

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers

I am immensely proud of the fantastic attitude Watling Academy Students have displayed since returning from lockdown, they have truly 'hit the ground running'. We also appreciate the support of parents / carers in getting all students back to the Academy in this difficult time.

### **House Points**

At Watling Academy, we always aim to recognise student achievement. Students will receive verbal praise, postcards and letters sent home. A significant way we reward students is with House Points. Students are given house points for a variety of reasons but mainly for working well in lessons and demonstrating respect, responsibility and kindness, beyond that of what is expected. When students achieve 75 House Points, they achieve their Bronze award, for 150 House Points they are awarded Silver and for 300 House Points Gold. I would like to congratulate all the students who have received their Bronze badges, you will have noticed these pinned to school blazers. Many of these students are well on their way to achieving their silver award, a special mention goes to Brenny Pearl and Summer Cattigan who have managed to achieve their silver badge already.



**Respect / Responsibility / Kindness**

## House System

As well as receiving House Points as individuals' students also collect them for their House. At Watling Academy students become a member of one, of 5 houses Laine, Leyh, Marshall, Rutherford and Turing. As you have probably spotted these are all people who have made a significant contribution to Milton Keynes.

The house names were chosen by Watling Academy students as part of the induction process and the house logos below were produced by Ms Piper after students from each house completed a design brief exercise.



Throughout the year (including during lockdown), students have competed in a range of challenges, quizzes, and house-based tasks. When combined with the House Points students have earned for their House we have: Rutherford with 2287 points leading Marshall with 2285 points. All is still to play for with only 131 points separating 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Term 4- House Competition**

We are running a photography competition this half-term. Students are required to take a picture that reflects one or more of the Watling Academy core values, or one of our Curriculum themes.

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Kindness
- Milton Keynes
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Sustainability

Entries can be taken on any photographic device (including a smart phone). Once the photo has been taken please e-mail to [housecompetitions@watling.academy](mailto:housecompetitions@watling.academy). The competition opens on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and closes at midnight the following week on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Please could students ensure they include their name, their house and a brief explanation of how the picture reflects Watling Academy core values, or Curriculum themes.

## Uniform

At Watling Academy, we believe in maintaining high standards of uniform. We do however understand that our students may have grown out of their Academy Uniform or shoes during the lockdown period. We understand that replacing this uniform at the present time may be challenging and we ask that parents / carers contact their Form Tutor in the first instance, if their child is unable to wear full school uniform for any reason.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents / carers that black trainers are not part of the Academy Uniform and may not be worn in place of school shoes. We are aware that sports shops do advise parents that black trainers such as Nike Airforce 1, Vans and Converse Allstars can be worn, but this is not the case. If parents / carers are unsure if shoes are suitable please could they contact their Form Tutor to seek advice before purchasing.

I have attached a list with the Academy Uniform to the end of this letter.

## School Council

Back in October students participated in lessons and tutorial sessions that were based on Democracy. At the end of the week this culminated in student elections for each tutor group. After a competitive election. The following students were elected-

- CBL- Shreya Daroch, Rasheed Matanmi
- FWL- Scarlett Page, Sebastian Day
- JCY- Yaseen Muhammed, Aziel Akpokiniova
- RPR / KBM- Samuel Carter, Nabil Adan
- GHN- Lara Porrás-Diez, Denny Carter
- RST- Jack Moloney, Tegan Flynn

Well done to all those named above, and commiserations go to those who did a fantastic job of campaigning but unfortunately didn't get elected this time.

Since being formed the student council has already been involved in decision making meetings with Mr Bacon and Mrs Barford, have organised a non-uniform day to raise money for the MK Night Shelter and assisted in planning activities for Christmas. One of these activities was to plan an in school Maths activity that also collected food for the MK Foodbank. As you can see below there was an excellent response.



### **Non uniform day**

A second non-uniform day has been planned in conjunction with the Student council. This will take place on Friday 19th March and 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. Proceeds will be donated to Comic Relief, so students are also welcome to wear their red noses.

### **Clubs**

Our breakfast club and after school club commenced when we returned from the last lockdown. Please book into these using the regular procedure.

It is our ambition to start our breaktime and after school clubs after the Easter holiday, already staff have volunteered to run a wide range of clubs including Computer coding, Italian, Art, Lego, as well as various sporting activities.

Unless stated all clubs are free to students and we will contact parents / carers closer to the time with the details.

Finally, can I remind parents / carers that appointments for the online parents evening are now open to be booked using School Cloud (please see my previous letter).

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Gibbs', written in a cursive style.

Mr Gibbs  
Head of Year

## **Watling Academy School Uniform**

### **Girls' clothing**

1. Royal Blue Watling Academy blazer embroidered with Academy logo.
2. A Watling Academy tie.
3. Watling Academy senior Royal Blue tartan skirt – **or** full-length grey tailored trousers (not denim, cord, canvas or leather). Skin-tight, stretchy or jean-style trousers, leggings, jeggings and footless tights are not allowed.
4. Regulation plain white buttoned shirt with a collar. "Fashion" alternatives to the regulation shirt are not allowed.
5. Dark coloured (black/navy/grey) plain socks or black/royal blue coloured tights (plain).

### **Boys' clothing**

1. Royal Blue Watling Academy blazer embroidered with Academy logo.
2. A Watling Academy tie.
3. Full length grey tailored trousers (not denim, cord, canvas or leather). Skin-tight, stretchy or Jean-style trousers are not allowed.
4. Regulation plain white buttoned shirt with a collar. "Fashion" alternatives to the regulation shirt are not allowed.
5. Dark coloured (black/navy/grey) plain socks.

### **Shoes**

1. Shoes must be of a sensible design in black. Black "Sensible Design Shoes" do not include shoes such as Vans, any trainers or trainer-style shoes e.g. Nike Air Force 1.
2. Students should wear traditional, formal leather/leather-style shoes that look smart. Canvas shoes of any type and boots above ankle height of any type (including leather) will not be allowed. Shoes must be plain in colour without coloured trim or stitching.
3. Boots may only be worn in extreme weather conditions for travelling to and from the Academy. Student's usual shoes should be brought to change into.