

Wilmslow High School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Beginning of Year notes – September 2017

Welcome to the start of the new school year. In particular, a very warm welcome to those students, parents and staff who are joining Wilmslow High School for the first time.

You will remember the range of staff and student achievements described in last year's 'High Notes' newsletters and may very well have read in the local and national press of the success of students in the 2017 examinations.

Over the summer months, staff from the Exams, Careers, House and Sixth Form teams have continued to provide committed and skilled support to students exploring the next steps that they need to take. Similarly, during the school holidays, members of our Site teams and a range of external contractors have worked to refresh and enhance the school's environment. Two additional sixth form classrooms have been created, equipment in High Options has been upgraded and three teaching rooms have been equipped with new PCs. The new till system that has been installed in the catering outlets should speed up the buying of food and a large amount of new subject content and information has been added to FireFly, the school VLE. Classrooms and sports facilities have been refurbished and preparations are well underway for the development during the autumn term of a new external social area outside High Options.

The infrastructure is therefore all in place for another successful year both collectively and individually.

Of course, to ensure that potential is fulfilled, we need you, to ensure that school and home work closely together. To support this please could you:

- Establish with your son or daughter a clear framework of responsibilities
- Establish 'ground rules' in relation to school work, leisure and casual or part-time employment.
- Support the school's expectations of students: 'The Wilmslow Way' (please see below)
- Commit to the 'Home School Agreement' and ensure that the words on paper are translated into commitments which are lived day by day throughout the year.

We in school shall seek to play our part, and your contribution is crucial.

We start this school year therefore with more young people than ever, with a staff that is second to none and with an impressive working environment.

We all know there are issues ahead. The first wave of reformed qualifications at 16+ and 18+ have been taught and examined successfully but it will be another two years or more before every subject has completed the cycle of change. Similarly, the state of public finances will continue to present considerable challenges over the next five years that we will need to address with imagination, creativity and by working with our wider community. Last year's campaign in relation to the proposed National Funding Formula generated significant attention at local and national levels and drew welcome support from our elected representatives. Now we are waiting to see what will be the impact of the revised proposals. We will keep you fully informed about all matters through letters, our website and our weekly 'High Notes' newsletter. However we can

anticipate needing to increase our own fund-raising efforts if we are to sustain and develop the quality and range of our Whole Education offer.

Nevertheless, with your support, staff and students' commitment I am sure 2017 – 2018 will be another happy and successful year full of participation and achievement.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming term at Wilmslow High School. I have noted below information which I hope will be of general interest and of help during the year ahead.

Online information

There are currently three main sources of online information that you might find helpful: the school website, our FireFly VLE and a copy of the printed student planner.

The FireFly parent portal includes the following individual information:

- Attendance
- Behaviour and achievement points
- Copies of reports
- Tasks set (homework)
- Online marking and feedback

Guidance on how to access this information can be found at:

<http://wilmslowhigh.fireflycloud.net/firefly-help/firefly-access-portal>

A copy of the student planner and can be downloaded from the following page on the school website: <http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/parents/student-planner/>

Examination Results - Summer 2017

High standards were maintained and further improved across all years in the public examinations.

At Key Stage 4 76% of students achieved the new Grade 4 or better in both English and mathematics. 80% of students achieved grade 4 or better in English language, 83% in English Literature and 78% in mathematics. The performance of the highest attainers is especially strong with 29% of students gaining a grade 7 or above in English Language, 30% in English Literature and 28% in mathematics. Particularly impressive are the number of the new highest grade 9s that have been awarded with 13 in English Language, 22 in English Literature and 16 in mathematics. These figures represent performance that is at least double the national average.

At A-Level 55% percent of A-Level and equivalent examination entries received an A*, A or B grade and 9% of A-Level entries grades were graded A*. Results in the BTEC National Diploma in Sport were similarly impressive with 78% of students achieving the equivalent of 3 grades in the A*-B range. The vast majority of Year 13 students secured their first or second choice university places, and the remaining students were offered support and guidance to help them gain places through clearing with almost complete success.

For more details about students' success and photographs of results day celebrations please visit:

<http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/news/article/16227/wilmslow-high-celebrates-strong-performance-in-new-9-1-grade-gcses>

<http://www.wilmslow.co.uk/news/article/16195/students-at-wilmslow-high-celebrate-impressive-a-level-results>

We are, as always, very pleased with the progress of our students at all levels, and I am grateful to staff and students for their hard work, and to parents for their invaluable support.

