

Dear Parents,

This guide has been compiled in order to give you and your son an understanding of things we believe are important and also to inform you of the many aspects of school life. I do hope you will find the guide useful and that you will keep it handy for frequent reference.

It is our aim at Wellacre to provide a friendly and secure environment, a caring atmosphere, in which all our pupils are given the opportunity to develop to the full their academic studies, creative talents and leisure interests.

The education of your son is a continuous dialogue between parents and school, and we depend absolutely on your support. Our Form Tutors and Year Heads are always happy to assist you or answer any queries you may have - so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish. We also welcome visitors who are interested in our work and who would like to see the school in action during a normal day.

We do all we can to make the transition to Wellacre easy, friendly and purposeful. My colleagues and I would like to wish you and your son a long, happy and successful association with us.

Yours sincerely,

Headmaster

THE SCHOOL

At Wellacre we have excellent relationships with our local primary schools. A spirit of mutual trust, help and friendship has been fostered by teachers to enable the transition of your son from his primary school to Wellacre to be a smooth and continuous process.

We understand that all pupils experience varying amounts of anxiety at this time. Familiarisation, we believe, reduces anxiety of the unknown and smoothes the path of continuity. A full day programme of activities for all new intake pupils, integrated in groups, is organised on Thursday 23rd June so that they feel much less anxious when they start in September. They therefore enjoy a very positive start to their new school as your son will already know many teachers and be familiar with the buildings.

OUR BUILDING

Wellacre Technology College was opened in January 1955 and in common with other schools it has altered considerably since its opening date. In 1966 a Hall block was erected giving among other things, an elevated Assembly Hall with a stage. A rebuilding programme was completed in September 1980 giving us all the modern facilities needed for a sound secondary education. Since 1995 a rolling programme of the building of new classrooms and refurbishing older one has continued.

Wellacre High School stands in extensive grounds which contain eleven hectares of playing fields including an all weather cricket pitch. A magnificent full sized artificial pitch with floodlighting was completed in Spring 2005. We possess two modern gymnasia each with a separate suite of showers and changing room. Our multi-gym has a wide range of modern equipment installed.

We have seven science laboratories, many dedicated computer suites, a food technology room, a design technology workshop, a drama studio, a language laboratory, a textiles room, a large library, a purpose built dark room and many other specialist rooms for subjects including Music and Art. Three new rooms were built for the humanities department in 2004 and they will be complemented by three further new rooms in the summer of 2005 to allow for the continued expansion of the school.

YOUR SON IS AN INDIVIDUAL

At Wellacre we treat all pupils as individuals. We spend a great deal of time discussing and talking with boys, developing growing intellects and maturing emotions. Your child will be guided by teachers in lessons and cared for by teachers within the framework of the Pastoral Team.

HOW WE ARE ORGANISED

Your son will be placed in a tutor group with some of his primary school friends. The group will have a balance of abilities and interests and there will be eight parallel forms. It is in this group that your child will register each morning and afternoon with his form tutor. The tutor groups will provide the stable base throughout years seven to eleven. These tutor groups are not necessarily teaching groups, as the curriculum is delivered, where desirable, through classes set on ability. At the end of their third year at Wellacre, boys select subjects which they will study in their remaining two years at the school.

OUR EXAMINATION COURSES

General Certificate of Secondary Education (G.C.S.E.) and equivalent

All Year 11 pupils are encouraged to complete courses which they choose at the end of Year 9 as options, along with the compulsory subjects of Mathematics, English and Science (Double Award). Year 9 pupils must choose one of seven Design and Technology subjects. All pupils also select a vocational subject – from Engineering, Constructions, Business, IT, Media, Sport and Travel and Tourism – all lead to qualifications equivalent to two or four GCSEs. Finally, two further choices must be made from Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, Drama, French, Geography, History, Music, Drama, PE and RE. A small number of boys receive additional Learning Support and spend one day a week on a college or work-based placement instead of the vocational option.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a vital part of the school curriculum. Its purpose is to generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences, additional to those provided in school. We are also concerned to help pupils achieve their full potential and this implies the best possible examination results. Ultimate success in public examinations depends upon the early establishment of the habit of consistent private study to which regular homework contributes.

We ask parents to support us in seeing that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. In order to ensure good channels of communication between home and school we give pupils a Homework Diary. Homework is recorded in the diary each day, and parents are asked to check and sign the diary each week before it is countersigned by a pupil's Form Tutor.

