

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been an absolute joy working with you and your child(ren) throughout our second ever school session at Winchburgh Academy. As we reach the end of the session, I'd like to take an opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and partnership – this has provided the whole staff team with inspiration during what has been another extremely successful and enjoyable year.

The growing staff team are looking forward to the summer break but are fully prepared to continue to support, love and work with your child(ren) again next session so that they can continue to flourish and achieve.

In preparation for the beginning of the new session, I have highlighted some helpful information below.

2024-25 Winchburgh Academy Family Calendar

In the email you received this letter, you will also find the 2024-25 Winchburgh Academy Calendar (Version 1). Please save this and keep it handy for reference throughout next session. A copy will also be uploaded onto the relevant area of our school website in due course. Thank you for your patience again this year, due to our unique circumstances, some dates may be subject to some change but we will try our very best to keep that to a minimum and we will you always keep you informed.

Day 1 - Tuesday 13th August

S2 and S3 students will return to school on Tuesday 13th August at the usual time of 8.40am entering via the student entrance at the rear of the building. Students will attend Personal Support & Registration (PSR) and this will be extended slightly before they begin their period 1 class. Students have been made aware of their new timetables during assemblies this week. S2 students moving into S3 have been provided with a paper copy of their new timetable which begins in August and S1 students moving into S2 will find their new timetable on their class team. If anyone would like any support regarding new timetables, please contact the school office in the first instance.

New S1 parents have been invited to a brief Welcome Reception from 9am and we look forward to our S2 and S3 students being role models for the new S1 students, especially in regard to our high standards of uniform, conduct, attitude and school values.

Uniform

We are often complimented on our uniform approach from local and national colleagues and our school dress range is something that we will continuously work on/evolve in partnership with our students and families. Scottish Government is soon to publish statutory requirements to all schools in Scotland, following a slight delay, which will inform any next steps required in regard to our policy throughout next session. Our aim is to ensure a cost effective dress range that is suitable and comfortable for all learners whilst maintaining safety, identity and pride in being part of the Winchburgh Academy team.

We are aware of recently increased pricing on items available from BE Uniforms, our supplier. We will continue to work with them to find best ways to ensure respectable prices all year round. Unfortunately, when suppliers/businesses offer discount periods, we often find the timings of these can penalise some families even further in regard to financial circumstances/pressures including clothing grant applications. Therefore, at this stage we have agreed a lower pricing deal for all items all year round and therefore discount offers/periods will not apply. We have changed our manufacturer following consultation and BE Uniforms have agreed to match the cost of our previous manufacturer. We will always explore other ways in which we may be able to reduce pricing in the future. Anyone who requires help and support with uniform should contact the school office and we will be delighted to help to ensure that your child is supported to wear items from our school dress range. Attached to the email that included this letter, you will also have a copy of our school dress range leaflet. In summary, we ask for your support is ensuring that your child has access to the following uniform items:

Plain white school shirt/blouse
Black school trousers/skirt
Winchburgh Academy tie
All black school shoes/footwear
School Blazer is optional
PE kit including a Winchburgh Academy sports top and a pair of Winchburgh Academy shorts/skort

A key component of our uniform approaches is to ensure that there is a large variety of options available for all students to meet their preferences/needs. Therefore, as you are aware, additional/optional items available including Winchburgh Academy hooded tops, leggings, tracksuit trousers and a quarter zip long sleeved top sports.

We ask for your full support in maintaining our high standards of school dress for all the reasons highlighted above. Any other clothing items are not considered to be Winchburgh Academy uniform and students/families will be supported to attend in uniform at all times.

We always encourage and appreciate your support with students wearing Winchburgh Academy branded items. However, where this is difficult, if/when absolutely necessary, students are at least expected to wear appropriate, unbranded school colours at all times, for example navy blue tracksuit/jogging bottoms/leggings/jumpers.

To order/enquire, the link for our uniform supplier (BE Uniforms) can be accessed by clicking the link below:

[Embroidered Schoolwear & Clubwear \(border-embroideries.co.uk\)](http://border-embroideries.co.uk)

If you require any further support in any way (clarity/ordering/financial) – please contact our main school office and we will always be delighted to help.

Some useful information about further ways to support families who are eligible, as appropriate, can be viewed by clicking the links below:

<http://bitly.ws/y6xq>

<https://schoolbank-westlothian.org/>

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/80941/School-Clothing-Grants-Free-School-Meals-Milk-Frequently-Asked-Questions>

2024-25 Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff who will join the team at the beginning of the new session in August:

Mrs. MacFarlane (English & Drama)
Mrs. Nicholson (Social Subjects/Business)
Mr. Davies (Social Subjects/History)
Mrs. Smith (Modern Languages)
Mr. Simpson (CDT)
Mr. Grehan (Science/Physics)
Mrs. Donald (HFT)
Mr. McDowall (Music)
Mrs. Ssentamu (Support for Learning)
Mr. Weaver (Maths)

*Mr. A Kerr (Chemistry – 0.2FTE)

*Mr. McNeice (Computing – 0.2FTE)

**denotes that these colleagues are not permanent to the school but are supporting our curriculum in partnership with other WLC secondary schools.*

I am sure you join me in welcoming them to our school community and we wish them all the best in their new post. There will be an opportunity to meet some of our new staff members at our Summer Values Reflection Assembly on Thursday 27th June.

Summer Values Reflection Assembly

A reminder that our final family event of the session will take place tomorrow (Thursday 27th June) at 2pm in The Theatre. I'd like to encourage as many family members along as possible to join us to reflect on what is important in our community and celebrate the end of the session together. Following the assembly, everyone will be invited to enjoy some hospitality

in the form of an afternoon tea in The Atrium until 3.40pm. I hope you can join us and I very much look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I wish each of you and your loved ones, a restful and relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing everyone again at 8.40am on Tuesday 13th August.

Best wishes,



Jonny Mitchell