The Wilmslow Way

Our culture and ethos, values and attitudes, standards and expectations are encapsulated in the phrase ‘The Wilmslow Way’. We work with our students in enabling them to achieve of their best moving up the steps from good behaviour, to having pride in what they do, to achieving success. Students are rewarded, as always, for achieving success across a wide range of activities: there are many and varied opportunities for all students at Wilmslow High in which they can demonstrate their talent and abilities. We hope that all parents, staff and students regard ‘The Wilmslow Way’ as being at the heart of the school underpinning the school’s values, future development and success. You will become familiar, if you are not already, with ‘The Wilmslow Way’ logo: look out for it on your child’s planner and other documents from school.

‘Home-School Agreement’

On p.13 of your child’s Student Planner you will find a copy of the Home-School Agreement (Years 7 to 11 only) which illustrates part of ‘The Wilmslow Way’. The agreement was originally established in collaboration with all of our partner primary schools and seeks to express the basic responsibilities of all concerned in any young person’s education.

I would be grateful if you would sign the relevant section of the Home-School Agreement document in your child’s planner which will also act as **a reply slip to this newsletter**.

Calendar 2017 – 2018

Also attached to this newsletter is an outline calendar for the forthcoming academic year. It is very important that all students are in full attendance throughout the year, and the school will not, therefore, sanction leave of absence during term time for students to participate in family holidays. The outline calendar provides details of activity throughout the year, but two sets of events to note immediately are:

▪ **Open Evening / Open Day**

This year’s ‘Open Evening’ will take place on Wednesday, 27th September. In order to facilitate an effective evening, school will close for students at 2.10 pm at which time they will be dismissed from school to return home. Open Day will then take place during the following day, Thursday, 28th September. Further details will follow nearer the date.

▪ **Expectations Evenings**

These evenings are intended to provide our parents and carers with important information about the academic year that you may have questions about, and to give you strategies that will help you to support your child in their learning this year.

The evenings, which have been scheduled through the year at moments which seem most optimal for the needs of each year group, are on the following dates:

- Wednesday 13th September – Year 8
- Thursday 14th September – Year 12
- Tuesday 19th September – Year 9
- Wednesday 20th September – Year 10
- Thursday 9th November – Year 7
- Thursday 16th November – Year 11

Letters inviting parents / carers to these events will be distributed through the normal channels and be available to download from the school website.

A fuller calendar, which will be added to during the year, is available on the following page of our website: <http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/calendar/key-events/>

Any queries relating to the calendar should be addressed to Mrs L Challis.

Curriculum matters

We have for many years used the Curriculum Digest publications to provide parent and carers with extensive information about the organisation of the school curriculum, the big ideas explored in each subject and the knowledge covered. These can be downloaded from the following pages on the school website:

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/key-stage-3/introduction-to-key-stage-3/year-7/>

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/key-stage-3/introduction-to-key-stage-3/year-8/>

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/key-stage-3/introduction-to-key-stage-3/year-9/>

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/key-stage-4/year-10-2/>

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/key-stage-4/year-11-2/>

Wider Curriculum

The publications above are primarily focused on the academic subjects studied through the core timetable. For more details on the philosophy and structure of our Wider Curriculum please see <http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/wider-curriculum/>

In order to enable all students to effectively gain the knowledge and skills in the 4 key Wider Curriculum components: Respect, Wellbeing, Community and Aspirations, for three weeks of the year, the first period on each day will be 'collapsed' and devoted to a Wider Curriculum lesson.

The delivery of these standalone lessons has been carefully planned and this year, these lessons will principally be delivered by form tutors. These lessons have been planned by fellow colleagues who are leading on each of the 4 Wider Curriculum components. This approach will help us act upon the DfE recommendations detailed in the 'Life Lessons' document, that said, "PSHE and SRE delivered by confident and capable teachers is crucial to improving the quality of teaching".

The first set of lessons will take place shortly after October half term and the use of period 1 through the week means that the same subject is not always affected. There will also be a number of 'Wider Curriculum Talks' taking place throughout the year where students will have the opportunity to listen to outside speakers talk about current issues and topics of interest.

Homework

Homework is set regularly and details of each task will be recorded by teachers in Firefly and by students in their planners. We no longer publish a fixed homework timetable because tasks are set online through Firefly, enabling parents, carers and students to check what work is due and when it is due. Teachers work to clear guidelines about how much homework should be set, and how often. These are shared on our website at www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/learning-zone/.

Please support your son or daughter by discussing the homework set, checking upon its completion and by monitoring the quality of the work done. Please also ensure that you sign the

planner each week. If you have any concerns relating to homework please do not hesitate to contact the Curriculum Team Leader concerned. **The responsibility for the completion of homework rests with students and with yourselves, as parents.**

Sport and the Performing Arts at Wilmslow High School

Wilmslow High School offers an extensive sports and performing arts programme both within the daily timetable and in the range of extracurricular activities available to students. Every year we review, evaluate and seek to enhance this programme as we know it contributes massively to students' development and self esteem. Please encourage your son or daughter to become involved: there really is something for everyone.

