



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the final day of this half term. It has been an incredibly busy 8 weeks, with so much going on in school. This has included a variety of educational visits, including the Duke of Edinburgh expedition, Year 8 Tower of London and Year 9 Black Country Museum trips. There have also been a variety of extracurricular experiences, including sporting fixtures against other local schools. I'd like to thank the students for representing themselves and the school with such distinction, as well as the staff who have given up their time to make these visits happen.

In addition, we held our annual Open Evening for prospective students starting in September 2024. This was my first experience of this event but I was blown away by the role played by our students and staff. It was a pleasure to see the positive interactions between the children and adults, with a special mention to our prefects who led tours around the school, as well as two brave Year 7s and our three Head Prefects, who helped me in my Headteacher talks. Feedback was extremely positive on the evening, especially for these incredible pupils.

Having been at Wordsley for half a term, I have had a good chance to see how the school works. While there are so many positives, there are some changes that will take place after half term that will help to improve the experience of all pupils. These will be outlined below.

### Detentions

The vast majority of our students have never been issued with a detention and I thank you for your support in ensuring your child's behaviour meets our expectations. However, in some cases, detentions can support us in improving the behaviour of students. Therefore, we will be changing how we administer detentions from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023. After the autumn holidays, we will be moving to a centralised detention system.

At the end of each day, pupils who have been identified as needing detentions will be escorted by their period 6 teacher to a centralised location. The teacher who recorded the detention will then meet with the pupil for a restorative conversation where behaviours will be discussed. The aim of the conversation is to address the behaviour observed in the lesson and to draw a line underneath it so that the next day is a fresh start. We hope that this will allow all issues to be addressed on the day.

Pupils will be awarded either a 15-minute detention in the first instance but this may be extended to 30 minutes if more incidents occur on the same day. For more serious incidents, a 45-minute SLT detention will be given. This means that all detentions will be completed by 3.50pm. The behaviour policy has been updated to reflect this and can be found [here](#).

All detentions will occur on the day that an instance of misbehaviour takes place and you will be notified via Class Charts. If you have not downloaded the app, can I please urge you to do so. Parent codes are available by contacting the school via [info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk).

The aim is for sanctions to be more immediate, as detentions work better when the incident is fresh in the memory. The aim is to reflect on what happened and restore the relationship with the teachers, so that a fresh start can be made the next day. Parents and carers play an important role in ensuring students' behaviour in school is meeting the high standards we expect. Please talk to your child about the reason they were given the detention and what they could have done better next.

**BELIEVE   ACHIEVE   INSPIRE**

**The Wordsley School · Brierley Hill Road · Wordsley · Near Stourbridge · DY8 5SP  
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Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg**

## Changes to the School Day

In order to maximise lesson time and allow students to make better progress, we have decided to adapt our school day. In particular, we are building in transition time between lessons to enable students time to visit the toilet (if they wish) and arrive to their lesson on time. This means that toilet visits will not be allowed in lessons unless students have a medically proven need. These students have been written to and those who have provided medical proof will receive their new toilet pass on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

The school day is outlined below:

8.30am	Pupils arrive and go to registration. Pedestrian gate locked at 8.30am.
8.35am-8.50am	Registration
8.55am-9.45am	Period 1
9.50am-10.40am	Period 2
10.40am-10.55am	Break
10.55am-11.45am	Period 3
11.50am-12.40pm	Period 4
12.40pm-1.10pm	Lunch
1.10pm-1.15pm	Registration
1.20pm-2.10pm	Period 5
2.15pm-3.05pm	Period 6

These changes will mean that students are not missing important learning by leaving lessons but can still have the opportunity to use the toilet if they need to during the transition time. Our whole approach is aimed at maximising learning time and focusing students on the knowledge and skills they acquire in lessons. This is the core purpose of any school, to help provide young people with a high-quality education.

I wish you and your family a happy and restful half-term.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr A Weatherhogg**  
Headteacher

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