

4th December 2020

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am deeply proud of the way Watling Academy students have shown great resilience and a positive attitude to make an excellent start to their secondary school education.

As a Head of Year, it has been fantastic to observe your children engaged fully in lessons and demonstrating the Watling core values of Respect, Responsibility and Kindness.

I am writing today to inform you of some upcoming events, as well as some useful information as we approach the Winter break.

Student council- charity events

As you may be aware, we elected two student counsellors from each form to sit on the Year 7 Academy Council. In the run up to the Winter break they have arranged a series of events for students to enjoy but also raise money for those who are less fortunate-

Watling student Brenny Pearl identified that he wanted to help homeless people across Milton Keynes, and he approached Mr Bacon to suggest we raise money to help them this winter. Brenny presented his ideas to the Academy Council and it was decided that we would support the Winter Night Shelter with two specific activities:-

1. Non-uniform day

On December 11th Watling Academy will host its first non-uniform day. We ask that students make a minimum donation of £1. Whilst students can wear their own clothes, we ask that there are no bare midriffs, strappy vests, miniskirts, or excessively ripped jeans. We encourage students to wear their seasonal jumpers and there will be a prize for the best one.

2. Busking week

In the final week of term students will be given the opportunity to play their musical instruments at break times - we ask that, if they can, other students bring in loose change to donate to those who are 'busking'.

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness



WATLING ACADEMY C/O FAIRFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, APOLLO AVENUE, FAIRFIELDS, MILTON KEYNES, MK11 4BA

www.watling.academy

Company Registration No 7527108

Our second event involves supporting another local charity, the Milton Keynes Food Bank. At present they are in need of-

- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned custard
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meat
- Jams, peanut butter, marmite etc
- Long life juice

Each tutor group will be in competition to collect as many of these items as possible. On the final day of term students will use the collected items to complete a Maths based challenge before it is then donated to the Milton Keynes Foodbank. If your child could bring any of these items into tutorial at the start of the day, then it would be hugely appreciated.

Road Safety

As an academy with a focus on the environment and sustainability we actively encourage our students to cycle to school. However, after a couple of recent near misses and concerns being raised by parents/carers about dangerous cycling, we ask that when cycling to and from the academy:

- All students must wear helmets
- All students should get off their bikes at the entrance to Fairfield's School (by the zebra crossing) and walk their bikes up the path to the main entrance, not congregating or cycling around the Fairfield's entrance or the main car park
- Students must have lights on their bikes now that the mornings/evenings are darker
- Avoid performing stunts such as wheelies, these may seem fun but are dangerous, particularly when there is a significant amount of traffic

Parking - a message from Fairfield's Primary School

Could we remind all parents about the importance of safe and sensible parking around the Academy premises. A crossing point has been added to the bottom of Apollo Avenue to allow children and families to cross safely, however, we are finding that some parents are stopping or parking across this section of the road preventing people from crossing safely. Parking at the bottom of Apollo Avenue is also unsafe as this is currently the entrance to the construction site for the new community football pitches. To avoid congestion and worse still, a serious accident, we ask that you use the main car park

Uniform / PE uniform

We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting the academy by ensuring their children are wearing the correct uniform and PE uniform with pride.

As the weather is getting colder please could I encourage students to bring their Watling Rugby top or zip sweater to wear over their PE T-shirt to stay warm during PE. Those students wanting an extra layer are encouraged to wear a thermal layer underneath their PE uniform. Until we move to our new academy site all PE lessons will be outside.

Subject Consultation

Already we have more than 90% of parents/carers signed up for our online subject consultation. Although it is no longer possible for you to sign up directly, those wanting to book an appointment for the 9th December can contact their child's form tutor to book one.

Please could I ask if you can spare 5 minutes to complete the online parent feedback survey after the parents evening appointment.

Teaching Groups

As you know, we will be mixing up the teaching groups so that students will only be taught as a tutor group in a small number of subjects and for the rest of the time they will be with other students from across the year group. We have decided that this will now happen from Tuesday 5th January when they return after the Christmas break. They will receive their timetable before the holiday. It is important that your child checks which day they have PE as some PE lessons take place on the first day back – Tuesday 5th January.

Final day of term

As per the calendar that was issued to parents at the start of the year and the one containing term dates on the website, **a reminder that we finish at 1pm on the last day of term. Please arrange for your child to be picked up or for them to safely make their way home at that time.** There is no after school club running on this day.

Those students in receipt of a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch from the Admin Office before they go home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students and parents/carers for their contribution in making the launch of our academy a successful one. I wish you all a well-earned break over the festive period.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. M. Gibbs

Martin Gibbs
Head of Year 7