

16 September 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that the new academic year has started well for you and your family. We have been very pleased indeed with the excellent start that students have made to the school year. Now that we are well into the new term, I wanted to write to you with some important updates and to seek your views on some key issues.

Your child's progress

From student and parent surveys last year, it was clear that families would appreciate a clearer overview of the Wilsthorpe curriculum in each subject. In response to this feedback, we have uploaded short video presentations for each subject, so that you can keep up with what your child is learning about: <https://www.wilsthorpe.ttct.co.uk/curriculum/subjects/>

In addition, you will receive a Student Tracker 3 times per year, to keep you informed about your child's progress. The first of these Trackers will be sent home later this term as follows:

- Years 7, 11, 12 and 13: week beginning Monday 12th October
- Years 10: week beginning 8th November
- Year 9: week beginning 15th November
- Year 8: week beginning 22nd November

Parents of Year 7 students should be aware that we will be assessing children using Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs). There is no need for students to prepare for these and they will be carried out in an informal and supportive manner during lesson time.

Your child's attendance and behaviour

Families are reminded that we use ClassCharts to communicate achievement points, behaviour points and attendance information. We would ask that all parents log into the ClassCharts app (<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>) and regularly check the information we share. Families are asked to reinforce and celebrate excellent work and conduct and to support us as a school if we need to address concerns. If you are unable to log in, please contact school via the MyEd app and we will send you log in details.

School bus

We have altered the route of our school bus, which travels to Long Eaton every morning from Borrowash via Draycott and Breaston and offers the same journey in reverse at the end of the day. The previous route passed Wilsthorpe, continued into Long Eaton, turned around at Trent Meadows and retraced its steps. The new route follows a circuit, down Wilsthorpe Road, along Fields Farm Road, to be able to pick up more students (this route can be found here: <https://www.wilsthorpe.ttct.co.uk/information/travel-transport-information/>). However, student take-up since the pandemic has been low. Therefore, we would seek parent views about both the route

and whether the service is still required at all. You can share your views by following this link:
<https://forms.gle/1Ez5bRCPQcnhQNrL9>

Parents' Evenings

The first Parents' Evening of the year is on Tuesday 19th October for Year 7 families. This event will involve a face-to-face Parent-Tutor meeting, so you can discuss how your child has settled into Wilsthorpe, as well as an opportunity to look around the school building, given the disruption and closures of last academic year.

We are seeking parents' views on whether other Parents' Evenings later in the year, when you may need to meet with 10 or more different teachers, should be carried out 'in person' or virtually. Your views on this question would be very welcome and can be shared by following this link:
<https://forms.gle/8nh959LeSp533T9a9>

COVID testing and vaccination

Details about the government's planned vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds will be shared with you as soon as we have received information about this. In the meantime, we would encourage all students to continue with twice-weekly testing, to be done at your convenience. We have recently distributed home testing kits, but there is no need to share the results of the tests with us as a school, unless a child test positive for COVID-19.

Free School Meals

Finally, I would encourage all families to review their personal circumstances at this time of year and to check whether your child may be eligible for free school meals. We know that many children still miss out on their entitlement, so please do check and apply here:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Finally...

Thank you again for your support as families. We are unapologetic about the high standards we expect from students – the way they wear their uniform, their attendance, their conduct, the pride they take in their work, and so much more – but these expectations need to be supported and reinforced by families. So thank you for everything you do to encourage and support your child and our work as a school; it makes a real difference.

With kind regards,



Mr D Hobbs
Headteacher