The programmes for the autumn term can be found at:

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/xtra-curricular-programmes/>

Queries on sports opportunities should be addressed to Mr H Williams (Curriculum Team Leader PE and Sport). Similarly for Arts opportunities please contact Mr D Hussin (Curriculum Team Leader Performing Arts and Media).

Parental contributions to the cost of aspects of our xtra-curricular programmes

Parental contributions towards the cost of educational visits and peripatetic music lessons are a well-established custom. In 2016-2017 the reduction in school funding also led to us having to introduce contributions towards the cost of travel to sports fixtures and to those sporting clubs that were run by paid coaches rather than members of the school staff. Feedback suggests that parents would prefer us to move away from weekly collected contributions and towards a termly or yearly package that could be administered through ParentPay. We are currently finalising as to how to provide this and will write separately with our proposals in the near future.

Educational visits and sport fixtures away from school

You will be aware that many educational visits take place during an academic year. Visits range from local fieldwork lasting no more than one lesson to exchanges and continental visits.

Internal procedures exist to ensure that any visit operates efficiently and with proper concern for students' safety and welfare.

As part of the student data checking exercise we undertook in the summer term 2017 you should have received a generic Educational Visit Consent Form. Completion and return of this means that you have already given permission for non-overnight, low risk educational visits and we will not have to ask you for this again during 2017-2018. However, if these have not yet been returned then we will need to continue asking you to complete an Educational Visit Consent Form for all the events which require these.

We will, of course, continue to request specific parental permission for those educational visits which involve an overnight stay or those assessed as involving higher risk.

Parents should be aware that on occasions, courses might require students to undertake local fieldwork independently within the vicinity of the school. Any such fieldwork will be for a limited period, will relate to a subject's scheme of work and will be properly monitored. It may, though, require students to operate independently and to exercise all of the normal cautions when moving around in an urban area.

Sporting fixtures operate throughout the year. Students will be informed of their involvement in such fixtures and of any travel arrangements. We will expect them to provide their parents with full details in order that any necessary arrangements can be made. There will, of course, inevitably be occasions when changes to the team have to be made on the day of the fixture.

Where educational visits or sporting fixtures generate any additional costs such as transport, accommodation, for activities and admission to events or venues then the school will need to request voluntary contributions to help cover these costs. The details of these contributions will be set out in the information we send out when planning these visits.

If you have any general queries concerning school visits, please contact Mrs J Evetts, who is responsible for visits. Queries concerning specific visits should be addressed to the member of staff organising the visit. In order to allow you to plan ahead, a list of educational visits for 2017 – 2018 is available on the following page of the school website:

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/calendar/residentials-and-trips>

Day visits, sporting competitions and other events will be added during the year.

Uniform

May I remind you of the need for students always to come to and go home from school in full uniform and, in particular, remind you of the importance of students attending school smartly dressed.

Please check again the uniform requirements: we appreciate your support in maintaining our high standards.

Students must wear the blazer and maroon v-neck sweater together with a shirt/blouse and tie at all times. Students can ask to remove their jumpers in lessons at any time: in hot weather they will be authorised not to wear their blazers and jumpers around the school.

Trainers and/or boots are not acceptable school wear, other than trainers for P.E. lessons. Canvas shoes are not permitted.

Staff are asked to reinforce and insist upon students following existing uniform policy with particular attention to:

- Shirts should be tucked in
- Clip-on ties should be waist length and shirt top buttons done up
- Skirts should be of a reasonable length and preferably knee length
- Sweatshirts are not allowed
- Jewellery is not permitted with the exception of watches. Girls may wear two small gold or silver studs, one in each ear lobe. Boys will not be allowed to wear earrings.
- Students wearing make-up or nail varnish must remove it.
- Extreme hairstyles (both too short and too long) should not be worn.
- Students should not be allowed to draw on their hands etc. This not only wastes time but infringes their uniform and undermines the learning culture
- If students are wearing incorrect uniform they will be seen and sanctioned by the appropriate House Student Manager

Mrs S Williams (Student Manager) is the school's point of contact for all matters relating to uniform.

Sixth Form Dress Code

All members of the Sixth Form are required to comply with the published dress code.

School Bags

There is, as you know, concern relating to back pain among some children. The school is not able to make many lockers available to students. In the absence of lockers, the National Back Pain Association recommends a rucksack style bag, worn across both shoulders.

