



Newsletter

Autumn - Term 1
Newsletter 11
October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to my first newsletter of the term. It has been a great start to the year and I would like to thank you for ensuring your children have arrived back to school properly dressed and ready to learn.

The 'Winterhill Way'; the school's ethos of respect, responsibility and resilience continues to be a key focus for all members of the school community.

Over the coming year we will emphasise this ethos further with a focus on restorative practice. You can find out more about restorative practice and how we believe it will develop these fundamental characteristics by visiting our website.

If you would like to contact me, please email **Julie Parkin** jparkin@winterhill.org.uk - Headteachers' PA to make an appointment.

Updating your details - It is vitally important that Winterhill has the correct contact information for your son/daughter. Please get in touch with school to provide your most up to date mobile number and e-mail address. **Thank you for your continued support** S Rhodes - Headteacher

OPEN MORNING

This took place on Saturday, 22nd September, showcasing the best of what the school has to offer. Parents and their children had the chance to decorate cupcakes, build LED torches, beat the goalie and see our science show. There were lots of games and quizzes for everyone to try and both staff and current students were on hand to answer the many questions that arose.

If you have any questions about a school place at Winterhill, or you would like to visit the school, please contact our senior transitions coordinator, Mrs Heidi Cooper-hcooper@winterhill.org.uk

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Since I wrote to you last regarding our uniform expectations and requesting your support with ensuring that your child wears the correct school uniform as stated in our Uniform policy, I am pleased to say that the vast majority of students wear their uniforms with pride and in line with the school expectations. I am writing to thank you for continuing to support the school in upholding these expectations, ensuring that our student's presentation is of the highest standard.

A polite reminder that students not in full uniform, unless they are in receipt of an updated letter of explanation, will be sanctioned. This could result in the student being sent home. Please support our drive on the importance of uniform by reinforcing this "no excuse" culture with your children.

If you require further information or support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Group Tutor or Behaviour for learning Leader.

Please visit the school website www.winterhill.org.uk, which has more information and guidance regarding our uniform Policy.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

At Winterhill School, excellent attendance and punctuality is our aim for every student. Full attendance maximises learning opportunities and parents/carers have a vital role in promoting good attitudes towards attendance. We ask for support from you to ensure that your child is present at every opportunity and arrives on time. We also ask that you avoid allowing your child to stay at home unnecessarily and refrain from taking them out of school without authorisation. Evidence shows that students who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and socially. Our school and individual student target is an expected attendance of >95%.

Every school day counts and it is this commitment to learning that will have a positive effect on your child's examinations and will improve their chances and choices in adult life. We monitor every student's attendance and punctuality closely and will follow up unexplained absence with you, by telephone, letter or home visit in the first instance to discuss ways in which we can work together to support you and your child.

Please visit the school website www.winterhill.org.uk, which has more information and guidance to support families with school attendance.

GCSE RESULTS

Once again our students have continued to achieve the very highest grades, for example our highest performer scored ten grade 7-9's, with six grade 9's (equivalent to A**) representing outstanding achievement and continues to show that our students compete with the very best across the country.

A huge well done to our leavers and very best wishes for the exciting future ahead. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff on behalf of our students and their families for their work in getting them ready for these challenges.

HOMEWORK

Homework is a very important part of school life and I appreciate all of the support we receive from parents in ensuring our students see homework as a priority. It is, quite rightly, one area that I am contacted about the most, by parents. The school has high expectations of homework and we use the 'Show My Homework' system to record and track engagement and completion of homework. Within Y7 and Y8 homework is directly linked to our IMYC 'themes' and is presented as a menu via the IMYC booklet which students take home, as well as being uploaded onto 'Show my Homework' for electronic submission. In Y9-11, homework tasks are related to GCSE/BTEC courses of study and take many forms; including revision, assignments, extended learning and much more.

All students and parents/carers have a dedicated log on to use the system which can be accessed via the new school website as well as a free downloadable app. Moving forwards, we will be reporting on 'attitude towards homework' in order to share your son/daughter's engagement within this.

Of course, if you have any questions about homework, please contact subject teachers, or your child's behaviour for learning leader for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS at WINTERHILL

Tuesday, 23rd October	Y11 parents' evening
Friday, 26th October	Last day of half term
Monday, 5th November	First day back
Tuesday, 13th November	Y7 Group tutor evening
Wednesday, 14th November	Students finish at 1.15pm*
Monday, 3rd December	Elders Christmas party
Tuesday, 11th December - Friday, 14th December	Bugsy Malone performance
Friday, 21st December	Students finish at 1.15pm* school closes for Christmas
Monday, 7th January 2019	School re-opens to STAFF and STUDENTS

*Arrangements can be made to supervise your child until 2.50pm by contacting your child's Behaviour for Learning Leader.