



3rd January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Principal's Update

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and you have enjoyed the festive break. May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year.

**We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to Wellacre.**

Please do let us know if any family events or personal circumstances over the break have affected your son, and we will work together to ensure he gets any support he needs.

### Important dates for Spring Term 1

- **Thursday 19th January 4.30-7.30pm:** Year 9 Progress Evening (KS4 Options) This will be a remote evening via School Cloud with more information to follow in due course.
- **Monday 23rd January:** Year 11 assessments start
- **Thursday 31st January:** Year 9 Immunisations-more information to follow from the School Nursing Team
- **Monday 6th February:** Jungle Book Matinee for Primary schools
- **Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th February:** Jungle Book Production, 7.30pm
- **Thursday 9th February 4.30-7pm:** Year 10 Progress Evening. This will be a remote evening via School Cloud with more information to follow in due course.
- **Friday 10th February:** Ski Trip Departs and school closes for the half term break at 3pm.

### Equipment

Students will need a **pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and a CALCULATOR** in their school bag as a minimum. Equipment checks will take place regularly in Form Time. Please help us in ensuring that every student is ready to learn.

## Year 11 Internal Assessments Spring 2023: Important Information

Year 11 internal assessments will be held from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**.

These assessments provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and apply their understanding of the syllabus content in an examination setting. The assessments will also allow staff to identify any gaps and misconceptions students may have and ensure these are addressed. All Year 11 parents and carers should have received all the information they need and this can also be found here

<https://www.wellacre.org/parents-carers-and-students/examination-information/>

### Visitors to school

**All staff have teaching, duty and diary commitments so we are not able to see visitors, parents or carers without an appointment.** If you have a query, please email [admin@wellacre.org](mailto:admin@wellacre.org) and this will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff to deal with your query most efficiently. Alternatively, please telephone reception and leave a message. You will also be able to contact your son's Tutor or your son's Head of House by email. If a face to face meeting is required, it can be arranged to suit both parties and we can make sure the member of staff best placed to deal with your concern is available. Please note that we have a reasonable expectation that staff will respond to any query within 48 hours, unless it is an urgent safeguarding referral.

### Absence requests

**Please plan your holidays within school holidays as usual** and avoid seeking permission to take your child out of school during term time.

We have excellent attendance and punctuality at Wellacre and we want to maintain this. Whilst we understand that it can be difficult and often expensive to take holidays outside of term time, **students need to be in school and it is quite clear in government guidance that absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances.** A family holiday is not in itself an exceptional circumstance despite those circumstances being 'special' to the family involved. Leave is highly unlikely to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday as a norm.

Any parent wanting to take their child out of school, during term time, **must inform the Principal by completing and submitting this form (link below) with plenty of notice.**

### [Student Leave of Absence Application Form](#)

Each application is looked at on an individual basis and you will be informed by letter of the outcome. It is highly unusual to grant leave of absence during term time. Any leave taken without permission will be classed as unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued.

Thank you for ongoing support in promoting excellent habits of punctual and regular attendance to school.

## Excellence in behaviour

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support in implementing our policies for the benefit of all students, and part of our commitment to achieving excellence in all we do.

A reminder that **mobile devices including phones, tablets, headphones and smart watches are not allowed on the school site at all.**

All students understand the policy; its rationale, how it is implemented and the consequences for them, if they are in possession of a device which is seen or heard. There is never a justification for students contacting parents/carers directly using their own device on site.

In an emergency, please contact the school on 0161 748 5011, explain how you think we can help and we will ensure that your child is well supported.

If a student feels unwell, upset or needs support there are always staff available in the Hub or in the office to support them.

## Prime

Many of us will have seen quite extraordinary footage of the clamour for Prime drinks over the holidays. As I wrote in an earlier letter, **Prime drinks/bottles are not allowed.** The fuss is an unnecessary and unwelcome distraction in schools. Thank you for your support with this. Please provide your son with a refillable bottle and he can use the water fountains in school for refreshment.

## Uniform

Our students are fabulous ambassadors for Wellacre. All students are expected to arrive in full school uniform. Further information can be found here [Uniform](#) **Jumpers must be worn** at all times, under the school blazer. **Hooded tops/sweatshirts are not part of our uniform and will be confiscated.**

Please can I also remind you that your son needs to **remove any earrings** before arriving on the school site.

If you are experiencing particular difficulty around financial hardship, please contact us at [admin@wellacre.org](mailto:admin@wellacre.org) and we will try to help.

Please can I also remind those parents/carers who were contacted before Christmas about borrowed items of uniform not returned, provide the replacement item or payment as requested. We need a supply of uniform items in school to ensure that all our students are able to meet our uniform requirements.

Please do join the school lottery if you are able as it will continue to boost our Eco Centre project funds [Wellacre School Lottery](#) and the [Friends of Wellacre](#) are always looking for new members!

**I will continue to send a brief 'Principal's Update' electronically every Friday, and include the bulletin for the 'Week Ahead'. Please do have a read as I will try to keep you updated with the rich and varied activities in a typical Wellacre week.** Our website

is well maintained and serves as an excellent reference point for those seeking information about life at Wellacre. <https://www.wellacre.org/>

Many thanks in anticipation of your ongoing support. Please do get in touch if you have any queries or feedback. I hope your child thrives in 2023 and Wellacre continues to prosper as a result of the strength of our partnerships.

Best wishes,

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

Mrs J Sharrock

Principal