Student Responsibility

Parents often ask reception staff to take a forgotten item to an individual child; they are always happy to assist and, in an emergency, to take whatever action is necessary. However, reception staff do not have time to take action to compensate for forgetfulness. Parents are asked to encourage their sons and daughters to be responsible in preparing for school days.

Attendance

At Wilmslow High School great emphasis is placed on the importance of good attendance. Students need to be present in school to maximise their individual opportunities for fulfilling potential.

Good attendance is seen as an achievement in its own right, with rewards given either individually or within tutor groups. Students achieving 100% attendance over specified periods are eligible to be entered into termly draws with exceptional prizes and also receive certificates each term to mark this achievement.

Detailed below are the procedures in place to ensure that registers accurately reflect a student's attendance record. Parent/Carer assistance in adhering to these guidelines is much appreciated.

am registration

- All students must attend AM registration in their Form Rooms at 08.45 to receive an attendance mark for the morning session.
- Any student arriving after 09.05 must sign in at Student Services.
- Any student arriving after 08.45, but before 09.15, without a good reason, will receive a late mark – which can lead to a referral.
- Any student arriving after 09.15, without a good reason, will receive a late after registration has closed mark – which can lead to a referral and which is also classed as an unauthorised absence (*please see below for implications of unauthorised absence*).

pm registration

- All students must be present in PM registration in their Form Rooms at 15.00 to receive an attendance mark for the afternoon session.

Leaving school during school hours

- Any student leaving school during the hours of 08.45 and 15.10 (close of day) must sign out at Student Services and provide written evidence for the reason.
- Any student returning to school on the same day, must sign back in at Student Services.

Absence – Dedicated attendance line: 01625 441089

Email: attendance@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

- If a student is to be absent from school because of illness, a Parent/Carer should contact school each day of the absence – initially to advise the reason and thereafter, on each day, to confirm that the student continues to be unwell
- If a student is absent without reason, a truancy text seeking explanation will be sent out daily

- If a student is to be absent from school for a medical appointment, a Parent/Carer should contact school in advance to detail and confirm the appointment
- Any absence which has not been advised by a Parent/Carer, and which remains unaccounted for, will be recorded as unauthorised (*please see below for implications of unauthorised absence*)
- The Education Welfare Officer carefully monitors unauthorised absence, any accumulation of which can lead to the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice (*please see below for details of Fixed Penalty Notices*)
- This year we will also be using One Education (a dedicated Welfare/Attendance team) to support any students who have demonstrated difficulties in maintaining good attendance. The student services team or a representative from One Education team will be in touch should your son/daughter fall into this category.
- **Permission from the Headteacher will not generally be given for students to go on holiday during term time.**
- At Wilmslow High School we take our responsibility regarding the safeguarding of our students seriously. For this reason the guidelines above have been established in order that we can, at any time, account for a student's whereabouts

Taking children on holiday in term time and potential consequences of unexplained absence

A Guide for Parents and Carers

We aim at Wilmslow High School to provide a stimulating education, nurturing community and rewarding set of experiences that makes it natural for students to have good attendance.

Nevertheless, it is also important to appreciate that we have to operate within a tight legal framework and the following has been produced to provide clear information about this:

Legal Framework

The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a Parent/Guardian to:

“fail to secure their child’s regular attendance at school”.

The amendments to the 2006 Regulations of The Education Act 1996 make it clear that:

Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Implications for Parents and Carers

Parents/Carers have no entitlement to take their child out of school for a holiday in term time and the Headteacher and Governing Body are required to determine whether a circumstance is ‘exceptional’ or not.

Parents/Carers are requested to submit any request for leave during term time in writing to the Headteacher, whose decision will be final.

If Parents/Carers, contrary to the school decision, still decide to take their child out of school then the absence will be coded as an **unauthorised leave of absence**. This may lead to the school referring the matter to the Local Authority requesting a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued.

Similarly, any accumulation of absences, for which no genuine reasons have been provided, may lead to the school referring the matter to the Local Authority requesting a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued for **unauthorised absence**. For this reason it is imperative that Parents/Carers advise school if a student is absent through illness or attending a medical appointment.

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent/guardian	£60 per child = £120 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent/guardian	£120 per child = £240 per parent
After 28 days	You will receive a summons to appear in the Magistrates' Court on the grounds that you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance.	You will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds that you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance.

