



ACTING HEADTEACHER: Mrs H Fry

9th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Education at Watling Academy

As we begin our new academic year, we are pleased to welcome both new and returning families to our Watling community. At Watling Academy we are committed to fostering an environment where every child can thrive academically. Our dedicated team of staff is here to support your child's growth and learning journey, ensuring that they are challenged, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We understand the crucial role that parents and carers play in their child's education, and we are committed to building a strong partnership with you. Throughout the year, we will keep you informed through regular communication, and we encourage you to be actively involved in school activities and events. This letter briefly outlines our approach to education at Watling Academy, including arrangements for homework for this academic year.

Further important information will be given during our Learning Pathway Evenings, which take place this term for all years. Details regarding these events will be sent out shortly but please put the following dates in your diaries:

Year 7 Learning Pathways Evening: **Thursday 19th September**

Year 8 Learning Pathways Evening: **Thursday 17th October**

Year 9 Learning Pathways Evening: **Thursday 10th October**

Year 10 Learning Pathways Evening: **Thursday 3rd October**

Year 11 Learning Pathways Evening: **Thursday 12th September**

Changes to our school day

This academic year we have changed the structure of our school day. The beginning of the school day at 8.40am, and the end of the school day at 3.15pm remain unchanged. Please refer to the amended timings of the school day for Year 7 students in week 1 in Mrs Fry's letter to parents.

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness



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

watlingacademy.net

The timings of the school day will be as follows:

Time	Years 7, 10 and 11	Time	Years 8 and 9
8:40	Tutorial	8:40	Tutorial
9:10	Lesson 1	9:10	Lesson 1
10:10	Break	10:10	Lesson 2
10:30	Lesson 2	10:30	
11:10		11:10	Break
11:30	Lesson 3	11:30	Lesson 3
12:30	Lunch	12:30	Lesson 4
1:15	Lesson 4	1:15	
1:30		1:30	Lunch
2:15	Lesson 5	2:15	Lesson 5
3:15	End of day Start of after school activities	3:15	End of day Start of after school activities

What will students be learning?

Our school website provides information about individual subject curriculums underneath the 'Education' tab. This is a summary of the sequence of learning across each year group, with a breakdown of key knowledge and vocabulary that students are expected to know and understand by the end of each unit of study.

Equipment for Learning

Students are expected to be fully equipped for learning to support the delivery of the curriculum as well as demonstrating our core value of taking responsibility for their learning. Students should have the following items with them for all lessons:

- Exercise book (if taken home)
- A range of blue/black and red pens
- Pencils and sharpener
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Protractor, compass, and scientific calculator (essential for all Maths and Science lessons)
- Highlighters
- Reading book and school planner

Ready-made pencil cases with the above items (excluding a calculator) are available to purchase from the school at a subsidised price of £3.25. These can be purchased via ParentMail and collected from the Admin Hub.

How are lessons structured at Watling Academy?

Lessons at Watling Academy will include 'Dual Objectives', this is to identify what students will be expected to know and do, as well as the learning habit that students will be using during the lesson. There are a range of learning tasks during each lesson, which include elements of challenge, independent tasks, reading and assessment and feedback from their teacher. Each lesson will begin with a 'do it now' task, which may focus on recalling knowledge from previous lessons, and end with a review. Students are expected to arrive promptly at the start of lessons, ready to engage productively in their 'do it now' task.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the learning process, allowing students time to revisit their learning, reinforcing knowledge and skills developed within lessons, as well as enriching understanding beyond the formal curriculum. Most homework set this year will focus on knowledge retrieval-based tasks using digital platforms. Students will receive short online quiz-based tasks that enable them to revisit key aspects of subject curriculums, as well as providing instant feedback on performance and next steps. At times, they may also be set alternative homework tasks where appropriate. This could include (although not exclusively) reading based tasks, research or group presentation tasks.

How much homework will students receive?

Year group	Details of homework tasks to be set	Time tasks are expected to take
Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9)	One knowledge retrieval based task per week in all subjects except STEM and Well-Being.	15 – 20 minutes
Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & Year 11)	Across each fortnight (Week A and B); *One knowledge retrieval-based homework tasks *Two exam skills-based homework task Homework will be set in all subjects except Well-Being and Core PE.	Retrieval tasks: 15 – 20 minutes Exam skills tasks: 35-40 minutes

All students across the Academy will be set homework from the week beginning 23rd September.

Support with Homework

We recognise that some students can find completing homework tasks difficult and may need additional support or resources to do so. To support students with completing independent learning, a Homework Clinic will run between 3.15-4.15pm Monday to Friday. Parents/Carers will need to book students into individual sessions. Due to limited capacity, students will not be able to attend the Homework Clinic if they have not successfully booked in advance. Information on how to book will be sent to parents in a separate letter.

Class Charts

We will continue to use Class Charts, an online platform, to set all homework tasks. This will enable students, parents and staff to monitor homework set, submit homework tasks digitally (as specified by individual teaching staff) and organise time by prioritising homework to be completed via submission date.

- Students will be able to access Class Charts via www.classcharts.com/student/login
- Parents can access Class Charts via www.classcharts.com/parent/login
- Class Charts can also be accessed via the Class Charts App on smartphone devices.



It is important that all parents/carers have a ClassCharts account. Students can be added to up to 2 separate parent accounts. If you have any additional questions regarding ClassCharts, please contact your child's Tutor. Further information will be sent to new parents of Year 7 students to support with signing up to ClassCharts.

Your child will receive regular feedback from their teachers, during lessons and in response to work that they have completed. We will continue to keep you updated with the progress that they are making in school through Parent's Evenings and via Progress Reports, which will be sent home three times during the academic year.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Learning Pathway Evenings over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Cassidy', written in a cursive style.

Mr J. Cassidy
Deputy Headteacher