Homework may be to complete or consolidate work done in class, to leave pupils to pursue their own lines of inquiry or to prepare work for the following lesson. The tasks asked of pupils may include factual or imaginative writing, reading, learning of revising, fact finding, illustration or map work, and thinking.

The minimum expected of pupils each night is to ensure that they are sufficiently

prepared and up to date with their work in order that they can take part effectively in, and gain maximum benefit from, the next day's lessons.

Understandably some parents feel that there is little they can do to help their children with homework and indeed with school work in general. In fact there are many ways in which parents can help their children: encouraging and supporting them, checking exercise books for presentation, handwriting and spelling, testing what has been set to be learnt, listening to them reading what they have written, asking them to explain what they have been studying, checking that they have the necessary books and equipment packed for the next day's lessons.

These are all ways of helping children to appreciate the importance of homework and school work, look afresh at work done and thereby identify and correct for themselves mistakes or areas of misunderstanding.

Of course children work at different speeds and so homework will take longer for some children than others. If there is a repeated problem over homework parents are encouraged to contact the Year Head. Similarly, we will contact parents if we feel there are frequent problems regarding homework which parents could help resolve.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Children with special educational needs are taught in a variety of ways depending on their assessment of need. Early visits to partner primary schools and discussions with class teachers identify children who will require additional help and opportunities. This is achieved mainly within the mainstream but can involve individual tutor or small group work both within the class or separately; one to one support or extension work; withdrawal from lessons for particular learning difficulties; curricular extension work with a particular subject teacher; liaison work with both parents and outside help agencies.

We believe that the early identification of any type of problem and the allocation of the required specialist help is the most positive way of enabling our children to gain positively from all learning opportunities.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Assessment forms an important part of your son's progress at Wellacre and will come in a variety of forms. These will include:-

the regular marking of and commenting on work by subject specialists;
pupil generated written and verbal self evaluation;
staged testing and examinations;
group and individual target setting by both teacher and pupils.

Each year you will receive collated information about your son's progress. This will take the form of a report detailing what your son has achieved, test or examination

scores (where appropriate) and a comment on his personal attitude and commitment.

A Parents' Evening is held annually for every year group in the school. In Year Seven individual interviews are arranged with subject teachers so that a boy's progress can be discussed fully. There is also an opportunity to meet your son's form tutor early in the academic year.

PARENTS AND SCHOOL

Parents are encouraged to contact school whenever a problem arises. The problem may seem trivial but if we can help sort it out then a pupil's day will be a lot happier. Quite often a brief telephone call will disperse worry and anxiety.

An interview can be arranged at any time.

WHAT DO WE WEAR?

We hope that all pupils feel a sense of pride in belonging to our school. We see the wearing of uniform as a positive statement by each pupil of wishing to be part of the school. For this reason, and also to ensure equality of opportunity, the school insists that school uniform must be worn.

The uniform consists of

Blue V necked Wellacre pullover with the school logo
Black school trousers
Plain white shirt
Black school shoes (no trainers or boots)
Wellacre school tie

Denim material in the form of jeans and Wrangler jackets is suitable for wearing at home but not at school. Similarly rings, ear rings, bracelets and necklaces are unacceptable in school. The co-operation of all parents is earnestly sought in this most important matter. Please help us to keep our pupils looking smart.

School ties are available from the school tuck shop during term time.

There is no one specialist supplier for school uniform and parents are free to shop wherever they wish. School ties, pullovers, etc. are supplied by Messrs. John McHugh of the Stretford Arndale Shopping Precinct, and H.M.K. Wools Shop at 47 Flixton Road, Urmston. Both retailers will in attendance on the New Parents' Evening on Tuesday 28th June at 7.30 p.m.

CLOTHING FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our facilities for Physical Education are first class. In order to derive the fullest benefit from these facilities boys are expected to attend for P.E. lessons provided with trainers, white shirt, black shorts and white socks and top and a towel.

For outdoor games boys should wear a blue reversible top and black shorts, blue socks and boots. A towel is also required. All the P.E. kit can be purchased locally at the school uniform suppliers.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Handicraft aprons, which are worn to protect clothing during Technology and Art lessons, may be obtained from any school supplier.

