



September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Just a few lines to welcome you back after an enjoyable and hopefully, restful summer holiday.

We have already started a very busy and exciting term. I would like to thank you all for ensuring that the students are in the correct uniform and prepared for a new academic year. All the students look very smart in their uniform and have settled in quickly with the minimum of fuss, particularly our new Year 7.

Once again, I would like to congratulate all of our students on their excellent exam results, demonstrating that their hard work has been rewarded. I am very proud of their achievements and wish to thank all the staff, and yourselves, for supporting the students which ensured they reached their full potential. In particular, Tashin Ali, Holly Hawkswood, Jenna Dawson, Bradley Gough, Nathaniel Harding and Craig Mills who managed to amass an impressive 36 A\*As between them. All of whom have chosen to continue their education into post 16 at West Coventry Sixth Form. Well done! In Post 16 we achieved our highest A Level results, which at 53% A\*B beats the Coventry and National average. Amongst the outstanding individual performances was Lucy Blount who achieved 3 A\*s and is now off to Bristol University to study to become a vet; Danielle Stubbs with A\*AA has secured a place to study veterinary science at Nottingham University, but is on her travels first, including working at an animal hospital in Fiji; Douglas Clark is off to Nottingham to study Accounting with ABB, and Arran Revell achieved ABC and is starting an apprenticeship with Economy Energy. Well done!

We are incredibly proud of all our students' achievements. However, I am aware that we can improve and so have put in place a series of initiatives that are designed to improve Teaching and Learning and eliminate any disruptive behaviour that impacts negatively on learning.

**Start of Lesson Routine:** The first initiative is to a set routine for the start of lessons. Students will enter the classroom and stand behind their chair and place their equipment on the table. After the register has been taken they will be invited to sit down. If a student arrives after the class is seated, they are deemed to be late and must wait outside until invited in.

**New Exercise books:** To support us in ensuring your son/daughter makes the best progress possible we have invested in some new workbooks. These workbooks contain exemplar work to clarify for students how their work will be marked and our school expectations. I am sure you will agree that these are a valuable resource. Should a student lose a workbook there will be a replacement cost of £2.00. Please support us in ensuring that your son/daughter brings the correct books each day and has a suitable area at home to store their books.

**Equipment:** We do expect each student to come prepared for lessons with the correct equipment and brings, for example, a pen, pencil, ruler, etc. We will be providing a stationery shop where students will be able to purchase basic equipment if they have lost or forgotten any of these items. They can also be purchased from our reward system 'shop' on classcharts.

**Mobile Phones and Headphones:** It has always been an expectation that every student turns their mobile phone off during lesson time and that the phone is away in their bag. This year we are extending this rule to the pathways around school. Mobiles or headphones are not to be used on the paths both between lessons and during break and lunchtimes. Designated seating areas have been identified where students are able to use their phones during these times.

**Tutor rooms:** Tutor rooms will be used solely for the use of tutor time. Students will not be able to use these rooms during break and lunchtime. During wet weather Years 9-11 will be able to access their tutor room and provision will be made in the school gymnasium and theatre for Year 7 & 8.

**Ready to learn:** WCA have a series of expectations that apply to every student, every teacher, every lesson, in every classroom, under-pinned by one of our core values: Respect. These expectations are:

***Respect for others***

1. Arrive on time for lessons.
2. Follow the routine established for the start of lesson as discussed above, including where you should sit.
3. Listen carefully when others are talking.
4. Follow all instructions.



***Respect for your own learning***

5. Come fully prepared with the right equipment for each lesson.
6. Take an active part in your learning.
7. Be positive and try your best at all times.
8. Focus on your own work – do not disrupt the learning of others.

***Respect for your environment***

9. Pack up when instructed to and leave the room or area tidy.
10. Follow the routine established for the end of lesson.
11. Wear the correct uniform at all times

The concept behind 'Ready to Learn' is that expectations are fair, clear and non-negotiable. Every student's learning is crucial. If we want to maximise our chances of achieving our best in school, then we need to have high expectations of what can be achieved in every single lesson - and not accept that we will lose time to poor behaviour if any of the above are not adhered to.

Any student whose behaviour demonstrates that they are not 'Ready to Learn' will receive a clear warning and the school's 'Behaviour for Learning' consequence ladder will be followed.

Attendance and punctuality to school is very important and I thank you for your support in this and ensuring that your child is attending school and on time. With this in mind, I need to inform you that due to the regulations from the Department for Education (DfE), I am unable to authorise any holidays during term time. If there are unavoidable circumstances, then you will need to write to myself and the Chair of Governors to seek permission.

Can I remind you that if you do drop off or pick up students from school to be mindful of the residents of Nutbrook Avenue, please do not block their driveways? There are yellow lines around the front entrance to the school and there should be no parking or picking up of students there between 8.00am – 9.00am and 2:45pm – 4.00pm. This is to ensure the safety of the students leaving the site and also to allow the five double-decker buses to enter and leave the school easily.

There are three apps available to support home-school communication. You can find all the relevant information on our website under ***Learning / Download our Apps***. We will (re-)issue access codes for you and your child for ClassCharts and Show My Homework together with this year's homework timetable for Key Stage 3.

This term's dates for your diary (or fridge door) are included in this letter. I hope this helps you to plan ahead. If dates do change I will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible. I would like to remind you of our celebration/open morning on **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September** (10:00am until 12:30pm). In preparation for this, the school will be closed to all students from 12:30pm on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September and students will need to make their own way home. We would love you to come along and join in the fun activities planned; many of our students will be involved.

We all want our students, your children, to have the very best educational experience and I thank you in advance for your continued support.

I look forward to continuing to work together.

Yours sincerely

Gina O'Connor  
Headteacher



### Autumn Dates to Remember 2017/18

| Date   | Activity                                | Year Group                                  |
|--|---|---|
| Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September  | School Photographs                      | All Years                                   |
| Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September<br>9:00am                                   | Governors Personnel Committee           | Selected members of the Governors           |
| Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September<br>12:30pm                                  | School closes                           | All students                                |
| Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September<br>10:00am – 12:30pm                      | Open Morning                            | All students including prospective students |
| Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> October<br>9:15am – 11:00am | Experience West Coventry Academy        | Prospective students                        |
| Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October<br>5:00pm                                    | Governors Quality & Standards Committee | Selected members of the Governors           |
| Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October<br>4.30pm                                  | Parent/Tutor Evening                    | Years 7 - 9                                 |
| Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October<br>4:30pm                                   | Parent/Tutor Evening                    | Years 10 - 13                               |
| Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October                     | Half Term                               | All years                                   |
| Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October   | Teacher Training Day                    | All years                                   |
| Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October  | Return to School                        | All Years                                   |
| Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> November<br>7:00pm                                   | KS4 Achievement Evening                 | Year 11, 12 & 13                            |
| Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November<br>5:30pm                                  | Governors Finance & Resources Committee | Selected members of the Governors           |
| Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> November<br>6:00pm                                  | Post 16 Recruitment Evening             | Year 11                                     |
| Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November<br>4:30pm                                   | Parents Evening                         | Year 9                                      |
| Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December<br>4:30pm                                   | Parents Evening                         | Year 13 at Tile Hill Wood                   |
| Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December<br>6:00pm                                 | Full Governors meeting                  | All members of the board of Governors       |
| Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December<br>7:00pm                                 | X Factor                                | All years                                   |
| Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December  | Break up for Christmas Holidays         | All Years                                   |
| Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January             | Christmas Holiday                       | All Years                                   |
| Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January  | Return to School                        | All Years                                   |