



WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham, S66 1JL

 01709 542147

 contactus@wickersley.net

 wickersley.net

HEADTEACHER: Mr T Hardcastle

Re: January 2025 update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We know that returning to school after the holidays can sometimes feel a bit of a struggle for students. It's natural to feel a bit out of sorts after a period of relaxed routines. January is often called the 'bleakest' month of the year. I disagree. I prefer to focus on the opportunities for a fresh start. You might have heard of 'Blue Monday,' often referred to as the most depressing day of the year. Interestingly, yesterday, the third Monday in January, was that very day. Even during challenging months like January, it's important to encourage students to stay motivated, stick to routines, and never give less than their best. This is the Wickersley Way. After all, the idea of 'Blue Monday' is mostly a marketing gimmick and not based on any real science!

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

Routines for learning

Routines are incredibly important for children's learning. They provide a predictable structure that helps children focus, manage their time effectively, and feel more confident. When children know what to expect each day, like a regular time for homework or reading, they can settle into their work more easily. This reduces stress and helps them develop essential skills like organisation and independence.

Our teachers encourage your child to develop good learning habits, such as preparing their materials (like a mini-whiteboard and pen) at the beginning of each lesson and setting weekly home learning. You can help us by supporting consistent routines at home. For example, encourage your child to complete their homework in a dedicated study space outside of their bedroom and pack their school bag with all the necessary equipment the night before. Students can access our Homework Club every Monday to Thursday from 3:10 pm to 4:00 pm in The Hub.

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.



Exam Certificate Presentation Evening

On behalf of the entire staff at Wickersley, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the parents, guardians, and family members who attended our recent exam certificate presentation evening on January 16th. Your presence was appreciated, and we hope you enjoyed the evening celebrating the achievements of our students. At Wickersley, we are proud of our achievements, and we believe these events are a valuable rite of passage, and your support with this is much appreciated.

School uniform

School uniform is important. It contributes to a positive school atmosphere, helps all students feel equal, and can simplify morning routines. This means less time worrying about what to wear and more time focusing on learning.

Please check that your child has the correct school uniform. Please note, false eyelashes and false fingernails are not allowed, including any nail enhancement such as Gel, Biab, Builder, Acrylic etc. Nails should be kept a neutral colour and be kept short. This is to comply with uniform policy and safety in PE lessons for all pupils. It is at the school's discretion as to what constitutes as neutral and an appropriate length.

Upcoming key dates

Parents' evenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 7 - 19/06/2025• Year 9 - 20/03/2025• Year 10 - 08/05/2025• Year 11 - 30/01/2025• Year 12 - 06/03/2025
Mock exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 10 - begin 23/06/2025• Year 11 - begin 24/02/2025• Year 12 - begin 21/04/2025• Year 13 - begin 03/02/2025
Results days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A-level Results Day - Thursday, 14th August 2025• GCSE Results Day - Thursday, 21st August 2025

And finally...

While some people think of January as a gloomy month, I believe it can be a time for a fresh start. It's a chance to get back into a good routine, set some new goals, and approach the new term with renewed energy.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Hardcastle
Headteacher