



27 August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are having a lovely summer and have managed to get some rest and time with your nearest and dearest. As we start to think about the new academic year, we wanted to get in touch to share some updates and reminders, to help with a smooth start to things.

GCSE results

It was wonderful to see so many of our Year 11 pupils on Thursday as they collected their GCSE results and made plans for their next steps. There were some incredible sets of grades, with pupils outperforming what they believed they could achieve.

A very important pattern in the school results was that good attendance at school had a huge impact on positive outcomes. It was noticeable that good attendance (96%+) was linked with higher outcomes and, in particular, attendance below 90% showed a pattern of much lower grades.

The good news is that attendance at Wootton has gone up hugely over the last year, and we finished last term well about the national average! This is all thanks to the hard work put in by students and their families, and our staff, and everyone should be really proud of this. We will continue to work with families on this because we know it makes such a difference in so many ways – including their GCSE results.

Start of term arrangements:

As a reminder we are having a staggered start to the term so that we can help pupils back into things as smoothly as possible.

Year 9	Start Wednesday 4 th September	Please remember that our gates open at 8am and close at 8.25am.
Year 10	Start Thursday 5 th September	After 8.25am a pupil is late to school.
Year 11	Start Monday 9 th September	



Preparation for the new term:

As you prepare for the start of term, we thought we'd share again our expectations around equipment and uniform. Please do refer to the letter we sent home giving examples of what is acceptable, and our dress code can also be found on our website: [Dress Code | woottonupperschool](https://www.woottonupperschool.com/parents/dress-code)

Please ensure also that your child arrives with a traditional sturdy school bag and all of the correct equipment. Our aim is that pupils are ready to learn and concentrate in school on gaining knowledge and skills to be successful.

We really appreciate those of you who have made contact with us regarding our reset of expectations. It's been extremely helpful and constructive to have those conversations. We understand that change can be difficult, especially for teenagers, and being able to talk through things with parents is always extremely powerful.

Some key questions have come up in a number of these conversations, and so we thought it might be useful to share them and our answers here.

Q: Specific uniform queries:

- Our uniform is blazer, shirt and tie, plus trousers or a knee-length skirt
- If your child is cold then they can ADD a base layer under their shirt, or school jumper over it – but they will always need a blazer.

Q: Specific PE queries:

- Our uniform is t-shirt and shorts
- If your child is cold they can ADD leggings, tracksuit, base layer, fleece.

Q: Why are you insisting on a traditional school bag?

A: This is so that all pupils will consistently have a bag that is big and sturdy enough to hold everything they need for the day. They will have a planner and a full pencil case, as well as books and resources coming in and out for homework etc. And of course, most will be bringing in food and drink too.

Q: Why are you introducing line-ups?

A: We are starting our morning and afternoon session as a community. It will be a warm, powerful way to bring everyone together, celebrate successes and share key messages. It will also give staff a chance to check in on pupils and see how they're doing, and offer support if they need it. Of course, if it is raining, we'll instruct students to head straight to classrooms – we are as keen to avoid getting wet as they are.



Lots of other successful schools do this, locally and nationally, and we are really excited to make it work at WUS. And of course, once we have got into this routine, we would welcome people in to see how everything is going and the difference it is making.

If you have any queries or concerns still, or want any guidance on anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we're more than happy to talk over things and provide clarity or explain our thinking further.

Summer holiday developments

It's been another busy holiday on the site. As well as refreshing several areas of the school, we have completely refurbished another set of student toilets so that they are sparkling and new. And of course, we now have our phenomenal new 4G sports pitch, which is an incredible asset for both the school and the whole village. We can't wait for our pupils to be able to get using it!

We hope that you and your child(ren) have a great end to the holiday and are looking forward to seeing everyone back in school for a great start to the new year!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C McMorn
Head of School

Mr M Lehain
Executive Head