

Dear Parents and Carers

KEY UPDATES

Our aim at The Winsford Academy is to ensure every child gets the very best education. Earlier this half term we welcomed a monitoring inspection from Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education). The monitoring inspection highlighted the progress we have made to improve our school, with the inspectors noting that we are taking effective actions and that they felt that our comprehensive action plan included a range of appropriate strategies to bring about further improvement. I hope to be able to share this report with you before the Christmas holiday's commence.

To continue moving forward on our improvement journey, after the Christmas break, we will be introducing 'The Winsford Way' as part of our new behaviour policy.

Behaviour expectations - School uniform at The Winsford Academy is an important aspect of maintaining a positive learning environment, instilling a sense of pride and unity among our students, and preparing them for their future professional endeavours. Uniform also helps create a level playing field, reduces distractions and encourages a focused atmosphere that supports academic growth. Students who persistently come to school wearing incorrect uniform will face consequences. There is a minority of students that are currently choosing not to wear blazers or ties. The school's uniform policy states that all children should wear a blazer, a tie and if students wish, they can also wear a black V-neck jumper.

If you require support to source the correct uniform for your child/children, please contact the school, we are here to help. Details of our school uniform requirements can be found on our website linked here <https://winsford.academy/school-uniform/>

Where there is a breach of the school uniform policy either the Acting Headteacher or someone authorised by the Headteacher can ask a student to go home to remedy the uniform breach. In extreme cases the student will be sent home immediately.

Changes to mobile phone policy - Earlier this year the Education Secretary, announced that the Department for Education would be banning the use of mobile phones in schools. Banning mobile phone use throughout the school day, including at break times, to tackle disruptive behaviour and online bullying while boosting attention during lessons.

We have deeply considered our policy around mobile phones and from the start of next term we will be making our school a phone-free space using a system called Yondr. Yondr has been implemented in over 1,500 schools across 23 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment. Many schools in the UK have adopted this approach with great success, and the students in these schools have been overwhelmingly positive about the experience.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive back at school after Christmas. Students will 'pouch their phones' during Line Ups when entering the school in the mornings, maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the school gates at 3.00pm. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

The illustration on the following page of the letter gives you a simple indication of how the pouching process works.

How Yondr Works



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

If your child is seen with a phone out in school as they have not used the phone pouch it will be confiscated. Parents will be invited in to collect the phone if this happens.

All students have been delivered and assembly, sharing the benefits of the new policy and explaining our reasons for it. To support the learning, wellbeing and behaviour of our students and to follow guidance from the Government and Department for Education we know that the move to becoming a phone free school is the best move for our students. At our recent information evening I shared a QnA document that answered many parents' questions. I will share this document again with you all at the start of next week.

Return to school – After Christmas we will be having a phased return for all students when we return in January. The reason for the phased return is to ensure that all students are inducted in the use and application of the new behaviour system.

Your child should return to school on:

Monday 8th January 2024	INSET – school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 9th January 2024	Year 7 to arrive at school for 10.00am Year 8 to arrive at school for 11.00am Year 9 and 10 remain at home. Work will be set on ClassCharts Year 11 to arrive at school for 8.45am
Wednesday 10th January 2024	Year 7, 8 and 11 to arrive at school for 8.45am Year 9 and 10 remain at home. Work will be set on ClassCharts
Thursday 11th January 2024	Year 7 and 8 remain at home. Work will be set on ClassCharts Year 9 to arrive at school for 10.00am Year 10 to arrive at school for 11.00am Year 11 to arrive at school for 8.45am
Friday 12th January 2024	Year 9, 10 and 11 to arrive at school for 8.45am Year 7 and 8 remain at home. Work will be set on ClassCharts
* Review	
Monday 15th January 2024	Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) - 8.45am Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) – 10.00am

Work for students on the days they are not in school, will be provided for students on Teams and Class Charts. We are aware that some of our students will require paper copies of work and so ask you to complete the form linked below so we know how many copies to provide if your child is unable to access the work online. Children with a Social Worker known to School and those with an EHCP will be welcome to attend every day.
<https://forms.office.com/e/UrtyBamWi6>

For these changes to be successful, we need to ensure a joined-up approach between home and school. We believe in working in partnership with you to ensure that The Winsford Academy is a school that we can all be proud to be part of.

I hope that you all have an excellent break and I look forward to seeing many of you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Rogers
Acting Headteacher



Mr M Fox
Chair of Governors