



Message from the headteacher...

It's been a really busy term, as ever!

Thank you for your continued support. It really is appreciated.

As you know, we try very hard to keep you updated with all that's happening in school - both in terms of your child and also the wider community.

Our communications app, Weduc, has been a key part of this. Historically there had been a big reliance on text messages to parents. However, this isn't a good

use of school funds - particularly when Weduc sends free instant messages to your phone. Therefore we are turning off text messages for most of our communications.

If you currently only receive text messages from us then you need to either use the Weduc app, or provide us with an email address. Please contact reception to do this or email:

weduc@westfield-admin.co.uk

The changes to our pastoral system have gone well and enabled our staff to really focus their support on their year groups. It has also provided Year 11 students with

extra support as they head towards the exams season next term.

I am glad so many of them have signed up to the extra revision sessions over the spring holiday. Thank you to the staff who have given their time for these sessions. It just shows how committed everyone is at Westfield to helping our students achieve the very best for themselves.

I wish you and your family a restful break.

Best wishes,

Mr Joe Birkbeck
Head of Westfield School

Extra school closure days in June

We have decided to have two exceptional closure days: on **Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 June 2019**.

School will be closed to students on these two days.

This is happening so that our staff can have additional training on our curriculum.

We are working hard to further enhance our curriculum offer, taking account of recent developments in education research and the increased rigour and challenge in Key Stage Four.

Curriculum development is a continuous process, and as a forward-thinking school we will continue to develop the best schemes of learning, lessons, resources and opportunities beyond the classroom for all our young people

We understand that closing the school, and in particular the impact this may have on students' learning time, may appear counterintuitive, but we are committed to long term change and development for the good of all of our students. Our aim is to provide them with greater depth of knowledge and skills, academic success, and better life chances.

We have taken this missed learning time into account with our planning and delivery of lessons throughout the remainder of the academic year.

If your child is in Year 11, you may be concerned about the support in place for them during the exam season. As will be the case for the duration of the exam season, we are committed to providing Year 11 students with revision

and preparation support in school. We will write to parents and carers of Year 11 students in the summer term to outline this programme, and our expectations of Year 11 students during the school closure days.

If your child is in Year 10, you will be aware that the planned school closure days coincide with the period during which Year 10 students undertake their work experience placements. Please be assured that students' work experience placements will not be impacted by the school closure days and the work experience programme will run as normal.

Please do get in touch with us if you want to discuss any aspect of these arrangements. Thank you for your support as we continue to make the changes needed for our students.

Update on changes to homework

This half term has seen the launch of the new home learning policy at Westfield. Home learning is vital for student progress both academically and in developing independence, resilience and effective study habits.

In terms of frequency, we expect that home learning is set:

- ▶ Weekly by English and Maths.
- ▶ Fortnightly by other subjects.

This should equate to a home learning task being set for around every 4 hours of teaching.

We have already carried out some initial quality assurance of the new policy. A summary of the findings are below.

What students said

- ▶ 98% of students surveyed have received more home learning this half term than previously in school.
- ▶ 80% of students believe home learning is important and will positively impact on progress.

Response: over the next half term we will work with students to ensure all students understand the importance of home learning and effective study habits.

- ▶ Just over 80% of students have been challenged by the home learning tasks they have been given, however over half of these students commented that some home learning tasks have been 'too hard'.

Response: faculties will be working hard over the final term of the academic year to ensure home learning is challenging, yet accessible for all students.

- ▶ 85% of students believe teachers are effectively communicating home learning tasks in class.

Response: staff are aware of the standard template to be used when communicating home learning with students. We are working hard to ensure that from September 2019, all students can record home learning tasks consistently.

Here a few quotes from students regarding home learning this half term:

'I think home learning tasks should be revision based for year 10s and 11s. This is because we have homework on top of revision and it can get stressful, and it would help us learn more.' (Y10 Student)

'I don't think that I get a lot of homework - I just think that I get a lot in a small period of time meaning I have to do a lot at one go.' (Y10 Student)

'I would like to do more practical and fun homework instead of always answering questions on a topic.' (Y9 Student)

'On Weduc some messages are not for my class and it gets confusing. A planner would be very useful.' (Y7 Student)

Response:

- ▶ As stated previously, the school is developing the curriculum over the next term to ensure engaging and varied home learning tasks are embedded in the schemes of learning.
- ▶ We understand that keeping organised with home learning is vital for completion on time and to the high standards expected. Communication is therefore vital with both parents/carers and students and we working hard to ensure this is effective.
- ▶ We need to build knowledge with students of how to manage home learning tasks effectively.

In summary, the start to the home learning policy has been largely positive but we recognise the need to develop this further over the next term to ensure that communication is effective and that tasks are engaging, challenging and accessible for all. There is no doubt however, that home learning will benefit the students.

What parents said

- ▶ 99% of parents said their child had received home learning since February half term, with 94% saying this was more frequent than before.

