

1 September 2016

Dear Parents & Carers,

The beginning of a new school year is always an interesting and exciting time full of anticipation of things to come. This September I have the privilege of taking up the post of Headteacher of John Willmott School and I am certainly looking forward to a year full of challenge, opportunity and fun, for our staff and students. We will be continuing the work that began last term and working closely with The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership to secure improvements across the school.

We are being joined this term by our new Deputy Headteacher Mr Paul Averis. I'd like to welcome Mr Averis to the team. Mr Averis will be responsible for the school curriculum, teaching & learning and assessment. Mr D Genders will be the Deputy Headteacher responsible for the school pastoral systems including attendance, safeguarding and student welfare.

All staff will be in school on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September participating in professional development and ensuring that we are ready for the students when they arrive on Wednesday 7th September. There is a staggered start for students which is outlined below and all students need to arrive to school at their allocated time ensuring that they are wearing the correct uniform and are properly equipped for their first day of learning.

Wednesday 7th September:

- 08.50 : Year 7
- 10.00 : Years 8 & 10
- 11.00 : Years 9 & 11

Year 12 enrolment takes place on Tuesday 6th September

Year 13 enrolment takes place on Wednesday 7th September

The John Willmott uniform certainly makes our students stand out from the crowd, and it is therefore especially important that it is worn correctly. The uniform requirements are clearly outlined on the school website so please consult this before buying anything that you are not sure about. We will be checking uniform regularly and we expect all our students to maintain our high standards. This is particularly important for shoes which need to be 100% black and skirts which need to be an appropriate length and material. Any student who is wearing the incorrect uniform will be spoken to by their Achievement Coordinator and expected to rectify the situation quickly.

Excellent attendance is vital for students to be successful and all students should be aiming for 100% attendance. It is no coincidence that students with excellent attendance achieve excellent results. It is our expectation that your child attends school every day and we welcome your support with this. If you wish to speak with someone regarding your child's attendance you can contact the Achievement Coordinator for the relevant year group in the first instance.

In addition we have an Attendance Team in school led by Mrs W Iles, and if your child's attendance falls below an acceptable level you will be contacted by a member of this team and requested to attend a meeting in school. It is important that we have the opportunity as early as possible to address any concerns that you or your child may have which affects their attendance and we ask that you get in touch with us as soon as your concern arises.

The shape of the day is changing and the new times are outlined below. Some key differences are that students will be starting the day by going into their first lesson where they will be registered and begin learning straight away. Tutor time and assemblies will now take place at the end of the school day. In addition we will be reverting to having one morning break time and two lunch times.

Period 1	08.50 - 09.55		
Period 2	09.55 - 10.55		
Break	10.55 - 11.15		
Period 3	11.15 - 12.15		
Period 4	12.15 - 13.15	Lunch	13.15 - 13.50
Lunch	12.15 - 12.50	Period 4	12.50 - 13.50
Period 5	13.50 - 14.50		
Tutor Time	14.50 - 15.10		

We have made some changes to the catering service in order to ensure that everyone can be served within the time frame. This new system may take some time to settle in but will ultimately increase the amount of learning time for students.

This year we are operating ParentPay It's simple, safe, convenient and your child no longer needs to carry cash into school. ParentPay is an online payment system for schools. It allows parents to pay quickly and securely for school meals, trips and activities, music lessons and equipment purchases. You simply top-up your ParentPay account online by debit or credit card, or in cash through PayPoint stores. Payment by standing order and faster payments will be available soon. Your ParentPay balance can be used immediately to pay for any of your children's items at any school using ParentPay.

If you have any queries about ParentPay or wish to have a pay point card issued and have not yet received one please contact the finance team on 0121 378 6541.

We will be welcoming prospective students and parents to our Open Evening on Thursday 15th September 18.30 – 21.00. Unlike in previous years school will finish at the usual time of 15.10 that day and start at the usual time of 08.50 the following day. This promises to be an interesting evening when the staff and students get the opportunity to show the school at its best and we have been making plans for a while now to ensure that it is an evening of information and entertainment.

I will be meeting all the students on their first day during assembly and explaining some of our other changes in more detail. There will be many chances this year for our students to participate in school activities and earn rewards and awards for achievement, attainment and attendance. We will be working hard to ensure that our students are safe and happy, as well as stretched and challenged with opportunities to participate in a broad curriculum and a wide range of extra curricular activities. We will keep you informed of any new developments via the school website and I look forward to meeting you all at future school events.

Yours sincerely



T PETERS (Mrs)
Headteacher