



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear West Park Families

Welcome or welcome back!

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer and that you have managed to enjoy spending time with family and friends. Unbelievably, the summer has decided to make a proper appearance as we return to school. Last week I was on a beach with a ski jacket on with temperatures of eight degrees! The warm weather is likely to stay with us through to the weekend so please ensure that your child/children has a water bottle with them, sun cream and a hat as required. We continue to strive to be an eco-friendly school and thus we will no longer be handing out plastic cups. Please let us know if you need us to provide a water bottle for your child, as we are likely to be able to support with this. Pupils will be in school uniform to start the term.

The start of a new school year is always a very exciting time with 305 new recruits joining the West Park family and other pupils taking on the challenge of a new school year. For our Year 11s, this is their last ten months at West Park before they venture on to pastures new on the next step of their journey.

On 24th August 2023 we held our annual results day and it was brilliant to see our leavers return to the school to receive their 'brown envelope' containing their GCSE and BTEC results. This is the culmination of 11/12 years at school and provides pupils with a platform to undertake the next step on their journey. As always, I was hugely proud of our Year 11s and their accomplishments with significant progress evidenced across the cohort.

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete to take a more precautionary approach. We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we are confident that we do not have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal.

All pupils return to West Park on Wednesday 6th September 2023. All pupils in Year 8 to 11 should arrive at school by 8.30 a.m. and head to their form class. This ensures that all pupils are on site and ready for a prompt, 8.35 a.m. start. Our new Year 7s should access the site through the Park Road gates and congregate on the astro-turf (this is the same arrangement that we utilised for the transition days in July 2023). Pupils will have an elongated form time which will run from 8.35 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. which allow for the distribution of timetables, review of expectations and detailing of key events etc.

The start of a new year provides us all with a fresh start and an opportunity to demonstrate how we have grown and matured over the summer months. I can't wait to see our pupils flooding through the school gates again and to support them as they show us the best version of themselves through this academic year.

Take care and keep working with us to get the best for your child/children.

Kind regards



Scott McGregor
Head