

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you, your family and loved ones are well and looking forward to spending some quality time together during the upcoming summer holidays. It has been an absolute pleasure meeting you and working with you throughout the past few months and it is a privilege to be a part of such a vibrant, caring and ambitious community.

On behalf of the newly formed staff team of Winchburgh Academy, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement whilst we have been working hard to prepare for your children starting their new school on Tuesday, 16th August.

I thought that it may be helpful to communicate a few reminders as we all prepare to start our new school.

Summer School

You will be aware from previous meetings and correspondence that we are very much looking forward to working with some of our young people at our 2022 Summer School during the week of Monday 8th – Friday 12th August. If your child can make it along, it will be lovely to see them and work with them in our new building for the first time and they can either come every day during the week, or on certain days that they are available.

Young people attending should enter through the main entrance and meet with staff in the Atrium at 9.30am. There will be a variety of activities offered each day and young people will leave at 12.30pm. They are encouraged to bring a snack and water/juice with them as we will have a short break at 10.45am.

Attached to the email where you found this letter, there is a copy of the Summer School arrangements. If your child is interested in attending, please click the link below to fill in the brief form to register before Friday 29th July. This will help us with our forward planning and preparations.

<https://forms.office.com/r/91T23RHpwF>

We hope to see as many soon to be S1 pupils as possible.

Enhanced Transition

In addition to summer school offerings, those pupils who have been working with Mrs. Oliver on Friday afternoons for the enhanced transition programme are invited to Winchburgh Academy on Tuesday 9th August 1-2pm to participate in a scavenger hunt around the school. We hope you can all make it along.

Tuesday 16th August (Day One Arrangements)

We are ready to welcome you to Winchburgh Academy on Tuesday 16th August. As previously communicated, we have arranged a Welcome Reception for S1 pupils and we are inviting up to two parents/carers to accompany them. The morning arrangements are as follows:

8.40am	Arrival	Main Entrance
8.40am – 9am	Reception (light refreshments)	Atrium
9am	Welcome Ceremony	Theatre
10am	Parents/Carers Depart	Via Main Exit
10.15am	Our Academy First Pupil Assembly	Theatre

Although an official school opening will be planned by West Lothian Council later in the school session, we aim to make this a memorable occasion for our first ever pupils, families and staff. There will be many photograph opportunities throughout the morning and we are expecting all our S1 pupils to be smartly dressed in line with our formal dress code for the day (please refer to the uniform/dress code leaflet emailed last week).

Friday 19th August

At 11am on Friday 19th August, we would like to invite up to two parents/carers per pupil to join us to celebrate with a short ceremony to plant our 2022 Time Capsule. This will be followed by light refreshments in the Atrium including an opportunity for your child to show you round our state-of-the-art new school building. We hope you can join us at both events/celebrations – please add the dates and times to your diary if you can.

Throughout the following weeks, we will be working closely with the wider Winchburgh Academy community to provide opportunities to visit our new school and engage in guided tours of the facilities. More information about this will be provided in the new school session.

Uniform

Thank you for your very positive feedback about our new uniform range and dress code. All guidance and support information for ordering can be accessed from the leaflet emailed last week and this can also now be found on our new school website. A polite reminder that school blazers should be ordered by 10th July to ensure that they will be ready and with you prior to our first day on 16th August. For any further support – please contact us using the school email address noted at the top of this letter.

Please remember to arrange to come in to the office at Winchburgh Academy any day week beginning Monday 8th August between 10am and 2pm, to pick up one school tie as gifted by the school. Alternatively, please pop in to the school office at some point during the INSET day on Monday 15th August between 10am and 3pm. If you are unavailable at these times, please email the school to let us know and we will make an arrangement to ensure you receive a tie prior to the start of the new school session.

Website

We are delighted to now have a school website. Thank you for your patience and support as our website evolves and develops in the future. You will be able to access letters, presentations, school policies, curriculum plans and other helpful school information by clicking the link:

<https://winchburghacademy.westlothian.org.uk>

Staff Update

We warmly welcome the following staff members to our continuously growing Winchburgh Academy staff team in August:

Mr. Foster from the WLC Instrumental Music Service (Brass) will be based initially in Our Academy on Thursdays to support Music and associated experiences and opportunities.

Manjeet Dhokia from SMILE is Our Academy School Counsellor for session 2022-23 and will work across our school, particularly as a key member of our Pupil Support team, based in Winchburgh Academy initially on Mondays, Tuesdays and Friday mornings.

We are interviewing for our new Pupil Support Worker in July to ensure that they are ready to join Our Academy team from the start of the new school session.

I look forward to communicating with you again prior to the beginning of the new school session. Please contact us using the school email address in the first instance if we can offer any help or support before then.

Thank you again for your support, positivity and partnership throughout the past few months, it has been very much appreciated.

Finally, I wish each of you and your loved ones, a restful and relaxing summer and we can assure you that we are ready to welcome you and your children in to Our Academy in August – we cannot wait.

Best wishes,



Jonny Mitchell