MARKING OF CLOTHING

Every year scores of items of clothing without a name on them are lost in the school. We try to trace the owners but many garments remain unclaimed. It is essential that all items of clothing, football boots and even trainers, should all be clearly marked with the owner's name. A lost property receptical is kept outside the Lower School Office.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED IN SCHOOL

All pupils should bring to school the following equipment for use in lessons.

A pen	A pencil
A rubber	A pencil sharpener
Coloured crayons	A ruler
A pocket calculator (Basic or Scientific)	Pie chart scale
An angle measurer	

A sturdy school bag to carry books and equipment is essential.

If your son does not already have a calculator we would advise that in order to have the most suitable model for school use you purchase your son's calculator from the Head of our Mathematics Department rather than from the bewildering selection available in the local shops. Some models are far superior than others and we do not want you to make expensive mistakes. Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones in school because experience has shown them to be disruptive in lessons and time consuming for staff when mislaid.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

After boys have been absent from school, a brief note of explanation should be sent to the form-teacher on the morning of the return to school. This note should be

written and signed by parents. If any boy becomes seriously ill, with the prospect of a long absence from school, it is helpful to send a message to the form teacher as soon as circumstances allow. When this is done the Education Welfare Officer need not be asked to call. Work may then be prepared and sent home so that pupils do not fall behind in their studies. Parents should also ensure that the school is aware of any medical problems a boy may have.

DENTAL OR HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

If there is any reason for a boy to leave the school premises during school hours then official permission must first be obtained. Parents should forward a brief written request. An appointment card alone can no longer be accepted.

SCHOOL MEALS

We have a cafeteria system where a wide selection of meals is available and boys have a personal choice of what they wish to buy. No dinner tickets are necessary as cash registers are in use in the dining room. Boys should bring only sufficient money with them for their daily requirements.

Special arrangements will also be available for those who qualify for free dinners. There will also be space available for those who wish to eat their own packed lunch.

Boys are not allowed to go outside the school grounds during the midday break. Parents who wish their sons to have their midday meal at home are required to inform the school by letter at the beginning of term. A dinner pass will then be issued by the Head of Lower School.

Breakfasts are served in the dining room between 8.15 a.m. and 8.40 a.m.

PARENTS GUILD

We are fortunate to have a active Parents' Guild attached to the school. Social functions and educational events are held regularly. Great importance is attached to the Parent-Teacher relationship and every parent is invited to join the Guild and attend the Annual General Meeting early in September.

In addition to its other functions the Guild is a tremendous fund raising organisation. In the past years, pupils at Wellacre have been provided by the Guild with items such as hall curtains, stage curtains, table tennis tables, canoeing equipment, photographic equipment, dining room curtains, television sets, video cassette recorders, computers, office printing equipment, a video camera and a multi-gym. We are proud of the fund raising undertaken by the Guild which enables the school to run a 17 seater school mini bus. We encourage all parents to join our 100 club for £12 each year. The money generated by the 100 Club supplements the work done by the Parents Guild

THE WAY TO SCHOOL

Many of our boys travel by bus. The following services are available:-

No.

- 14 Stretford - George Carnall Centre - Urmston - Wellacre School
- 15 Stretford Arndale - Crofts Bank Road - Nags Head - Broadway - Woodsend - Wellacre School
- 245 Altrincham, Sale, Stretford, Urmston - Moorside Road - Wellacre School
- 247 Eccles - Nags Head - Curzon - Woodsend - Wellacre School
- 247 Altrincham, Partington, Carrington - Wellacre School
- 256 Manchester, Stretford, Lostock Road - Nags Head - Moorside Road to Wellacre School
- 276 from Chorlton to the Red Lion
- 729 Stretford (Robin Hood) through Urmston and along Flixton Road

Boys are supervised by staff every evening as they leave school and as they board the buses.

Most of our boys live within three miles of the school. For those whose direct walking route from their homes is longer than three miles and who live within the boundaries of Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme, financial assistance towards bus fares is available. Application forms are obtainable from the Education Officer, Town Hall, Sale, M33 1ZF.

Boys travelling to and from school are Wellacre Boys. We are proud of our school and do not wish bad behaviour outside to reflect upon our good work inside school. If boys, on their journeys to and from school, are reported to be discourteous or troublesome to the public we shall exercise the normal disciplinary measures that apply during school hours.

