

7 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is wonderful to welcome our students back today after the half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents of some key pieces of information for their return.

### **Covid Tests & control measures**

Following the holiday period, it is vital that students continue to complete their lateral flow tests every Wednesday and Saturday and report their results on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and on the school website <https://johnwillmottschool.co.uk/student-lft-result-notification-form/>. This regular testing is part of our in school measures to keep everybody as safe as possible. Testing kits can be obtained from a variety of testing centres across Erdington and Sutton Coldfield if students are not eligible for receiving a testing kit from school.

At the moment students can still choose to wear masks around the school site if they wish. They must though wear them at all times on public transport unless they are medically exempt. We have been issuing disposable masks to this point but with effect from Monday 14 June we will no longer be providing masks as students board the buses. It is vital therefore that students have their own masks or face coverings, or they are at risk of not being able to travel on public transport. You will appreciate that the government and Public Health England advice is changing regularly, and we will keep you updated if there are any changes.

Students will still be asked to clean down their work surfaces in classrooms with antiseptic wipes that are provided. This is as an extra precaution, in addition to the regular and enhanced cleaning that is in place in school.

Students are still entering and leaving the building at staggered times to reduce any overlap of year group bubbles on corridors. This keeps any crossover to an absolute minimum. We are still operating separate breaks and lunches for each year group.

### **Uniform**

As all the uniform suppliers are back to normal operation all students should be in in full school uniform on their return to school. There has been an increasing number of students choosing not to wear their full school uniform despite having it available to wear. Please support us in maintaining our high standards by ensuring that your child is correctly dressed and equipped for school. As a reminder the full school uniform and PE kit can be found at the following link <https://johnwillmottschool.co.uk/home-default/parents/school-uniform/>.

All students are expected to have a full size school bag (pouches are not allowed) This bag should contain a pencil case with enough equipment to get them through the school day. At a minimum this should be 2 pencils, a ruler, 2 black or blue pens & a rubber.

Hoodies, tracksuit tops, denim jackets, leather or fur jackets and other fashion items have never been allowed as part of the school uniform. Students can choose to wear a JWS grey school jumper. In addition, all students must have a school blazer. The only coats allowed are proper outdoor coats that keep students warm and protect them from the rain. Students wearing anything other than the correct school uniform will

be asked to remove the non-uniform items and store them in their bags. If students continue to wear the non-uniform items, then they will be stored in the main reception until the end of the school day when they can be collected.

Students still need to wear full PE kit on days when they have PE. They must wear black tracksuit bottoms, black jogging bottoms, black shorts or skirts or black cycling shorts or leggings. No colour other than black is acceptable. Students can only wear their purple JWS PE top. They must also wear either their purple JWS PE fleece, their grey JWS school jumper or their blazer. Again, other hoodies, sweatshirts, tracksuit tops etc are not allowed as they are not part of our school uniform. Students wearing anything other than the correct PE kit will be asked to remove the non-uniform items and store them in their bags. If students continue to wear the non-uniform items, then they will be stored in the main reception until the end of the school day when they can be collected. We have a selection of freshly laundered PE kit in school that students will be able to wear instead of the non-uniform items.

Can I please also remind you that fashion shoes such as Vans, Converse and other canvas high top shoes are not suitable for PE. They are fashion items and do not provide the necessary support or protection during physical activity.

### **Mobile Phones**

While mobile phones are allowed to be brought to school, they are not allowed to be used during the day at all including break and lunch time. If a student needs to ring home, they can go to student reception who will make the necessary arrangements if required. If a parent wishes to get a message to a student, then please ring the main school number and the message will be delivered to your child during the day.

Mobile phones should be stored in a student's school bag. They should not be in their pockets as they should be out of sight and out of use. Mobile phones that are seen in school will be confiscated and stored in the main reception. They can be collected at the end of the school day. If students persist in using their phones on school site, then parents will be asked to attend school to collect the phones from main reception. It was JWS students who requested that mobile phones were banned in school because of the distraction they were causing. We are happy to support this request.

### **Detentions**

We will once again be operating a covid safe detention system with effect from Monday 14 June. Students can be set a 30 minute after school detention for persistent breaches of the school's uniform and behaviour policies. As a courtesy we will give parents 24 hours notice of any detention set by text message in case you need to make alternative travel arrangements for your child. Failure to complete the 30 minute detention will result in a longer reset detention of 45 minutes with 24 hours notice. It is obviously our preference that students do not receive such detentions and we ask for your support in ensuring that our students comply with our high expectations of uniform, punctuality and behaviour.

### **Rewards & Awards**

Staff will continue to award the subject praise post cards in every lesson of the day. These are a good way for students to collect house points as well as taking part in the House activities during our enrichment sessions. Students can also continue to gain LORIC certificates for demonstrating any of the five LORIC principles. We hope to be able to hold our annual Celebrate Success Assemblies at the end of the summer term to acknowledge the attainment and progress of all our students, but this will understandably be dependent on the national picture with regards to Covid. If we are unable to do this, we will again resort to a virtual awards assembly. The summer term success assemblies will also include the awarding of the enamel JWS badges that can be worn on blazers, along with the Head of Year and Headteacher badges that are only awarded once a year so continue to be very special.

**Enrichment**

We continue to complete inter House activities during our enrichment afternoons. Later this month we will be celebrating School Diversity Week with a range of activities. Our PSHE theme this half term focuses on tolerance, diversity and inclusion. John Willmott is a very diverse school, and we will be celebrating this fact with our students right through to the end of the school year.

**Term dates.**

Please remember that Monday 5 July is a teacher training day, and most students are not required to attend. Year 11 students will be invited to their leavers assembly on this day but will be the only students in school.

The last day of the summer term is Tuesday 20 July. Students are still expected to attend in full school uniform on this day. The term dates for 2021/2022 are shown below.

**Autumn Term 2021**

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021

Term Ends: Friday 17 December 2021

**Spring Term 2022**

Term Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2022

Half Term: Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022

Term Ends: Friday 8 April 2022

**Summer Term 2022**

Term Starts: Monday 25 April 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Term Ends: Friday 22 July 2022

**Training days**

Thursday 2 September

Friday 3 September

Friday 22 October

Monday 29 November

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Friday 18 February 2022

Friday 8 April 2022

Friday 1 July 2022

Yours faithfully

**Mrs T Peters**  
**Headteacher**