



WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

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HEADTEACHER: Mr T Hardcastle

Re: September 2024 update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We understand that returning to school after a long summer break can be both exciting and nerve-wracking. For some students, the thought of going back to the routine of classes, bells, and homework may be a bit overwhelming. I am pleased to say that all students have returned to school fully equipped, perfectly presented and ready to learn - **taking responsibility and rising to the challenge**. I have been especially pleased to welcome new Year 7 and Year 12 students, who have settled in exceptionally well.

Our school was buzzing with excitement on Results Days as students celebrated their impressive GCSE and A-level grades. I was really pleased to see the positive outcomes of the combined efforts of the school, students, and parents last year. Our students performed exceptionally well, surpassing the national and Rotherham average in almost all measures, for both GCSE and A-level.

To help you fully support your child with their education, I would like to outline a few important messages and changes:

Teaching and learning: homework, catch-up and intervention

At Wickersley, we encourage students to be independent learners who can think critically and problem-solve. We understand that developing independence takes time, and we need to create opportunities for students to build their skills. We've already made changes like our [home learning guide](#) to support this. This September, we're also making changes to Year 7 and Year 8 form tutor time to provide more time for classroom studies, in addition to the usual tutor messages and activities. As the year progresses, please encourage your child to take advantage of opportunities in school such as **extra booster sessions** to further their learning and develop their independence.

Student planners

From this week, all students across all year groups will receive a new hard-copy, ring-bound student planner. This planner is designed to help students stay organised, record their home learning, track their attendance and progress, and give helpful information and support. Here are some ways to help your child get the most out of their new student planner and develop their independence:

- Encourage your child to bring their planner to school every day.
- Work with your child to manage their time and prioritise tasks to ensure deadlines are met.
- Encourage your child to seek extra help or support from their teachers when needed (the planner can act as a communication tool between home and school to help do this).

- To promote responsibility, we recommend reviewing the planner weekly with your child. This allows you to check if homework has been recorded and completed. Please sign the planner weekly to show us that this has happened.

Mind your manners

At Wickersley, we **support each other** and encourage all students to be kind, well-mannered, and respectful in their interactions. However, we believe that manners and kindness have an impact that goes beyond surface-level politeness. Students who believe their school is a 'kind' environment achieve better grades. Research suggests that students who perceive their school as a kind place interact more actively with their peers and teachers while learning, they also engage in learning in different and more meaningful ways, and achieve better grades. Starting this year, we're launching a school-wide project to promote good manners. Everyone at Wickersley is expected to follow our **core manners** in all situations. This is the **Wickersley Way**.



INSET days for 2024-25

Monday 11th November 2024, Tuesday 12th November 2024, Monday 21st July 2025, Tuesday 22nd July 2025, Wednesday 23rd July 2025

And finally...

Once again, welcome back to the new academic year. I am confident that with your support, your children will continue to progress and achieve their full potential at Wickersley.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T. Hardcastle
Headteacher