

2nd September 2021

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the summer holidays I wanted to write to you to outline some of the arrangements for the start of term and to give you some further information about the new measures in place for COVID-19 from an Academy perspective.

Please accept my apologies if you have experienced any problems with registering for SIMS Pay over the summer. I am aware that there has been an issue with a small number of the accounts. I do hope that these issues have now been resolved.

We extend a warm Watling welcome to our new Year 7 students; we look forward to getting to know you well over the coming weeks. Equally, we are very excited to see our new Year 8 students again after a what we hope will have been an enjoyable six weeks' summer holiday. **A reminder that on the first day back, Monday 6th September, students must arrive at the Academy by 8:40am at the latest.**

Year 7

Students will enter via the gate to the left of Reception. Tutors and Senior staff will be there to welcome the children and make sure they get to their tutor room safely. **All students should arrive in full uniform.**

Year 8

Students will enter via the gate to the right of Reception between the Sports block and the main building. They will then gather under the covered area at the rear of the building. Senior staff will be on hand to direct students. **All students should arrive in full uniform.**

The Academy Day finishes at 3:15pm and children will exit via the main gate into the car park. **Please could I ask that if picking your child up by car you park in a designated bay. Staff will be on hand to direct you around the car park. If you could refrain from dropping off or picking up on Barrosa Way this will avoid congestion, using the car park will make life a little easier for our local community.**

As part of our behaviour management approach, we may schedule some restorative conversations between students and teachers at the end of the day, but these will not finish any later than 3:30pm unless you have been informed in advance. Mrs Barford will be writing to you in the first week of term to outline our approach to behaviour management at Watling Academy.

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness



WATLING ACADEMY BARROSA WAY, WHITEHOUSE, MILTON KEYNES, MK8 1EP

www.watling.academy

Company Registration No 7527108

Before and After school provision

We open our doors at 8am for students and there is no need to book. Students can arrive from any time after that but must be here by 8:40am at the latest. On entry to the building students will enter the Dining Hall and will be able to purchase breakfast items from Tuesday 7th September. Please see separate letter regarding our new catering provider Miquill. Please note – it is cash payment only until early December.

The building is open to students until 4:30pm, again there is no requirement to book. Students remaining on site after 3:15pm and not in designated after school clubs will be accommodated in the Learning Resource Centre (Library) until they are picked up.

School lunches

Again, please see separate letter regarding catering. There is no need to book lunches in advance. Students may well wish to bring in a packed lunch into school which can be eaten in the canteen or in the outdoor eating area.

PE

PE lessons for Year 8 will begin from Tuesday 7th September once students have received their timetables. PE lessons for Year 7 will begin from Wednesday 8th September. A reminder that on days when they have PE students come to school in normal uniform and bring their PE kit in a separate bag. They then get changed before and after the lesson.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that students should avoid bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices including Smart Watches to the Academy. Any phones or electronic devices that are brought in must be switched off and in bags for the duration of the day. **If electronic devices or phones are seen out of bags or switched on whilst on site, then they will be confiscated.** I would very much appreciate your support in ensuring that if phones do need to be brought in students understand that they must be switched off and kept in bags. Many thanks.

Contacting Watling Academy

Our telephone number is 01908 794094. On dialing into the Academy, you will have the option to speak to the admin team, report your child's absence or speak to reception. Alternatively, there are three other email addresses that you can use depending on the nature of the communication.

admin@watling.academy

for general enquiries and contact

attendance@watling.academy

for reporting your absence or anything attendance related

admissions@watling.academy

for anything regarding admissions

COVIDpositive@watling.academy

for reporting a positive COVID test result – LFD or PCR test

Academy Photographs

These will take place for all students and staff during the day on Friday 10th September. Further details regarding purchasing these will be communicated in the next couple of weeks.

Parents' Calendar

I have attached a copy of the Parents Calendar with this letter. We will let you know details of events closer to each one, hopefully you will find the overview helpful.

Staff Team

We were very fortunate to have a great staff team in place last year to support students during our first year of operation and I am pleased to say that all staff who were here last year remain with us for the forthcoming academic year. We also have a number of new staff joining us who I know will be a great asset to Watling and I'm sure you will get to know many of them during the course of the year.

New staff joining us in September:-

Mr Kyle Adams	Head of Geography
Ms Mandeep Aujla	Learning Continuity Lead
Mr Tim Bailey	DT and Art Technician
Mr Colin Bright	IT Systems Technician
Mr Jeremy Stormer	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Nina Carpenter	First Aid and Well Being Lead
Mrs Katie Combs	Science
Mrs Emma Cox	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Annie Fuller	Head of Design Technology
Mrs Demi Gallagher	Head of Science
Mrs Jessie Hardie	Art
Mrs Kim Honious	Spanish
Mr Ocean Hung	Trainee teacher – Maths
Mr Valan Lazer	Trainee teacher - Science
Mr Corey Moore	Teaching Assistant
Miss Madeline Norwood	Computing
Miss Addobea Okutu	History
Mr Cameron Parks	PSHE Lead
Mr Michael Pearce	Music
Mrs Lyndsey Pitchford	Administrator
Mr Matthew Quin	Head of English
Miss Lottie Scarr	PE/Science
Mr Andrew Simmonds	Head of Year 7
Mrs Kim Smyth	PA to Head of School
Ms Milena Szkopik	Teaching Assistant
Miss Bekki Upton	Drama
Miss Jayne Webster	Maths
Miss Rebecca Wright	RE

Additional Information regarding COVID-19

Following the government's move to Stage 4 of the COVID-19 some of the key changes are outlined below. More detail can be found on the attached leaflet from the Department for Education.

Main changes: -

- there is no recommendation for students or staff to routinely wear masks or face coverings in classrooms, communal areas and corridors in schools.
- all contact tracing following a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 is now done by NHS Test and Trace, students will not routinely be contacted by Watling Academy as a potential close contact or following a confirmed case

- there is no requirement to self-isolate if a child has been identified as a close contact of a person who has tested positive. Instead, they are asked to arrange a PCR test within 2 days and would only need to self-isolate for 10 days if the result is positive
- if a child tests positive using a Lateral Flow Device then you should self-isolate and arrange for a PCR test within two days, if the result is positive then self-isolation should continue for the remainder of the 10 days. If the PCR test is negative then self-isolation ends

We will be giving all students and staff the opportunity to take home lateral flow device testing kits to do at home twice weekly from the beginning of term. More details will follow. **Please note that whilst we encourage members of the Watling community to undertake twice weekly tests, this is voluntary.**

Watling Academy is maintaining its approach to enhanced cleaning and staff/student/visitor hygiene. Those areas that directly affect students, such as wiping down desks, using hand sanitizer and increased handwashing will be explained to students. The updated COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Watling Academy can be found on the Academy website under About Us/Policies and other documents from Monday 6th September.

The last two years of education have been significantly disrupted for all students, no matter what year group and I am only too aware that the younger students have been those hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic. I sincerely hope that this year will be the year when we begin to get back to normal and that school can operate as close as possible to the way we would all wish. We will do our utmost to support every child at Watling to make great progress over the course of the year and help them catch up on any lost learning. Above all, we are all committed to ensuring Watling is a happy, enjoyable and safe learning community underpinned by Respect, Responsibility and Kindness

For now, have a lovely rest of your holiday and I look forward to meeting you all early next week.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Bacon
Head of School