



**WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE**

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**HEADTEACHER:** Mr T Hardcastle

## **Re: October 2024 update**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The first half term of a new school year is *arguably* the most important. Of course, all the school terms are important, but a *strong start* sets the tone for the school year ahead. It's encouraging to see our students hitting the ground running, showing enthusiasm for learning, forming positive study habits and making a *strong start*. Although the past eight weeks have been a whirlwind as we welcomed our new Year 7 and Year 12 students into the Wickersley family, it's great to see them already embracing the values and culture of the school, embodying the Wickersley Way.

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

### **Teaching and Learning: home learning, planners, developing good attitudes to learning**

Your child's success and happiness at school are closely linked to their attitudes to learning. The Wickersley Way emphasises positive attitudes to learning, and it forms the basis of everything we do. To make things even easier, last year, we created the *inside and outside every lesson* guide that gives students practical tips to develop their learning habits.

Our new student planners are also helping to develop positive attitudes to learning and are working well. Please encourage your child to bring their planner to school every day to record their home learning. Teachers should set weekly home learning tasks for all subjects. These tasks can include quizzes, assessments, exams, or enrichment activities like watching documentaries. While home learning is encouraged weekly, it may not always be compulsory. You can find more information in our [home learning guide](#). Please check your child's planner regularly to help manage their time and prioritise tasks to meet deadlines.

A copy of the Wickersley Way is included in your child's planner, where you can also find the *inside and outside every lesson* guide.



## Mind your manners

At Wickersley, manners and kindness are important to us, and that's why we've made it a whole-school priority this year. All students have been taught about the value of manners and kindness and now *everyone in school is being* encouraged to mind their manners, always.

Research has shown that students who think of their school as a kind place form stronger relationships with their peers and teachers, leading to improved well-being and better grades. By prioritising manners and kindness, we aim to create a school where everyone feels valued and respected. There will be more work done in school on kindness in the weeks ahead.

We know that manners and kindness are important to our parents and guardians too. Please help us promote a culture of kindness and respect by reminding your child to mind their manners at all times.



## Uniform and equipment

Uniform and equipment are important. Taking pride in our appearance and being equipped to learn is the Wickersley Way. Please check that your child has the correct school uniform ready for the first week back. We understand there have been supply issues, but we expect everyone to be in full uniform by then. If you're still having trouble finding specific items, please let us know.

It's important to check that your child has all the necessary school stationery and supplies too. This includes:

- A pencil case filled with pens, pencils, and other equipment.
- A bag large enough to carry exercise books, a mobile phone (invisible whilst at school), a PE kit, and a water bottle.

**And finally...**

Thank you again for your continued support during this busy half term. We look forward to welcoming your child back refreshed and ready to learn on Monday 4th November, 2024.

Have a restful break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Hardcastle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Mr T Hardcastle  
Headteacher