Mobile Phones

In response to parents' and students' requests, it was agreed a few years ago that students may bring mobile phones to school. Our policy on the use of mobile phones is set out on p.15 of the Student Planner:

As soon as school starts on the first bell at 8.45am, all phones must be turned off and placed in either the blazer pocket or in the students' bag. Phones can be used before school starts but once learning has begun (the start of the school day signified by the 8.45am bell) they must not be seen out of either the pocket or bag. If phones are seen out during lesson time (learning time) without the teachers' permission they will be immediately confiscated and sent to Student Services. Phones will be returned to students at 3.20pm via Student Services. **Persistent offenders: parents will be contacted and asked to collect the phone at their earliest convenience.**

Mobiles should not be used at social times (unless specific permission has been given within the year group zones) or in between lessons. If a mobile phone is being used at breaktime/ lunchtime/in between lessons then the uniform card will be signed. If the uniform card is completed with 5 'mobile phone issues' then the phone will be confiscated. Phones will be returned to students at 3.20pm via Student Services. **Persistent offenders: parents will be contacted and asked to collect the phone at their earliest convenience.**

At the end of the school day mobiles should not be used until outside of the school building.

The above sanctions will apply.

There will be occasions whereby teachers will allow use of mobile phones in lessons as learning opportunities arise but this will be specified by the individual teachers. Otherwise students should assume the above rules apply. Listening to music through headphones will not be allowed in any lesson (including Sixth Form lessons). Music may be played by the class teacher to improve the ambience for learning but will be done through the main speakers.

The school will accept no responsibility for the safe keeping of mobile phones and no liability in the event of their loss or damage.

Thefts of Property belonging to Students

In a school as large as Wilmslow High School it is regrettable, but inevitable, that items belonging to students occasionally go missing. We take every care to ensure that property, such as coats and watches, is kept securely when not being used by students. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that the measures we take will be absolutely effective. Some students do not help themselves by attending school wearing items of clothing which are unnamed or, which, are particularly attractive or expensive, such as in the case of watches. Where we believe that we have taken reasonable precautions, the school will not be able to accept responsibility for any losses. It will be for parents to ensure that students' property is fully insured through family insurance schemes.

Non-smoking Policy

The school is, as you know, a non-smoking campus for everybody. Smoking will not be allowed within the school buildings or grounds either during the day or at evening events.

Parents should note the following extract from the school's procedures relating to this policy:

"Wilmslow High School is a non-smoking campus for everybody. Students must not bring to school any cigarettes or smoking related equipment. Any student who breaks this rule will automatically receive a letter home and a school referral. A second offence will automatically lead to a parental interview and be followed by agreed disciplinary action."

Smoking as we know, damages people's health and the 'No Smoking' rule will again be rigorously enforced throughout the year: students who smoke in school will risk forfeiting their place in the school. On an associated topic, you will know that there is national concern about the smoking of cannabis. The school's position on this issue is that, as with smoking, no illegal substances may be brought into school. Students bringing such substances into school will be excluded. Any student who brings such substances into school and involves other students in their use will be permanently excluded. It is clear that cannabis and other drugs are available in the community and it is important that parents are vigilant on this issue. Equally, we in school will be vigilant in ensuring that drugs do not enter the school.

Offensive Weapons

As with smoking we need to remind parents that students must not bring offensive weapons, for example, a pen knife (no matter how small the blade) into school. Students bringing such weapons into school will be excluded and may be permanently excluded as we can see no reason why such action would be acceptable, as it places the student and other students in danger.

Student Images

To celebrate achievement, photographs of students are taken from time to time and included in newsletters, school publicity material, school displays and articles in the local press. If you do not wish your son's or daughter's photographic image to be displayed in any such way please write to the appropriate Head of House and agree with your son or daughter that he/she will courteously decline such photographic opportunities.

The School Day

Students finish their formal school day at 3.10 p.m. although there are many activities that continue beyond that time. In addition, students in Year 8 or 9 who have opted to study an additional modern language are required to complete sessions before or after school as assigned.

The School Day – Instant Referral

Students infringing school rules or displaying inappropriate conduct will be subject to an instant referral which will run from 3.10 – 3.25 pm. Clearly, it will not be possible to notify parents in advance of such referrals. Of course, the expectation is that conduct and behaviour will always be appropriate and referrals as such will only occur on a rare occasion.

Travel to School

Car Drop-Off/Collection Points

I must, as the year commences, express my continuing concern regarding traffic which affects the start and end of the school day and I would be grateful for your help in improving students' safety still further at the start and end of the school day.

The vast majority of High School students do not need to be transported to school by car: they could walk or cycle. If, however, you do feel the need to deliver or pick up your son or daughter, please adhere to the following procedures:

By-pass Entrance

Use the traffic island and surround as a collection/drop-off point but do not enter the actual car park.

