

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **END OF SUMMER TERM & START OF AUTUMN TERM**

The end of term is upon us, at the end of a turbulent and challenging year, not only in education, but also for every member of the school's community. Firstly, on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for your support and your positive engagement with the team here at Whitley Academy.

We are looking forward to getting back to some semblance of normality for the Autumn term and both staff and students are really excited about being back in their own classrooms and the opportunity to teach practical lessons in specialist rooms, at last!

There will be a lot of work completed over the summer on site too. Each classroom will have either an interactive TV screen or a regular TV screen fitted to reduce the glare from older whiteboards and remove the need to replace some out-dated projectors/equipment. There is a lot of painting being completed to freshen up walls and corridors that haven't had much attention in the last 12 months (the effects of COVID are wide-reaching!). New Design Technology/Engineering/Music classrooms will be fitted out for the new curriculum offer, beginning with the new Y10, computer suites will be retro-fitted with new equipment and there will be some building work taking place in reception, so that we can better accommodate visitors and parents/families.

Following Government guidance, I would strongly advise you and your children to continue to complete two Lateral Flow Tests every week. Packs are available to pick up from school tomorrow and they are also available for free from local pharmacies and from the NHS website (delivered direct to your home). On our return to school in September, student admission will be phased, to allow us to test those who have consented before they return to classrooms. This phased start to the year will be similar in operation to previous arrangements and you will be contacted nearer the time with an appointment slot.

Unless the numbers of students requiring testing, increase significantly, the appointments will be allocated as follows:

Year 7	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Year 11 & Y13	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 10	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 8 & Year 12	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 9	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September

The last day of term is tomorrow: Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Lessons will finish at the end of P4.

- Y9, Y10 and Y11 will finish at 1.30pm and
- Y7, Y8 and P16 will finish at 2.00pm.

Cont...

Lunch will be available to collect from the diner (for those entitled to Free School Meals). We will not be running a full lunch service as usual.

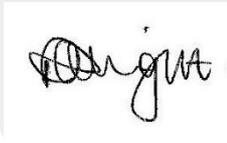
Students will be expected in **full school uniform** including blazer/tie/*black shoes* at the start of term. Uniform is available to purchase directly from either Cat Ballou or Andy Blair – we no-longer sell uniform from the premises. There is a small selection of preloved blazers in storage here (limited sizes and a mixture of M/F buttons), and you are welcome to request one if your child is entitled to free school meals. Please contact Mrs Hilditch at school if you are interested.

Finally, we are most grateful for the support we have received from the Langar Aid voluntary service this year. They have provided food parcels for x20 families in our school community most in need, *every week* and will continue to support these families and any others requiring support during the summer break. They are open from 10am-11am every Thursday from their hub in Spon End.

Once again, thank you for your support; of the staff and all the students. We are all looking forward to a more productive and routine year of teaching and learning from September.

My best wishes for a calm and restful break this summer.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K. Wright  
**Headteacher**