

EBE/srg

22nd July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last few months have been a period which none of us will ever forget. One of the positive aspects that I hold onto is that it has been an experience which we have all been in together and my belief is, it has brought us so much closer as a community.

Parents and Carers have managed to lead home learning so well, keeping students engaged with learning from a distance. We do not underestimate how hard this must have been at times and especially with such good weather and nearing the summer holidays when work can be the furthest thing from anyone's minds! Our students need such recognition too - they have developed into fantastic independent learners who have dug deep in the most challenging of times and circumstances. We are so proud of how they have adapted to our virtual school and how many students have grown in confidence through the delivery of our live lessons and assemblies.

We have a few staff who leave us this academic year and we want to wish them well for their journeys ahead. As staff won't get to say goodbye in person, they have written some goodbye messages to parents and students:

Mr Pavey and Mrs Quirk – *“We just wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye. Between us we have been at Willingdon over 25 years and have loved our time here, we have seen so much creativity, talent and hard work in our students that has continued to amaze us even through the lockdown period. We are sure our incredibly talented Year 10s and the new Year 9 option groups are in a really good place and will be brilliant, we are sad to leave them behind and wish them well for the year or two ahead. We have loved serving this wonderful local community and will not forget the tremendous support from parents we have benefited from.”*

Miss Welford - *“I'd like to say goodbye and thank you to all the students and parents at Willingdon Community School. You have been a pleasure the past few years and I wish you every success in the future.”*

Miss Frendo and Ginny – *“Goodbye and the biggest thank you imaginable to all the amazing students I have worked with. I will miss the Hub, The ARCC, Forest School and the many happy moments you have all given me. Do your best, be kind and enjoy life”.*

Mr Donati – *“Goodbye everyone, I'm gutted to be leaving you all and I've really enjoyed teaching every single one of you, good luck in the future and keep up the good work in MFL!”.*

Mrs Jellings - *I should like to thank parents for supporting their children maintain good attendance during my 17 ½ years at WCS and I hope attendance levels will continue to improve over the coming years. It's been a huge pleasure to get to know you and your sons and daughters and I wish our Year 11s a fond farewell as they embark on the next stage of their lives. I will miss you all.*

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Mr Steele – “Willingdon has always been a special place for me, as both a student and a teacher, so I am sad to be leaving. As a teacher I would particularly like to thank the current students -who always work hard, the parents - who have always been supportive, and all of the other staff who go above and beyond every day. Willingdon continues to be a great school and I will miss working with you all very much”.

Miss Tedeschini – “Although my time at Willingdon was short, I enjoyed every minute and am grateful for playing a part in the students’ time at school”.

Mrs Scovell – “Goodbye and thank you to all the amazing students I have worked with. I will miss The ARCCH and the 3 months that I spent full time in the PE department, I have had some fantastic experiences and moments at Willingdon that I will take with me and will remember always”.

We also have a few changes of positions within our current staffing for September:

Mrs Thomas- Assistant Associate Headteacher and Director of Learning (DoL) for Science

Miss Morrison- Leader of Learning (LoL) for Biology

Miss Foyle- LoL for Chemistry

Mrs Kemp - Teaching and Learning Coach

Mrs Rooney – Careers Advisor

Miss Attrill – LoL for PE

Miss Leonard- LoL for PSHE

Miss Peak – KS3 Co-ordinator for English

Mrs Wilson – LoL for Music

Mrs Burge – Careers and Aspirations Support

Mrs Mallipoudy - Literacy Co-ordinator

I will introduce new staff to you all in my August correspondence.

By the end of school on Wednesday, 22nd July, we will have our draft risk assessment on our website which parents are welcome to comment upon. We will not be available to respond to comments until the last week in August as it is important that all staff, including the leadership team, take a break so they can be fully prepared and re-energised for our September reopening.

We will continue our safeguarding support throughout the holidays and the Talktous email will still be monitored daily. If you have any significant concerns regarding a child’s safety, please ensure the police are contacted.

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However, we will be following government guidance throughout August and amending our risk assessment where appropriate. When I contact you in August, we will produce student friendly videos to show how the school will operate. We hope these will alleviate any anxieties students might face. We will also share guidance on the equipment that students should have in their bags for each lesson from September. This is to reduce risk to students by limiting the number of items that need to be handed out by teachers during lessons.

Finally, we are having some difficulties aligning our school day finish time of 3.10pm with Stagecoach Bus services. We are trying to get hold of them currently to discuss this as we know it is a priority to let parents know as soon as possible. I am sorry for any inconvenience this will cause but I will confirm officially with you when I write again in August. If Stagecoach cannot accommodate our request of a 15 minute later closure, we do have an alternative plan which allows us to finish at 2.55pm however, this would not be our preference.

Can I remind all students that they need to follow guidance over the summer to ensure no local spikes and keep themselves safe to ensure a full return to school in September.

Thank you again for the backing you have shown myself and the team over this lockdown period. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive parent body and we have really appreciated such positive feedback which has helped us even in the most darkest of days.

I hope you all manage to have a lovely summer.

Very best wishes,

Ms E. Beer
Headteacher