Holly Road Entrance

Drop-off or collection of children should be at a convenient point, at least 100 metres from the school. **Parents should not enter the school site or block the gates.**

Student Safety: cycling to and from school

We also have some concerns regarding the safety of students cycling to and from school. For your information we have included the following details from The Highway Code:

You and your bicycle

Make sure that you feel confident of your ability to ride safely on the road. Be sure that:

- you choose the right size and type of cycle for comfort and safety
- lights and reflectors are kept clean and in good working order
- tyres are in good condition and inflated to the pressure shown on the tyre
- gears are working correctly
- the chain is properly adjusted and oiled
- the saddle and handlebars are adjusted to the correct height

It is recommended that you fit a bell to your cycle.

You MUST

- ensure your brakes are efficient
- at night, use lit front and rear lights and have a red rear reflector

[Laws PCUR regs 6 & 10 & RVL R reg 18]

I would be most grateful if you could ensure your child's bicycle is roadworthy as detailed above. I would also encourage you to ask your child to wear a helmet; we will similarly encourage

students to do so although it is difficult to enforce. Thank you for your support in trying to ensure your child's safety on their journey to and from school.

School Sports Facilities

Sports Facilities for hire all the year round.

These and other school facilities are available for community use.

To enquire about hiring these facilities by the hour on a block booking basis, contact

Paul McManus

01625 441053

pmcmanus@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

New Staff

We are very pleased indeed to welcome the following new staff who have joined the school this term: Mr D Belfield (Physics), Mr C Boyd (Mathematics), Miss L Laird (Music), Miss E Lyon (Art), Mrs R Molloy (Mathematics), Mr L Nelson (LSA), Mrs V O'Doherty (English).

Our best wishes go to all of these colleagues, some of whom are joining us on either a permanent or temporary basis, for a happy and successful time at the school.

School Contacts

I am conscious that parents are not always clear as to which member of staff to contact on particular issues.

The first point of contact on many issues is likely to be your son's or daughter's form tutor.

Heads of House and Student Managers within Student Services are also likely to be a point of contact on overall progress and general issues.

Mr S Mackintosh - Assistant Headteacher, Director of Student Services

The Heads of House are:

Bollin - Mr D Jones
Harefield - Mr M Bebbington
Norcliffe - Mr J Maw
Thorngrove - Mr J Duffy

Each Head of House is supported by a Student Manager.

They are:

Bollin - Mrs Y Mackay
Harefield - Miss S Gregory
Norcliffe - Mrs A Powell
Thorngrove - Mrs S Williams

Sixth Form Contacts are:

Mr P Tunmore – Head of Sixth Form

Mrs H Cook – Post 16 Guidance

Miss J Evetts – Year 13 Student Manager

Mrs E Finemore-Lunn - Year 12 Student Manager

Curriculum Team contacts are:

Art, Design and Technology	Mrs N Firth
Business Education and ICT	Mrs J McHarg
English	Mr D Spence
Geography	Miss C Browning
History, Government and Politics	Mr A Gaskarth
Mathematics	Mr N Hughes
Modern Foreign Languages	Mrs M Coltman
Performing Arts	Mr D Hussin
PE	Mr H Williams
Wider Curriculum	Mr T Munro
Science	Mr G Jones
Social Studies	Miss L Rajah

Student Services

Learning Support	Mrs J Glover, Miss L Frankham, Miss C Boden, Miss G Lumley
Careers	Mr P Jones

Queries on specific issues should be addressed as follows:

External Examinations	Mrs S Cotton
Bursary (Post 16 students)	Mrs K Flannery

It may, on occasions, be easier for parents to contact the school via e-mail rather than any other mode of communication. Noted below are two addresses which may be used, the first specifically and exclusively to inform us of a student's absence from school, the second for any other communications

attendance@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk
reception@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

To email a member of staff enter in small case:

The first letter of their first name followed by

surname@wilmslowhigh.cheshire.sch.uk

Queries may also be directed to a member of the school's Leadership Group:

- Mr S Mackintosh (Student Services 11-18)
- Mr D Haigh (Teaching, Learning and Assessment)
- Mr M Vincent (Curriculum, Community and Student Aspirations)
- Ms Powley (Monitoring and Evaluation of Student and School Performance).

Should you at any time wish to speak with or meet with myself or Ms Powley, Deputy Headteacher please do not hesitate to contact us. If we are not immediately available, please speak to Mrs Bazley, our PA, who will be happy to arrange an appointment or ensure that you receive a prompt response to your query.

