

February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have reached the halfway point of Year 8 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. In December, we received a full Ofsted inspection and were judged as no longer being in 'special measures'. The inspectors recognised the improvements we have made in teaching and learning and praised our school for its inclusivity and the social harmony of our students. They were impressed with the standard of students' books and acknowledged that the "very large majority" of our parents feel that their child makes good progress at John Willmott School. Through hard work and dedication to their own studies and the wider school community, our Year 8 students will continue to play a crucial role in our journey to being judged as 'Good'.

Attendance & Punctuality

Ofsted recognised that we are making improvements in our attendance and punctuality and I would like to thank you for playing your part in this by ensuring that your son/daughter is attending school regularly and on time. At John Willmott School, we expect all students to achieve a minimum attendance of 96%. An attendance of 90% is the equivalent of being absent for one day (5 hours of learning) every two weeks. Over the course of an academic year, it means that 19 days (95 hours of learning) have been missed. Please contact the Attendance Office for every day that your child is absent and send in a note on the first day of their returning, with an explanation of their absence. The school day begins at 8.50am and we expect all students to be in school before that time. If your child arrives after 8.50am twice in a week then this will result in your son/daughter receiving a detention.

I was thrilled that 60 Year 8 students were eligible for the Christmas cinema trip by having 100% attendance and excellent behaviour for the November/December half term. Next half term, students with 100% attendance and excellent behaviour will be eligible for a 'dining out' reward.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring your son/daughter is attending school in the correct uniform. All pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform, including school tie and blazer. Our uniform policy is detailed in the Student Planner and on the School website. I would like to draw particular attention to footwear: shoes must be plain black, with no logos. Trainers and pumps are not permitted. We do permit black Nike Air Force 1s (with metal tag removed) as a school shoe. Skirts must be 2 inches above the knee and not tight fitting. Trousers also must not be tight fitting. Jumpers must be a grey John Willmott School jumper and the wearing of 'hoodies' is not permitted. If your son/daughter comes to school in the incorrect uniform or with an appearance unsuitable for a school environment they may be removed from lessons if the problem cannot be rectified.

Equipment, Conduct Cards & Planners

I expect all Year 8 students to come to school equipped ready to learn. Every student requires the following items, as a minimum: black pens, pencil, rubber and ruler and these should be placed in a suitably sized pencil case. All students should also have a school bag of a suitable size. Please ensure that your child has the correct equipment on return to school after the holiday. All pupils will be issued with a new 'Conduct Card' which they must carry in their blazer at all times.

Rewards and sanctions

We offer a variety of rewards to encourage students and praise good behaviour. Students can earn House Points for excellence, in and out of the classroom. All members of staff make a 'Feel Good Friday' phone call weekly for a student they feel has made a particularly positive contribution that week. Students have the chance to earn a variety of postcards and certificates, particularly our new 'LORIC' certificates that individually recognise achievements in Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication. As mentioned previously, reward trips that recognise excellent attendance and behaviour take place throughout the year. If your son/daughter is placed in detention, this is because they have not adhered to the school behaviour policy. All pupils are expected to attend as failure to do so may result in a further sanction being given. I expect the same high standards of effort and behaviour from all Year 8 students, being considerate of the learning and happiness of others, both in and out of the classroom.

Key Stage 4 Options

Next half term, much of our focus will turn to the Options process, as we move towards the beginning of GCSE and BTEC studies in Year 9. Enclosed, is a letter about this process and I particularly draw your attention to the Options Evening, taking place on 20 March. This evening is essential in gathering information so that you and your son/daughter can make informed choices for their Key Stage 4 studies.

Year 8 Key Dates

Wednesday 20 March 2019: Year 8 Options Evening (rescheduled)

Tuesday 9 April 2019: Spring Term Celebration Assembly – invitation only

Tuesday 16 July 2019: Summer Term Celebration Assembly – invitation only

Once again, thank you for your support and, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your son/daughter's Form Tutor.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Grice
Head of Year 8

Enclosed: letter

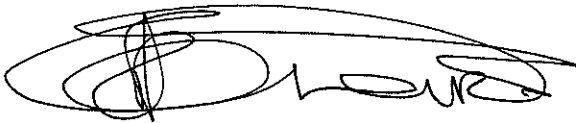
14 February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of the Options process for current Year 8 students, there will be an Options Evening taking place at John Willmott School on Wednesday 20th March. The Options Evening will begin at 4.45pm – 6.45pm with an introduction to the process in the Hall. There will then be opportunities to speak to subject staff about the courses on offer in Years 9, 10 and 11. They will also be given an Option Booklet containing similar information during the evening.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 20th March.

Yours sincerely



Ms T Richards
Sixth Form Headteacher