

28 January 2022

Dear parents/carers,

With the announcement last week of the ending of 'Plan B' COVID measures in schools, I wanted to write to you to let you know about some important work we are doing to support the return to normality and positive routines at Wilsthorpe.

Support for student wellbeing

Our Welfare Team has more than doubled in size over the past year and now has a dedicated base in the heart of our building. These colleagues do not have a teaching commitment and so are available to support students throughout the day. In addition, we are relaunching our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum in the coming months. Please look out for information in the second edition of our parent newsletter – 'The Wilsthorpe Way' – just before half term.

Clubs and activities

Our staff have worked hard to offer a wide variety of clubs and activities for students, to enable them to enjoy and engage with school life again. The programme for this term can be found here, so please do encourage your child to participate: <https://www.wilsthorpe.ttct.co.uk/curriculum/enrichment/>

Small group tuition

We have appointed extra teachers this academic year to enable us to deliver small group catch-up tuition. This happens during the school day, when students are withdrawn from certain lessons to receive specialist teaching on topics in which they would benefit from additional support.

Student attitudes and behaviour

Some students are relieved to be back in school, while others have found it difficult to readjust to the demands and expectations of school life. The climate for learning has to be right, if children are to make up ground they have lost educationally. Teachers have to be able to teach and students must be able to learn. Therefore, over the next week or so, I wanted to share some important messages we will be communicating with your children:

Rewards: All students from Year 7-10 have the opportunity to access an end-of-year trip in July, to recognise excellent work throughout the academic year, while students in older year groups will enjoy other end-of-year events. In addition, I am pleased to confirm that our annual Awards Evening will take place on Thursday 14 July. These are just two of the different ways of rewarding and recognising great work, in order to build students' intrinsic motivation to succeed.

Sanctions: From 1 February, we are introducing after-school detentions for one hour, on the same day that they are set. These detentions will ensure immediate follow-up and give students a fresh start from the very next day. Detentions of this kind will only be set when it is deemed necessary and only in the event that a student refuses to engage with our usual expectations and support. Families will be informed in advance of any detentions set. All positive and negative points can be viewed live by parents in the Class Charts app and a reminder of your unique student access code will be sent to you in the coming days.

Prioritising learning: Punctuality – both in the morning and to lessons – is a key life skill. From 1 February, parents will be able to find if their child has been late to lessons on the Class Charts app and teachers will ensure that missed learning time is made up. We will continue to encourage students to visit the toilet outside of lesson time, so that learning time is prioritised and protected. Where this is not possible, students will receive a note on Class Charts from their teacher, to allow tutors and families to monitor this.

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13

For students in Years 11, 12 and 13, our focus is now squarely on helping them to prepare for the exams they will sit this summer. Students will receive their mock exam timetables and other information to guide their revision over the next 2 weeks.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank all of those families who consistently support the school by reinforcing key messages at home. For most students, this is a 7-year journey, from Years 7 to 13, and its success depends on the quality of partnership between home and school, so thank you.

With kind regards,



Mr D Hobbs
Headteacher