My best wishes to everyone for a happy and successful school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Pullé', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

J. H. Pullé (Dr)
Headteacher

Wilmslow High School
School Calendar 2017 – 2018

Wednesday 6 th September	6.00pm	School opens New Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening
Tuesday 12 th September	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Evening
Wednesday 13 th September	6.30 pm	Year 8 Expectations Evening
Thursday 14 th September	6.00 pm	Year 12 Expectations Evening
Tuesday 19 th September		Year 9 Expectations Evening
Wednesday 20 th September		Year 10 Expectations Evening
Thursday 21 st September	6.30pm – 8.00pm	Character Talk Evening
Wednesday 27 th September	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Open Evening - School closes – 12.45pm
Thursday 28 th September		Open day (Tours: 9.15am, 11.15am, 1.30pm)
Tuesday 3 rd October	6.00pm	Year 7 Residential Information Evening for Parents
Wednesday 4 th October		Year 12/13 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Evening
Wednesday 11 th – Friday 13 th October		Year 7 Residential
Thursday 12 th October	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday 16 th – Wednesday 18 th October		Year 7 Residential
Friday 20 th October	3.10pm	School Closes
Tuesday 31 st October	8.45am	School Opens
Wednesday 1 st November	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Sixth Form Opportunities Evening
Thursday 9 th November		Year 7 Expectations Evening and Assessment Certificate Evening
Thursday 16 th November		Year 11 Expectations and Mock Exam Preparation Evening
Thursday 23 rd November	4.30pm – 7.00pm	Year 10 Careers and Work Experience Evening for Parents
Monday 4 th - 8 th December		Year 10 and 11 Summative Assessment 1 Exams
Monday 11 th – 15 th December		Year 10 and 11 Summative Assessment 2 Exams
Thursday 7 th December	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 9 Parents Evening
Monday 18 th – 22 nd December		Year 11 Practical Exams (all week)
Tuesday 19 th December		Year 11 Certificate afternoon
Wednesday 20 th December		Year 13 Certificate afternoon
Wednesday 20 th December		Christmas Show

Thursday 21 st December	10.30am – 12.15pm	Community Coffee and Carols
Friday 22 nd December	12.30pm	School Closes for Christmas
2018		
Monday 8 th January	8.45am	School Opens
Monday 8 th – 12 th January		Year 12 and 13 Summative Assessment Exams
Monday 15 th – 19 th January		Year 12 and 13 Practical Exams
Thursday 18 th January		Year 11 Results Evening and Assessment Certificates
Monday 22 nd – 26 th January		Year 9 Summative Assessment Exams
Thursday 25 th January	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 1 st February		KS4 Course Choices Evening
Monday 5 th - 9 th February		Year 8 Summative Assessment 1 Exams
Thursday 8 th February		Year 12 Parents' Evening
Monday 12 th - 16 th February		Year 7 Summative Assessment 1 Exams
Friday 16 th February	3.10pm	School closes
Tuesday 27 th February	8.45am	School Opens
Thursday 1 st March	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 6 th March		Post 18 Choices Evening
Thursday 15 th March	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 21 st March		Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Evening
Wednesday 28 th March	3.10pm	School Closes for Easter
Monday 16 th April	8.45am	School Opens
Thursday 26 th April		Key Stage 4 and 5 Presentation Evening
Thursday 3 rd May	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 7 th May		School Closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 8 th May	8.45am	School Opens
Friday 25 th May	3.10pm	School Closes
Monday 4 th June	8.45am	School Opens
Monday 18 th – 22 nd June		Year 7 and 8 Summative Assessment 2 Exams
Monday 25 th – 29 th June		Year 9 and 10 Summative Assessment 2 Exams
Tuesday 3 rd July		Year 6 Induction Evening
Thursday 5 th July		Year 11 Prom
Monday 9 th – 12 th July		Year 12 Summative Assessment 2 Exams
Monday 9 th – 13 th July		Year 10 Work Experience Week
Thursday 12 th July		KS3 Presentation Evening

Friday 19 th July		Whole School - Alderley Edge Walk
Friday 20 th July		Sports Day
Tuesday 24 th July	12.30pm	End of Term
Thursday 16 th August		A Level results published
Thursday 23 th August		GCSE results published

Homework Guidance

Extract from: <http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/curriculum/learning-zone/>

	Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)
English	<p>One Doodle task each week and a Building Academic Challenge project (BACPack) to complete each half term, broken down into a weekly task.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 7: 30-45 minutes ▪ Year 8: 30-45 minutes ▪ Year 9: 45-60 minutes <p>Students are also expected to devote considerable time to personal reading for pleasure each week and parents are encouraged to help ensure students have a good supply of good quality reading material; the school's LRC and Wilmslow Library are able to assist with this.</p> <p>Year 7 and 8 students will participate in the Accelerated Reader programme and may be asked to complete quizzes, on the books they have read, outside lessons.</p>	<p>There should be one homework per week, each task should take 60-90 minutes</p> <p>Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p> <p>Students are also expected to devote considerable time to personal reading for pleasure each week and parents are encouraged to help ensure students have a good supply of good quality reading material; the school's LRC and Wilmslow Library are able to assist with this.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Two homework tasks per week; each task should take 15-25 minutes.</p> <p>On occasions teachers may choose to combine the two homeworks into a single larger piece of work, but there should normally be two relatively short tasks per week.</p>	<p>Two homework tasks per week; each task should take 25-35 minutes</p> <p>On occasions teachers may choose to combine the two homeworks into a single larger piece of work, but there should normally be two relatively short tasks per week.</p>
Science	<p>One short homework per science discipline, up to 3 per week.</p>	<p>Three pieces of homework per week: One for each of biology chemistry and physics.</p> <p>For double science students this should be about 40 minutes per task and for triple/ separate science subjects this should be 60 minutes per task.</p> <p>Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p>
Art	<p>One hour of homework every two weeks.</p>	<p>One homework task will normally be set each week which should take students 60-90 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p>
GCSE Business Studies	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Year 10. One piece of homework per week that will take 40 – 60 minutes.</p> <p>Learning key terms once a fortnight – assessed and recorded in Progress Booklet.</p>

		<p>Written work is fortnightly from homework booklet.</p> <p>In addition, a challenge task is set every half term in order to consolidate learning and enhance independent learning skills. Assessed and recorded in progress booklet.</p> <p>Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for half term assessments and examinations.</p> <p>Year 11 is similar to Year 10, however challenge tasks are replaced by additional examination practice using past paper questions.</p>
BTEC First in Business and BTEC in Information and Creative Technology	N/A	<p>Short research tasks will be regularly set to support the coursework that is done in class and in supported study after school. For the examined unit, students will be set learning tasks which will be assessed fortnightly.</p> <p>Written homework will also be set, similar to the GCSE course above in order to practise the skills needed for the examined unit (40 mins).</p>
Computing	<p>Students in Years 7 and 8 will be set one homework per week. The homework will be completed online using 'Yacapaca' (login details will be issued at the start of term). Each homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes. If students are unable to access the internet from home, they should use the school's ICT facilities to complete homework either at lunchtime or after school.</p>	<p>Students in Year 10 will be set one homework per week. Homework will be issued to students in booklets to accompany each topic being studied for the summer examination. Each homework should take between 20 and 30 minutes to complete.</p> <p>Students in Year 11 will not be routinely set homework, however they may occasionally be asked to complete research or other tasks to support their controlled assessment work. In addition, students in both Year 10 and 11 will be expected to attend after school study support sessions to improve controlled assessment work when necessary.</p>
Design & Technology	<p>One homework task will normally be set each week</p> <p>This should take students 20-30 minutes.</p>	<p>One task per week, expected to take 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p>
Drama	<p>Homework is set at least once every three weeks (once every three lessons). Tasks will be research based, or centred round the development of work for a subsequent lesson.</p>	<p>One task per week, expected to take 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p>
Geography	<p>Each unit of work will include a 3-4 week extended homework project. The students will record this in their planners so that parents can see what they have got to do over that period of time. For the remaining weeks of the unit teachers will set a 30-45 minute homework once a week on the night that is designated in the school homework timetable.</p>	<p>One homework task will normally be set each week which should take students 60-90 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.</p>

History	One homework task will normally be set each week This should take students 20-30 minutes	One homework task will normally be set each week which should take students 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.
Media Studies	Not studied at Key Stage 3	One homework task per week. Usually this will consist of preparation work for coursework, i.e. creating mock-ups/ storyboards, taking photographs/ filming for practical pieces and analysing existing media texts.
Modern foreign languages (MFL)	Years 7, 8 and 9 are assessed weekly on their vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Homework is to prepare for the test through independent revision. We recommended students revise daily for 15-20 minutes.	For Years 10 and 11 we recommend that they revise 20-30 minutes every day for their vocabulary tests. Additionally, students will be set one further task per week on either reading, listening, speaking or writing, which should take no longer than 30 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for controlled assessments.
Music	Music lessons at Key Stage 3 are predominantly practical. Homework may be set occasionally.	One task per week, expected to take 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.
PE	Homework is not routinely set in core PE lessons but students will occasionally be asked to undertake research to prepare for a subsequent lesson.	For GCSE PE one task will be set per week, expected to take 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.
RS	Year 7: Students should spend 30-45 minutes completing each homework task, which will be set once every 3 weeks. Year 8: Students should spend 30-45 minutes completing each homework task, which will be set once every 2 weeks. A project task will be set at some point in each of Years 7 & 8. Students will complete this over several weeks and should expect to commit 2-3 hours to it over that time. Year 9: One homework task will be set every week. Students should spend 20 minutes on the task set.	One task per week, expected to take 40-60 minutes. Additional time will need to be devoted to preparation for assessments and examinations.