

25 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. This week we had our first 'Virtual Open Evening', as we were unable to welcome the current Year 6 into our building for our usual open evening we have created a virtual open evening playlist available on our website www.johnwillmottschool.co.uk and YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd7tDwoiDSL0iPIM4NH9YwA>. Our staff and students have been busy filming with a professional film crew and there are six films that I urge you to watch. These films celebrate our intent to Enthuse, Engage & Excel along with our vision of High Standards, High Expectations and Huge Aspirations. We enjoyed making them and we hope that you enjoy watching them.

This week our 2020 leavers have begun to start their new university courses. This is an exciting time for them and we wish them well as they go on to study medicine, pharmacy, law, psychology, history, politics and english to name just a few of the courses. These students feature in our films as we celebrate our most successful year at A Level with 94% of all results at A*- C and 34% of all results at A*/A. Outstanding results from a wonderful cohort of students, I look forward to keeping in touch and watching their progress over the next few years.

Face masks

Please could you ensure that your child attends school each day with a face covering. These are a compulsory part of uniform now and must be worn on all public transport as well as on school corridors and at social time. The wearing of a face covering is a key part of the government campaign Hands, Face, Space and students are regularly reminded they must be worn for their safety and that of others. If your child is exempt on medical grounds, please do contact their Head of Year to advise them. As you know, we have worked extremely hard to mitigate against all possible risks and make our school as safe as possible for staff and students. The use of face coverings for our communal areas will enable us to support our other robust control measures we have in place.

Uniform expectations

In accordance with government guidance, the uniform policy remains in place in and all students will be expected to fully respect the policy. We thank you, for your support and recognise that the vast majority of our students report to school every day looking smart and proud to wear the uniform. However, some students have not yet purchased the correct uniform. If there is a specific barrier to meeting the uniform policy, you should contact your child's Head of Year at the earliest opportunity to discuss the support we can provide.

It is important that students have an outdoor coat as outside shelter is very limited on the school site and the start of day arrangements mean that students will be waiting on the playground until they can enter the building at their allotted slot. In addition, the wait for school buses can sometimes be long depending on traffic.

PE Kit

Please note: on the days when students have a timetabled PE lesson, they must come to school in their **full PE kit** for the day to avoid any need to use the changing rooms.

All students must wear their JWS PE top, black tracksuit bottoms, shorts, skorts or suitable leggings. If needed they can wear their JWS fleece top or School blazer. Our suppliers have advised us that all stock has arrived and been in their stores for several weeks now so there is no longer any need for students to wear alternative kit. **Students cannot wear any other type of tracksuit, PE top or hoodie**

It has now been three weeks since we had the full return to school for our students. Of course, our school was never really fully closed as, even through lockdown, we were open to identified students and the children of key workers. Now we have been in school for a few weeks, we have been able to evaluate and amend our school plans.

I have been extremely heartened by the way in which our students and staff have risen to the challenge of being back in school. Students have been very sensible and mature in wearing their face coverings where applicable, regularly washing their hands, maintaining social distancing and following staff instructions.

We have been undertaking weekly reviews of our control measures and operational procedures and following our most recent review I want to advise you of a change. From Monday 28 September students will be following their full timetables and moving to all their lessons. Their teachers will remain in their classrooms to receive them.

All of our robust protective measures will continue to support this. Students will remain in their year group bubbles during their staggered entrance to the building. They will remain in their year group bubbles for all lessons, lunch, and break times. They will continue to leave the building at the end of the day using a staggered exit. These procedures will continue to ensure that contact between year group bubbles is minimal. When moving to their lessons, it will remain compulsory for all students and staff to wear face coverings and to keep to our robust one way systems.

I can assure you that we will continue to review our procedures regularly in line with government policy. I have again listed below some useful links to the relevant guidance for your information.

Yours faithfully

Mrs T Peters
Headteacher