



WELLACRE

September, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would first of all like to take this opportunity to welcome back your son to Wellacre for what I hope will be a very successful year and hope that you all had a lovely summer. We have recently celebrated the appointment of our Head Boy, Oliver Pagan along with Jabin Choularton-Newton as Senior Deputy Head Boy; Lewis Verigotta and Matthew Mills as Deputy Head Boys respectively.

We have officially launched our new house system with a special launch event to enable students to win points for their respective Houses. The winner of the day was Pankhurst House followed by Turing and Lowry. There will be many opportunities for students to receive awards for outstanding attendance, punctuality and for consistently meeting our school's core values.

This year also sees the launch of our Co-Curricular activities/tuition periods each Wednesday 3pm–4pm. During this time, Year 11 students will be directed to undertake an additional hours study for the most appropriate subject area which will be based on their progress against targets.

It is important that you remind your son of our Behaviour for Learning and Academy expectations. This includes wearing the full school uniform; maintaining good attendance and punctuality; commitment to learning in lessons and undertaking independent study. It is absolutely vital that all students arrive to the Academy by 8:40 a.m. and are fully equipped, prepared and ready to learn.

Attendance remains a high priority for all our students, but even more so as the Year 11's prepare for their forthcoming examinations and controlled assessment deadlines. It is evident that students with less than 98% attendance can forfeit achieving a full higher GCSE grade and therefore it is important that students attend school on a daily basis, to aid success.

Regarding our methods of communication we will continue to be 'paperless.' The **My Ed** and **Class Charts apps** will make it much easier for you to be kept up-to-date about what is happening at school and enable you to receive timely communications about your son.

My Ed

My Ed is a free parent app that gives you information to stay in touch with what is going on at school. The app gives you direct access to your son's attendance, timetable, absence records and achievements. All reports and letters about school events and trips via the app. The app also hosts the link to **PTO (Parent Teacher Online)** for you to make parents' evening appointments. The Knowledge Organisers which your son should be using each week for his independent study can be found via the curriculum button on the app and school website.

You will receive a notification if we send you a message through the app and there is no charge for the messages you send to us. **However, you must have provided us with a mobile telephone number and valid email address to receive such notifications. Please ensure that you inform us if any of your contact details change in addition to medical information.**





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Class Charts

Class Charts is an online system which teachers use to track achievement, behavior and to set independent study tasks to complete at home. Each parent/carer will be able to view their son's achievement and behaviour reports and homework calendar via this system.

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

If you have more than one child in the school then you can enter additional codes once you have created an account and are logged in. This guide should help you to get started;

https://www.static.edukey.co.uk/CC_Guides/Quick_start_for_parents.pdf

Independent Study

All students are expected to work hard in lessons and on their own independently.

Homework at Wellacre is referred to as Independent Study. It has three aims:

1. **Enhance students' literacy and numeracy.**
2. **Improve students' knowledge and understanding (fluency) as the building blocks of learning in all subjects.**
3. **Develop effective independent learning habits.**

Students' literacy; Students at KS4 should be reading a range of texts widely to support their understanding of different genres, cultures and perspectives.

Students' numeracy is promoted through access to Mathswatch and measured by the rates of completion of Maths booklets, analysis of the use of Mathswatch, progress with '10 Quick Questions' numeracy challenges in Tutor Time and their subsequent performance in regular short tests in lessons. All students have a Maths booklet to complete tasks at home in.

Mathswatch is an online tool to help with independent study. It contains video clips, interactive questions and worksheets on all topics. It can also be used to help students with any subject with numeracy elements such as Science and Technology. The web address is: www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk and students' login details are:

initialsurname@wellacre e.g. John Smith is jsmith@wellacre Password: wellacre

In certain circumstances a student's login will include a number in line with the Wellacre email address (e.g. jbloggs2@wellacre). If a student is unable to gain access, please contact a Maths teacher. Please log on and make sure that Mathswatch is used daily to develop greater confidence in Maths and support progress. Students also have access to a folder on google drive which contains practice papers.

Students' knowledge and understanding in all subjects is promoted through the publication of 'knowledge organisers' for each student in every subject termly. These will inform students and parents exactly what knowledge the students need to acquire and understand as the building blocks of learning for





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that term. They are published on Class Charts and are also on the school website and can be accessed through the MyEd app.

Commitment to Learning for independent study will be evident in students' mastery of that knowledge and understanding and their response to teacher feedback in lessons.

Students' independent learning habits will be promoted through the independent learning tasks set on Class Charts and the direct link to the knowledge organisers.

All students should;

- **Log on to Class Charts daily to check independent study tasks that have been set and to meet deadlines.**
- **Locate and use the termly knowledge organisers in Class Charts.**
- **Log on to their school email account daily to check for shared resources and messages from staff.**
- **Use the independent study skills to improve knowledge and understanding across the curriculum.**
- **Read regularly and widely including their own library reading book and a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.**
- **Use their Student Journal to organise their time effectively and prioritise their workload.**

All students will be provided with a Student Journal in which to record their independent learning, review their progress and make a note of the articles, books and websites they are using to support their independent learning.

Students are also following a programme of structured support with their Tutors on the VESPA Coaching Model as part of an exciting pilot with the University of Manchester. The model has already proved to have a significant impact on students' commitment, motivation and productivity in post-16 education and training. It explores the following as key characteristics and qualities which underpin success:

- (V) Vision: How well do you know what you want to achieve?
- (E) Effort: How many hours of independent work do you do?
- (S) Systems: How do you organise your learning and organise your time?
- (P) Practice: What kind of work do you do to practice your skills?
- (A) Attitude: How do you respond to setbacks?

Please ensure your son brings the following items to school every day; his basic kit comprising of a pen, pencil, ruler, school planner, bag and calculator. He must be in full school uniform every day adhering to the Wellacre Uniform Policy. **The uniform policy states that we only accept black shoes, no sports logos or trainers, and he must also ensure he wears plain dark grey/charcoal trousers.**

The parent section on the Wellacre website (www.wellacre.org) gives you access to important reporting dates scheduled on the events calendar, along with term dates and links to ParentPay.





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Year 11 Staff Contact details:

11.1	Mr J Shiner	jshiner@wellacre.org
11.2	Mr B Nassau	bnassau@wellacre.org
11.3	Miss A Flowers	aflowers@wellacre.org
11.4	Mr R Chisnall	rchisna@wellacre.org
11.5	Mr C Sharrock	csharroc@wellacre.org

Year 11 Progress Leader

Mr J Duffy jduffy@wellacre.org

Academy Leadership Link

Mr P Pemberton ppembert@wellacre.org

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates:

These are available to view on the events calendar on the Wellacre website along with key reporting dates.

As a parent of a Wellacre student, we would like to offer you the opportunity join the school's PTA 'Friends of Wellacre'. We would sincerely welcome your input and ideas on how to further develop our school. For further details on joining the Wellacre PTA, please contact Ms Partridge at skearney@wellacre.org

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Duffy
Year 11 Progress Leader

