

West Derby School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Graham



We Deliver Success

17 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you towards the end of another very busy school year to update you and to share some general information with you.

We continue to pride ourselves on the standard of the boys' uniform at West Derby and I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support with this. As always, we will look forward to the boys returning to school wearing their full school uniform including a blazer and black shoes (no training shoes allowed). Please be aware that some brands advertise their trainer style shoes as school shoes when they are not, for example, Hugo Boss, Bamboos and even some Clarks, etc. Our boys do know by now what is acceptable and what is not! The shoe must look like a proper shoe. Boys who do not have the correct footwear will be supplied with an alternative by the school. I'd also like to remind you that boys should have their hair cut in a style which allows staff to see their eyes. Any boy whose hair is covering his eyes will be asked to purchase a hairband, and wear it at all times whilst on school premises. Hairbands can be purchased from many retailers such as Boots, Superdrug and most supermarkets.

Your son should attend school with a bag, pencil case, pen, pencil, scientific calculator and ruler. Failure to have these items causes unnecessary disruption in the classroom but it is also especially important that boys come fully equipped to school. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your son comes to school with this equipment at all times.

I also wish to draw your attention to our Uniform and Valuables policy (available on our website). Pupils in Year 7 through to Year 11 are not allowed to have their mobile phones out whilst in school and so our school is largely a mobile-free zone. We have taken this stance because, not only can mobile phones in lessons cause disruption, but we are also mindful of the safeguarding implications for children in having unlimited access to the internet via their 4/5G connections and extensive data tariffs. The Government has, this year, taken this stance also and is advising schools to implement this policy as standard. I would ask parents to support us in this quest in the interests of safeguarding for all. If your son does bring a mobile phone into school, or wear a smart watch, he must not use it to contact you during the school day, and I respectfully request that you also refrain from contacting him. Such contact presents unnecessary issues that could otherwise have been avoided. It will also result in the confiscation of your son's mobile phone or i-Watch.

I also refer again to our policy and inform you that school will confiscate any mobile phone that is seen either in lessons or in-between lessons; it will then be kept in the safe in the main school office until the end of the following school day, when it may be collected by the parent/carer. There are no exceptions to this rule. Furthermore, pupils who do bring a mobile phone to school, or indeed any valuable item, do so at their own risk. School cannot be liable for any loss incurred through theft or damage of a mobile phone or valuable item brought into school.

On a separate note, thank you to those parents who do not park their cars at the front of the school. However, unfortunately I must remind some parents that parking outside the school on the double yellow markings is not permitted. West Derby Road is a very busy road at the best of times, and this is further exacerbated when there are cars parked illegally. I would urge all parents to only park where it is legal to do so and where it does not cause a danger to our pupils and other road users. In addition, we receive many complaints from our neighbours throughout the year with regard to parents parking their cars across people's driveways etc. Once again, I am urging all parents to not only park legally, but also to park considerately.

In other news, this term we are saying goodbye to Mrs Carney, Head of Design Technology, Mr Moran, Science teacher and PPL of current Year 8, and Mrs O'Neill, Deputy Head of Maths. We wish them all well as they move on to pastures new. In September we have some new staff joining us: Mr Logue, Science teacher; Mrs Roberts, Science teacher; and Miss Hatton-Holland, HLTA. We have also welcomed new members of staff this term, Mr Smith, Deputy Head of Maths, and Mrs Evans, Behaviour Manager. I am sure they will all enjoy their onward journeys with us and being part of the West Derby family.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. On behalf of all the staff and trustees at West Derby School, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and restful summer.

Yours faithfully



S Graham
Headteacher

Important dates for your diary:

Thursday 18th July 2024: School closes for the summer at approximately 12.35 p.m. Children who are on free school meals or indeed anyone requiring a lunch will be able to let us prior to Wednesday.

Thursday 15th August 2024: A Level Results Day

Thursday 22nd August 2024: GCSE Results Day

I would also like to take the opportunity to inform you of next year's term dates:

Monday 2nd September 2024: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils **except new Year 7** who return to school at 8.45 a.m. and **new Year 12** who return at 9.45 a.m.

Tuesday 3rd September 2024: All year groups in school for the usual time of 8.45 a.m.

Friday 25th October 2024: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils

Autumn Half Term: Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024**

Friday 20th December 2024: End of autumn term. School closes for Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January 2025: All pupils return to school for the usual time of 8.45 a.m.

Friday 14th February 2025: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils

Spring Half Term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025

Friday 4th April 2025: End of spring term. School closes for Easter Holidays**

Tuesday 22nd April 2025: School reopens for pupils and staff

May Day: Monday 5th May 2025

Summer Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025**

Tuesday 22nd July 2025: End of summer term. School closes for Summer Holidays

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025: **Inset Days** – school closed to all pupils

(NB: Pupils' last day of term is Friday 18 July 2025)

Please note: Year 11 will have revision opportunities during holidays **.