CYCLES

Cycles may be brought to school providing that they are kept in a road worthy condition. Random checks for road worthiness will be made by staff from time to time. Cycles are not to be ridden within the school grounds. Borrowing of cycles is strictly forbidden.

Parents and pupils should appreciate that cycles are brought to school **at the owner's risk**. Our cycle pound is right at the front of the school and is usually under observation but we would urge that cycles be padlocked as an essential safety

measure.

MOVEMENT AROUND SCHOOL

Our corridors are fairly wide but we still follow the rule of the road and keep to the left. We move around in a quiet and orderly manner.

Tutor groups or classes reporting to any room are expected to wait in a double line against the wall adjoining the classroom door.

MERIT SYSTEM

We are proud to applaud the success of pupils at Wellacre. In addition to praising pupils and awarding high grades for exercises, we present Merit Awards. Merits gained for classwork are totalled and Bronze, Silver and ultimately Gold awards presented to those boys who have gained the required number of merits. Certificates are presented in a school assembly to be taken home for parents to see and stored in Progress Files until they are used in the pupils Record of Achievement.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The school operates a five period day as follows:

8.15 a.m. - 8.40 a.m.	Breakfast served in Dining Room
8.45 a.m.	School Opens
8.45 a.m. - 9.05 a.m.	Registration/Assembly
9.05 a.m. - 10.05 a.m.	Period 1
10.05 a.m. - 11.05 a.m.	Period 2
11.05 a.m. - 11.20 a.m.	Break
11.20 a.m. - 12.20 p.m.	Period 3
12.20 p.m. - 1.05 p.m.	Lunch
1.05 p.m. - 1.10 p.m.	Registration
1.10 p.m. - 2.10 p.m.	Period 4
2.10 p.m. - 3.10 p.m.	Period 5
3.10 p.m.	Lessons finish

Modification from normal times

Boys normally leave school at 3.10 p.m. but for a variety of reasons their departure may be delayed.

- They make take part in games, athletics or school activities.
- Their teacher may be dissatisfied with their work or conduct.

Pupils may be detained after school but only for a maximum of ten minutes without prior notification to parents. When members of staff wish to exercise a longer

detention notice will be given. Pupils will be expected to inform their parents of a late return the following evening.

School Detention is awarded by Heads of Department for misconduct of a more serious nature. Parents will be informed by letter for School Detention and pupils will remain at school until 4.00 p.m.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There are a wide variety of club activities and learning extension opportunities offered at lunchtimes, after school and during school holidays. All children are encouraged to participate as widely as possible. Activities available include:

Athletics	Library
Badminton	Police Forum
Basketball	Reading Club
Board Games	Rugby
Brass Band	5-a-side
Canoe Club	Science
Computers	Soccer
Drama	Table Tennis
Guitar	Theatre Visits
Drum Kit Club	Trampolining
French Club	Woodwind
Homework Club	Young Enterprise
Keyboard	

In term time, residential courses and educational visits are organised and during the holidays, excursions and tours are arranged at home and abroad.

This year we organised a week's residential study in France, a battlefields residential visit to Belgium, and a ski-trip to Interlaken in Switzerland. The Year Nine residential field week took place at Shrewsbury and the Geography Year Ten residential group stayed in Llandudno.

Each year, in July, we organise a special field study week for Year Seven pupils. This is a marvellous, hardworking week involving nature study, walking, canoeing, and bird watching. Boys assess their own progress and see their character develop. This week on the mid Wales coast is eagerly awaited - and long remembered.

SOME USEFUL NAMES

Chairman of the Governors	Mr. M. Tanner
Headmaster	Mr. R. Howell
Head of Lower School (Years Seven, Eight and Nine)	Mr. R. Greenhalgh
Head of Upper School (Years Ten and Eleven)	Mr. P. Williams
Head of Year Seven	Mr. Brocklehurst

Tuesday 28th June - Parents of new pupils are welcomed by the Headmaster in the assembly hall - 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 23rd June - New pupils are invited to spend the day at Wellacre (N.B. £2.00 needed for lunch or pack lunch required)

Saturday 2nd July - Wellacre Parents' Guild Summer Fair - 12.00 noon till 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 6th September - Autumn term begins - 8.45 a.m.

Correct Postal Address:

Wellacre Technology College, Irlam Road, Flixton, Urmston, M41 6AP.
(Email Address: admin@wellacre.trafford.sch.uk)

**WELCOME TO
WELLACRE**