

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are over halfway through the first half term of the academic year, and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some of the amazing things happening across the academy.

There is an enormous amount of hard work happening across our school every day. Our students continue to demonstrate that, when they Work hard, Model kindness and Aim high, they can achieve great things. I have been particularly pleased to see so many students responding positively to the high expectations we have set this year and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Recent Parental Engagement Events

It has been wonderful to see such positive engagement from our parents and carers. We have recently welcomed families into school for our Year 11 Revision Evening and our Year 8 Information Evening, both of which provided valuable opportunities to work together to support our students.

In particular, the feedback we have received from parents following the Year 8 Information Evening has been incredible. Parents told us how useful they found the information and guidance provided, and how valuable it was to have the opportunity to better understand the experiences and expectations of Year 8. We really appreciate the time parents have taken to attend these events, engage with the information and work alongside us to support their children. That partnership between home and school is incredibly important to us.

Meet the Headteacher Opportunities

I am really pleased that so many parents have already signed up for our informal **Coffee, Cake and Chat** sessions. These sessions are an opportunity to come into school, meet with me as Headteacher, and talk openly about your experiences, ideas and thoughts about WMA. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far. I am really looking forward to meeting you, listening to your views and hearing your ideas on how we can continue to improve our school — all over a good slice of cake! There is still time to sign up for one of the sessions this half term if you haven't done so already. You will find the information for sign-up in the letter that was sent out to all families as well as the advertising poster – [Coffee, Cake & Chat Poster](#)

Social Media Updates

If you haven't done so already, please sign up to our social media platforms so that you can see our latest posts and information to keep you in the loop. We are dedicated to growing our use of social media across this academic year, so follow us on our platforms so you can keep up to date with all things Whitcliffe!

X/Twitter - WMA Account - @WMount

X/Twitter - PE Account - @wms_pe

Instagram - @whitcliffemount

Facebook - @whitcliffemount



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New Parent Partnership Forum

We will also shortly be launching our new WMA Parent Partnership Forum. This will provide another important opportunity for parents and carers to sign up to be part of our partnership with the academy. The forum will enable parents to help shape whole-school priorities with us, share strategic ideas and work alongside school leaders to ensure that parent voice is a key part of how we operate at WMA. We want this to be a genuine partnership, with parents from across all year groups helping us to think about the things that matter most to our whole school community. The forum will meet once per half term, and the focus of each meeting will be shared in advance. You can find our advertising poster here - [WMA Parent Partnership Forum](#)

Positive Recognition

We have also been celebrating the achievements of our students through our reward events for Years 7 and 8, with hot chocolate treats and a film and popcorn afternoon. These have been a fantastic opportunity to recognise students who are consistently demonstrating our values and making positive choices. It is important to us that we celebrate success and recognise the vast majority of our young people who get things right every day. Further reward events for other year groups will follow throughout the rest of this term.

We are particularly excited about the launch of our October 'Trick or Treat' daily rewards starting next week, with a daily 'witching hour' prize draw happening and our 'WMA Witches' delivering treats to lessons! Our attendance team will be sharing further information about this.

WMA Enrichment

Another exciting development is the imminent launch of our new enrichment programme. This will provide students with even more opportunities to develop interests, discover new experiences, build confidence and learn beyond the classroom. We will shortly be sharing details of the activities on offer, so please take the time to look through the programme with your child and encourage them to get involved. Whether they discover a new passion, develop an existing interest or simply try something completely different, we want as many of our students as possible to take advantage of these opportunities. We have updated the [curriculum](#) section of our website to showcase our new enrichment offer for this year.

Contacting the Academy

Whilst we are dedicated to working in partnership with parents and carers, we respectfully ask you to refrain from arriving at reception to speak to staff without an appointment, unless there is an urgent safeguarding need to do so. Our staff are incredibly busy supporting students in school and are not always available to meet with visitors immediately. To avoid any disappointment or unnecessary conflict, please ring reception and request an appointment with a member of staff and we will be happy to oblige in booking one for you. Further information about how to contact school can be found on our website using this link - [Contacting School](#)

Similarly, although we will always endeavour to respond to email communication as swiftly as possible, please allow up to 48 hours for a response from staff. Anything of a safeguarding nature will be actioned as a priority, but again to avoid unnecessary conflict with staff, please allow 48 hours for a response to most other queries. Staff will also not respond to communication sent on an evening or weekend, unless there is an urgent need to do so. A list of staff contact details can be found here - [Staff email list](#)

Toilets

I would also like to briefly address the new toilet shutters that will shortly be installed, as some misinformation has been shared on social media which is unhelpful and can understandably cause unnecessary concern. To clarify, the shutters will be fitted at the entrance to the main toilet areas so that these can be secured during lesson time. Students will continue to have access to the toilets at the start of the school day, during break and lunchtime, after school and at every lesson changeover, meaning that students have regular, hourly opportunities to use the facilities throughout the school day. In addition, there will be a designated accessible toilet on each floor for students who have a toilet pass and need access during lessons. The main toilets will therefore be



secured during lesson time to reduce lost learning time and to address the significant damage and misuse that has been occurring in some of the toilet areas. I want to reassure parents and carers that no student is being denied access to toilet facilities, contrary to some of the misinformation being shared online. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already shown their support and solidarity with this decision, and who recognise that this is about ensuring the effective running of the school, maximising learning time and, importantly, supporting the wellbeing of all our students.

Thank you

Behind all of the amazing things happening across the Academy is a huge amount of hard work from our staff. From lessons and intervention programmes to pastoral support, enrichment, attendance work, safeguarding and the countless small interactions that make a difference to our young people each day, there is a tremendous commitment across the academy to providing the very best experience we can for our students.

There is, of course, always more to do. We are ambitious for our school and our students, and we will continue to work hard to improve further. What matters most is that we do this together — school, students and families working in partnership.

Thank you for your continued support, your engagement with the academy and the encouragement you provide to your children. We genuinely appreciate it, and it makes a real difference to our school community.

With very best wishes,



Mrs Z Ali
Headteacher