



WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

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HEADTEACHER: Mr T Hardcastle

Re: July 2024 update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As another school year draws to a close, I want to celebrate what we have achieved together. From new approaches to teaching and learning to brilliant performances and sporting wins, this year has been a testament to our students' hard work, dedication, and resilience. I am also incredibly grateful for the continued support from our dedicated staff and families who help to make it all happen. To help you stay informed and support your child's journey at Wickersley, I'm pleased to share a summary of the year's highlights and key changes we've made.

Inside and outside every lesson

At times, learning at school can be difficult for students and parents to manage. We know from experience that students and parents like to know exactly what to do to be successful, and what they're responsible for. To help with this, in the Autumn, we created and shared a clear *blueprint for success*, we call it **Every Lesson**.

Every lesson is a list of students' responsibilities inside and outside every lesson at Wickersley. We're certain that if students follow this blueprint - for every lesson, every day - they'll be successful. I have included a copy of **Every Lesson** with this letter.

Our home learning guide

This year, we wanted to improve students' experience of homework or home learning. In the early Spring, we produced a guide for students, teachers and parents to make sure there was a consistent approach to home learning across all subjects and year groups.

In summary, from now on, every week, all students, across all subjects and year groups, will be directed towards home learning by their teacher. Home learning tasks will vary. Home learning could include quizzes, assessments, or exam questions. It could also include activities which enrich students' learning, e.g., watching a documentary. Although students will be directed towards home learning weekly, these tasks won't always be compulsory. I have included a copy of our **Home Learning Guide** with this letter.

Wickersley Weekly Wins, brilliant performances and sporting victories

New this year, **Wickersley Weekly Wins** shines a spotlight on everything our students accomplish outside the classroom. Big or small, we celebrate it all. It's about recognising and building student pride. At Wickersley, our students **are proud of their achievements**, we want them to feel confident sharing their successes and seeing their hard work acknowledged.

Has your child accomplished something lately? Whatever it is, we'd love to hear about it at **Wickersley Weekly Wins**. Encourage your child to tell us what they're proud of accomplishing and we'll celebrate with them every Friday in Reception. Look out for a mention on our website and social media, too.



Wickersley students shone this year whether it's hitting sixes in cricket, winning athletics events, or dominating on the football field, they've done Wickersley proud. I'm also thrilled to see more students taking on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and giving back to the community through volunteering. It's been a year filled with incredible achievements.

Congratulations to all students involved in school events, productions and competitions, and well done for **believing in yourselves** and **dreaming big**.

Change to mobile phone policy

This year, we thought a lot about mobile phones. We know phones help students stay connected, but research shows they can be distracting in class, even if they're just sitting on a desk or in students' bags. Even the thought of a phone can make it hard for students to focus on learning. As a result, from the 1st of July, mobile phones were prohibited throughout the school premises, they should be **invisible at all times**.

Instead of a complete ban, we've struck a balance by allowing students to keep their phones turned off and stored safely in their bags. This minimises distractions while ensuring they're accessible when commuting to and from school.

I am proud to have seen such a smooth transition to our new policy. Almost all students are keeping their phones off and away during school hours, even in the policy's early days. This wouldn't be possible without your continued support and cooperation, thank you.

Our new uniform

Our uniform is important to us. It represents our school community and instils a sense of pride in our school. Our uniform also helps to set the tone for a productive day. We all know from experience that if we 'dress the part' for work, an interview or a big event, we feel more confident, professional and productive - able to focus on what matters. As you know, our uniform is changing in September. Please re-familiarise yourself with the changes [here](#) and encourage your child to start in September as they mean to go on.

And finally...

Ending the summer term feels bittersweet. For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, this marks the end of their time with us. We celebrated with them and said goodbye at their leavers' parties and prom, wishing them well in the future. This sadness is balanced by how proud I feel about all of our students. I was thrilled to celebrate the achievements of all year groups at our recent end-of-year awards ceremonies. It was a true testament to the hard work and dedication displayed by both students and staff throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in six weeks, including many of our Year 11 into the sixth form. See you all on the 3rd of September!

Have a brilliant summer and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Hardcastle
Headteacher