

3rd September 2024

Dear WCHS Students,

RE: Headteacher Welcome Letter 2024/25

Welcome to the start of the 2024/25 academic year. I hope you have all had a brilliant summer holiday and that you feel rested, refreshed and ready to learn.

As you will be aware, it is my first term as your headteacher and I would like to share with you my vision for the school, which is simple: I want to lead Whitworth Community High School as it continues to 'climb higher' towards becoming an outstanding school at the heart of the local community. This will be achieved through strong and ethical strategic leadership, underpinned by respect and driven by consistently implemented policies and practices designed to keep you safe and to help you to achieve the highest possible outcomes that you are capable of.

I am committed to the highest possible standards in every aspect of school life. It is important that you all dress smartly, have excellent attendance, arrive on time, are resilient with your school work and aspirational in your outlook. I will outline below why I am committed to these standards.

Why is the school uniform so important?

I want you all to feel like a valued member of our school community and I genuinely want you all to have a sense of pride in our school. Your uniform is designed to help create this sense of belonging and identity. School uniforms also promote equality and help to reduce bullying and/or teasing. Additionally, they help to remove potential peer pressure regarding expensive branded items. This also takes away the financial burden on your parents so that they don't have to pay for expensive items with designer logos. Most importantly for me, our uniform encourages professionalism and enhances our working environment. Please don't push the boundaries with uniform. If students simply follow the uniform policy, it means that staff can prioritise teaching and learning rather than resolving uniform issues.

Why is attendance and punctuality so important?

Good attendance leads to good outcomes. It is no coincidence that attendance at WCHS is excellent, which correlates directly with our brilliant GCSE results. Punctuality is equally important. We have designed a school day that uses every minute for your educational benefit. Therefore, you must make sure that you arrive on time each day so that your teachers can give you the best education possible for the maximum amount of minutes each day.

What is resilience and why is it important?

Resilience is having the strength to overcome challenges and work through problems. School can be tricky for children and I know that some of you have difficulties at home too. Your teachers, therefore, are really trying to promote a mindset amongst students where you are pushed to be as resilient as possible. This is a skill that will be necessary as you work towards your GCSE qualifications, and beyond, as you progress through higher education and into employment.

What is meant by 'being aspirational' and what's the point?

Being aspirational is having a strong desire to achieve something. You need to have a desire to achieve great things in school, both as a person and academically. Students who aspire to get the highest GCSE grades will get them, mainly due to their focussed mindset and willingness to work

hard in school and at home to achieve their goals. This year in school we will talk a lot about aspirations, starting with our new Y11 Aspirations display boards.

I am incredibly proud to lead this great school, which I have already served for the last ten years. I promise you all that I will do my absolute best to make this school as good as it can possibly be for you. I will sometimes make decisions that you may dislike or disagree with but I promise that all of the decisions that I make for our school community will be made with good intentions and with the students at the centre.

I wish you the very best for this academic year and I hope that you will work with me and with all of your teachers so that we can continue to 'climb higher' together and so that you can achieve the best educational outcomes that you are capable of.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

