



WELLACRE

September, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable summer.

It has been a pleasure to welcome both returning students and new starters in Year 7 to Wellacre. So far they have had a successful return and have addressed their new timetables and challenges with a sense of maturity.

We have officially launched our new house system with a launch special event. This was enjoyed by all and the winner of the day was Pankhurst followed by Turing and Lowry. There will be competitions each term for students to compete in. There will also be many opportunities for students to receive further awards, outstanding attendance, punctuality and meeting our core values. I look forward to celebrating these successes with your son.

This year also sees the launch of our Co-Curricular activities, each Wednesday 3pm – 4pm. We have a wide range of opportunities for your son to enhance his well-being, from Rugby, beginners Spanish, Reporting Club, to learning Yoga and Japanese Language and Culture.

Regarding our methods of communication, we are '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 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 are sent 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 update the school as and when 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

In Years 7-10 the arrangements for the grouping of students has changed this year. Students will be in the same teaching group for more subjects and the G and L structures have been disbanded. This allows for subjects to group students across a full year group.

In English, Maths and all subjects except Creative Arts and Technology at KS3, students have been grouped into two higher groups based on KS2 attainment and the progress they have made since, with three more broadly mixed ability groups. All classes work on the same schemes of work regardless of grouping. All teachers pitch their teaching 'to the top' and scaffold support for students who need it.

In Year 10, students will be in the same teaching group for English and Maths with groups 1, 2 and 3 following a 'higher tier' scheme of work for Maths. The three other groups will follow the 'foundation tier' scheme of work. Option subjects are always mixed ability.

Teaching groups will be reviewed regularly and students' Commitment to Learning will also be monitored carefully. 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 is promoted through reading for pleasure at KS3 and measured by the students' progress with engaged reading time, quiz participation and 'percentage correct' in the Accelerated Reader programme. All students at KS3 have a library book they should be reading daily in school and at home, and an English Spelling and Grammar (SPaG) booklet to complete weekly. Students at KS4 should be reading a range of texts widely to support their understanding of different genres, cultures and perspectives.





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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 that term. They are published on Class Charts and are also on the school website and can be accessed through the My Ed 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. In this sense, 'revision' lasts five years and not five weeks or five months. This long term approach to independent study becomes habitual and the same strategies are embedded in all students by the time they do external examinations in Year 11.

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.**





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- **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.

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 dates and links to ParentPay and term dates.

Lowry House Contact details:

7.5	Mrs Eagling	leagling@wellacre.org
8.4	Miss C Niebel	cniebel@wellacre.org
8.5	Mr R Linton	rlinton@wellacre.org
9.4	Miss A Jones	ajones1@wellacre.org
9.5	Mrs S Hill	shill@wellacre.org
10.5	Mrs C Lunn	clunn@wellacre.org

Head of Lowry
Mr R Asha

rasha@wellacre.org

Academy Leadership Link
Ms S Partridge

skearney@wellacre.org

Assistant Head of House
Mrs M Craigie

mcraigie@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.





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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 R. Asha
Head of House, Lowry

