

WELLACRE

17th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Principal's Update~17th March 2023

I hope this letter finds you all well.

The Year 10 Orienteers continued to refine their skills and speed at Sale Water Park this week. The Governing Board met on Wednesday evening and received updates on wide ranging aspects of Wellacre business. We have also had Link Governor Visits this week to look at Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Pupil Premium and also Safeguarding, SEND and Personal Development. You can find out more information about Governance at Wellacre here [Pen Portraits of Members and Governors | Wellacre Academy](#)

We have two weeks left before the Easter break. School will finish at 3pm on 31st March 2023 and reopen on Monday 17th April 2023. There is the additional Bank Holiday for the Coronation on Monday 8th May 2023 and school will be closed that day.

Attendance

The attendance of Wellacre students continues to be a real strength. Thank you for ongoing support with this. Just a reminder please that any exceptional requests for absence must be made via the online form which can be found on the school website. [Attendance and Punctuality | Wellacre Academy](#)

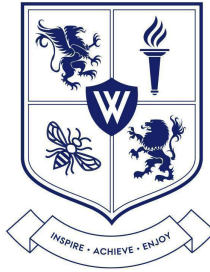
We would also like to remind you that ALL absences must be explained by a letter, note or message from you as parents and carers. If you fail to provide a reason we contact you to request one, but if there is no response the absence will always be recorded as unauthorised and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued. Please continue to work with this around any issues affecting attendance.

Free School Meals (FSMs)

Latest data shows that approximately 700 Free School Meals across Trafford are going unclaimed. Please check here whether your child is eligible here and apply online. [Free school meals](#)

Year 8 Progress Evening for Parents/Carers

A reminder that this event will be held remotely with parents/carers able to make appointments via School Cloud. The event takes place on Thursday 30th March 2023 from 4.30-7pm. It is an important opportunity to discuss students' progress, achievements and areas for improvement. In order to get the link for School Cloud, please complete this very short feedback form. Your views are important to us. Thank you to all those who have already responded. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaPdG45X2RhKM6Vjpe6t9Ur7ZzC64XHIAugSRKfPvKxBurFw/viewform?usp=sharing>



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Trips

We have listened to feedback from parents and carers around trips. I have met with some. We have spent time with administrative staff refining our systems. As a result, we have changed our practices. We always try to do what we think is best given the challenges of any residential which include;

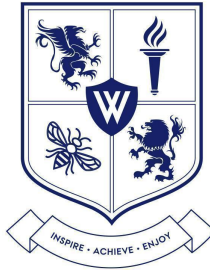
- balancing the clear benefits of a residential trip against the cover which staff accompanying the trips incur; both in cost and in quality of education for those students still in school
- the costs of a trip for parents and carers and the need to schedule payments as reasonably as possible for families
- the 'fairest' way of filling places without making it about who can pay first.

The system we have used this week and in future is as follows:

- All parents and carers of students eligible for a particular trip will be sent an Arbor message the day before it becomes available to say the letter will go out the following day. The message will indicate the spaces available. Eligible groups will be narrower initially than they were for the French trip for example.
- When the letter is sent, parents and carers can click 'consent' in the activities/trips section at the foot of your Arbor homepage. The facility to do this in Arbor will be limited to spaces available. This will essentially 'reserve' the place.
- Please note that we do not use Arbor for payment. As a result, Arbor may show the trip as 'free'. Please read any letter carefully as costs will be clearly communicated.
- Once the trip is full, Parent Pay details for payment will be sent to those who have successfully reserved their place.
- Schedules for payment will be as reasonable as the company allows to support families
- Places will be honoured if schedules for payments are met.
- Unfortunately, if payments are not received by the dates provided, the place will be withdrawn and offered to the next student on the reserve list.
- If the message you get from Arbor says the trip is unavailable, then all the places have already been reserved. In that event, please email admin@wellacre.org to put your son on the reserve list. Allocations of places from the reserve list will be done by time/date the reserve list email was received.

What we always knew and have to accept is that no system will suit everyone. There will always be some we please and others we disappoint, despite our best efforts.

However, please do not complain to us if your son has not secured a place, now that we have reviewed the systems and determined a way forward. We understand the disappointment, and acknowledge it, but the system is the fairest we can think of considering the organisational pressures we face. Please understand that it is not personal if your son misses out. The staff



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who are prepared to organise trips should be supported otherwise the complaints may even act as a disincentive to staff to organise similar opportunities for students in the future. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Please have a good look at the bulletin for next week. There is so much for students to get involved with. Year 11 are reminded that they have a full list of revision sessions they should be attending here [■ Year 11 Revision Sessions 2023.pdf](#)

I hope you all have a good weekend. Many thanks for your ongoing support. If you have any queries, please email admin@wellacre.org and we will always try our best to help.

Best wishes,

Mrs J Sharrock

Principal