaven before they leave home to come to school in a morning.

Shoes

As you are aware we have a very clear policy in terms our school uniform and in particular the footwear we allow in school. See link below if you are unclear.

<https://www.westhillschool.co.uk/school-life/uniform>

Thank you to all of the vast majority of boys and parents who ensure that this is adhered to our expectations. However, there have been occasions over the last term when boys have for a variety of reasons arrived at school in unsuitable footwear. If your son arrives in school in unacceptable footwear and it is believed that he



has shoes at home, he will be sent home to get his shoes or we may contact you and ask that you bring his shoes into school. If your son is sent to get his shoes and arrives back in school before the close of the morning register this will be treated as a late mark, if he doesn't manage this, but returns to school in reasonable time, this will be treated as an authorised absence. If he does not return within reasonable time the absence will be treated as truancy. If your son does not have appropriate shoes at home he will be offered a loan pair of school shoes for the day. At school we have shoes in a variety of sizes which can be loaned by boys in the short term. These shoes are disinfected with the same spray they use in bowling alleys and are therefore completely hygienic. In the event that we do not have the correct size of shoe your son will be not be allowed on the yard at break time and lunchtime until new shoes have been purchased. We would consider that 2 days is sufficient time to replace shoes.

Advanced information

Prefect Interviews

As part of preparing our students to become good citizens and be ready for the world of work we try to give them various levels of responsibility at different stages in their school lives, for example, peer mentors, school councillors, team captains etc. However, perhaps the most important opportunity is the process of becoming a prefect, one that all boys will have the chance to experience during their time at West Hill. This term, all year 10 pupils have been briefed on the role of the Prefect and the application procedure. Potential candidates are now busy preparing their application form and supporting letters for the selection process. The next step for each candidate will be an interview with current prefects, governors and members of staff.

In order to facilitate these interviews and make them as close as possible to a real life experience, school will close at 1.55 pm on Thursday 29th March 2018 to allow them to take place. All interviews should be completed by 3.00pm.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and Year 9b will be dismissed for the day at the end of period 4 (1.55 pm).

Pupils in Years 9a, 10 and 11 will have lunch as normal between 1.25 pm and 1.55 pm.

If they are not involved in the interview process, they will be allowed to leave school once they have finished their lunch.

A number of Year 11 pupils will be required to stay in school to complete their ECDL examination. Those boys involved in this will be informed in advance and so will their parent/carer.

Dates

School closes for Easter on Thursday 29th March 2018 (please see information above in relation to closing times)

School re-opens Monday 16th April 2018 at 8:45am

School is closed for May Day on Monday 7th May 2018

School closes for half term Friday 25th May 2018

School reopens Monday 4th June 2018 at 8:45am

Yours sincerely

Mr A F Harrison
Headteacher



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