- ▶ 88% of parents said it contributed positively to their child's learning.

- ▶ 52% of parents said their child spent 1 to 2 hours on home learning a week, with 33% saying it was 2-3 hours.

- ▶ 28% of parents said their child found the tasks too hard to complete.

Here a few quotes from parents regarding home learning this half term:

'Carry on sending regular homework.'

'Need consistency across subjects.'

'All subjects to use the app. It is also helpful to have electronic version of homework attached.'

'I feel they should have guidance for how long they should spend on it and how much work they should produce.'

'Do not overwhelm them with homework. Needs to be a balance between homework and home life.'

Response:

- ▶ We are piloting how we use Weduc for setting home learning. At the moment, all Maths, English and Science homework is set via Weduc. There are a few teachers in other subjects who are using it too as part of our pilot. By September 2019 all homework will be set via Weduc.
- ▶ Currently we use the 'Notices' area in Weduc to display homework set. However, we appreciate that this is not ideal. So we are working with Weduc to develop a specific homework section within the app. It is hoped this will come online during the next academic year and will make it easier for both students and parents to view and organise homework. Thank you for your patience while we move to this system.

Not yet using Weduc?

All parents should have been sent enrolment details via either text message or email. However, if you need to be sent it again please contact the school or email: weduc@westfield-admin.co.uk

Don't forget you can find out more information about school at our new website: www.westfield-chorustrust.org

Westfield Schools Celebration Evening

We were delighted to host another incredible Celebration Evening, attended by students from our Family of Schools, which includes local primaries.

It was pleasing to see so many students, parents and carers attend the event, along with members of staff from each of the schools. We were also delighted to welcome back so

many former students, who have made us very proud with their successes.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the raffle and cake sale - which together raised nearly £500!

Special thanks go to Mr Francis, who was organising it for the first time, Mr Birkbeck, Mrs Stokes,

all the special guests, all the Sports Leaders involved in the evening, Mosborough Primary Choir, Halfway Infant Choir, Brook House Junior Duo (who sang a wonderfully emotional and heart racing rendition of Lady Gaga's Shallow) and finally the parents, carers and teachers for attending and making it a special evening.

Cash at reception

Please note that reception are not able to provide change to students, eg. providing coins for notes.

Futsal Champions!

Congratulations to our school team who were crowned North of England Futsal Champions this month! The attitude shown throughout the day was exemplary and they now progress to the National semi final in Birmingham. The students involved were: Addison, Daniel, Mackenzie, Owen, Oliver, Jenson, Alfie and Kurtis.

Staff bungee jump!



Thank you to Mrs Hall and Miss Fitzpatrick for their recent sponsored bungee jump at Magna. Their bravery helped raise funds for our new library!

**KS3
MUSIC
CLUB**

DO YOU
PLAY?
GUITAR / UKULELE / BASS / PIANO
SONGS
FROM
Arctic Monkeys / The White Stripes /
Ed Sheeran and many more!

**Every Monday
| LIMITED
AVAILABILITY | 3PM
Drama
Room**

PLEASE CONTACT MR BLACKBURN IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUERIES

Don't forget you can find out more information about school at our new website: www.westfield-chorustrust.org

Every school day counts. Aim for 100% attendance.

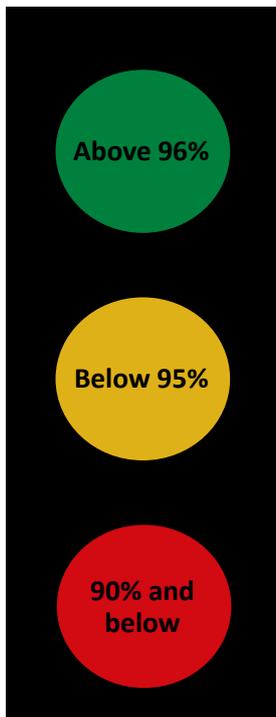
Attendance Matters

There is a link between good school attendance and high level attainment.

Below is an example of the results from some of the Y11 students who left Westfield School in July 2018.

Student A:	Y10 Attendance 99.4%	Y11 Attendance 99.4%	Average GCSE Grade 9
Student B:	Y10 Attendance 97.2%	Y11 Attendance 99.4%	Average GCSE Grade 6
Student C:	Y10 Attendance 83.8%	Y11 Attendance 82.9%	Average GCSE Grade 3

Students who achieved an average GCSE Grade of 7 or above at Westfield School in 2017 / 2018 had an average attendance of 98.58%.



Attendance above 96% maximises the chances of gaining quality exam results. Research shows that pupils with outstanding attendance achieve much better than pupils with poor attendance.

Any pupil falling below 95% attendance has less chance of achieving successful outcomes.

Any pupil falling below 90% is termed as Persistently Absent (PA). This is only 7 sessions (3¹/₂ days) per half term. This is unfair on your child.