

Monday, 8th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and I hope you all have had a wonderful Christmas break and are now ready to embrace 2024. As a school we are excited and looking forward to welcoming our students back. This new year heralds some changes within our school community, changes that are being made to ensure that your child has the best experience of school and education at The Winsford Academy. Changes that we thank you in advance for your support in helping us to make.

The Winsford Way - When the children return, we will be launching the Winsford Way. The Winsford Way outlines how we expect all members of our school community to conduct themselves in school, so that we are ready, respectful and safe at all times. If you would like to see the Winsford Way in more detail please follow this link to our website. <https://winsford.academy/behaviour/>

We know that the majority of students within our community will and do follow the Winsford Way at all times, but for those that do not, there will be sanctions in place. After consulting with parents, carers, staff and students, we are now introducing a new detention system for after school sanctions, as well as extending the time that the Internal Exclusion Unit (IEU) is open to, i.e. 4:00 pm.

Changes to mobile phone policy - Earlier this year the Government (Department for Education) released guidance for all schools on banning the use of mobile phones. Banning mobile phone use throughout the school day, including at break times, is intended to tackle disruptive behaviour and eradicate online bullying while boosting attention during lessons. I wrote to you before the Christmas Break to Introduce the Yondr pouch as a way of supporting students to be phone free throughout the school day.

When your child returns to school in January, they will be issued with their Yondr pouch as they enter the site. Students will be asked to secure their phone in the pouch before coming into school. They will be able to release their phone from their pouch as they leave site at the end of the day. If a student refuses to seal their phone into their Yondr pouch at the start of the day, they will not be allowed into the main building of the school until they follow our 'Winsford Way'. Work will be provided for these students who do not comply, and you will be contacted.

We know that many of you and our students have welcomed this change. We will be conducting regular checks to ensure that students are following our Winsford Way with regard to mobile phones. Any students that deliberately vandalise their Yondr pouches will be billed for a new pouch. Students who come to school and forget to bring their pouch with them, will be expected to hand over their telephones at the school gates and they will be returned to the students at the end of the day. Lost pouches will be charged at a significant reduction of the full replacement value.

If you need to get an urgent message to your child throughout the school day, please use the established system already in place i.e. contacting school reception. If you need to check that the details that we hold for you are correct, please e-mail admin@winsfordacademy.org.uk so we can ensure that we hold your correct contact numbers. If your child needs to contact you during the school day for an issue that is urgent and can not be resolved by a staff member they will be able to request that a member of our admin team does this on their behalf.

How Yondr Works



Uniform expectations - When students return to school, we expect them to be in full, correct school uniform. This includes all black footwear and not trainers that have white logos. Students are not allowed to wear hoodies within the school building, but they are permitted to wear a plain black V-neck jumper as well as their blazer. Please ensure that all students have their blazers and school tie. New ties can be ordered through ParentPay and collected by students from the admin office.

If you require support to source and or purchase 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.

Phased Return to School – You will already be aware that we are having a phased return to school this week. If you requested a paper copy of schoolwork for your child, it has been delivered to your child if they were in school on the last day of term. There will be spare copies of this work available for collection from the main reception throughout the week. For all other students, work to be completed at home shall be posted on ClassCharts and on Teams. Year groups will be provided their Yondr pouches and welcomed into school at the following times:

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

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.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Rogers
Acting Headteacher



Mr M Fox
Chair of Governors