



Newsletter



Autumn Term
Newsletter 22
December 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Since returning in September, our students have adapted extremely well to the new routines of the school day. Across every year group, students are showing respect, resilience and responsibility on a daily basis as they continue to engage incredibly well with learning.

Within this newsletter, I have shared some of the fantastic achievements we are very proud to celebrate this term, as well as some of the important issues we have been focussing on.

Although we still find ourselves in tier 3 restrictions, it's my pleasure to continue to share the innovative ways our students are supporting each other and the wider school community in a safe way, and we are all incredibly proud of their resilience to continue to support those in need over the festive period.

Of course, this has been a year like no other; however, one thing this year has certainly taught us all is that even when we cannot come together in the same way, we can still find ways to support each other, and at Winterhill, we are very proud of our continued links with parents and the wider community.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a relaxing break and a very Happy Christmas, and I look forward to sharing more of our students' fantastic achievements in the new year.

S. Rhodes - Headteacher

WINTERHILL WELLBEING

Within group tutor sessions this half term, our students have been focussing on mental health awareness and anti-bullying week. Students have been working alongside their peers to discuss these important topics and the support we can all offer each other. We have also recently appointed a 'With Me in Mind' Prefect ambassador for mental wellbeing, Anna Rowley. Many of our students have also engaged with our social media pages with ideas for improving mental wellbeing. Please see our Facebook @whcschool and Instagram page @Winterhill_school to get involved! Our social media prefect, Lucie Williams, will be launching more ways to get involved over the coming weeks. Likewise, if any students need any support, advice or someone to talk to, they can email advice@winterhill.org.uk at any time.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM UPDATE

As you know, Google classroom is the platform for all students' homework and if they require remote learning. Parents and students can access their classroom to review homework set and any feedback from their teachers. To reward our students' hard work this half term, we will be awarding our **Google Classroom Champions** during our virtual end of year assembly! These awards will celebrate those students who have engaged exceptionally well with their homework and gone above and beyond.

CATCH-UP CURRICULUM

This half term, Y7 & Y8 students have started bespoke literacy intervention alongside Y9 and Y10, who have begun their catch-up sessions in English and mathematics. Y10 will also be taking part in a super learning day in Science to focus on key content and practical skills.

After Christmas, Y11 will begin their personalised catch-up lessons in English and mathematics, and Y7 and Y8 students will begin their bespoke numeracy intervention.

We are committed to ensuring all our students are able to bridge any gaps in their learning due to school closure and so we appreciate your support in ensuring your child engages with any opportunities offered to them.

Our CURRICULUM: TEACHING & LEARNING TERM 1

Within English this term, Y7 and Y8 students took part in a national creative writing competition where the best entries will be published in a young writers' anthology! In Science, Y7 have been exploring the solar system with some incredible models produced for homework. Well done everyone.

In Psychology, Y9 students have been investigating the study of Gibson's direct theory of perception and the influence of nature and in Chemistry, they have been exploring chemical bonds.

In Design and Technology, Y10 have been focusing on exam theory as well as creating their CAD models and in Sports Studies, students have been studying contemporary issues in sport.

Across the curriculum for Y11, they have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their mock exams w/c 1st February 2021.

The WINTERHILL WAY: SUPPORTING our COMMUNITY

Firstly, after a successful non-uniform day, our students raised over £700 for Children in Need!

Our Y10 & Y11 prefects, led by our Head Girls Hollie Ridge and Samar Hassan and Head Boy Harrison Gill, have also been working incredibly hard to support the vulnerable in our community. They have recorded videos of themselves singing carols and collected food for some of our most vulnerable residents to ensure they have what they need over the festive period.

Y7, Y8 and Y9 students have been writing letters for those that are feeling isolated due to shielding, are without family, and the local residents of Cherry Tree Care Home, in a bid to spread messages of positivity and support.

Finally, you may have seen on our social media that we'd like nominations for community heroes, or neighbours that may need some extra support. If you'd like to nominate someone from the community, please email admin@winterhill.org.uk

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

Thank you for your continued support **S Rhodes - Headteacher**

KEEPING your DETAILS UP TO DATE

To ensure communication with parents/carers is efficient, it's vital that your details are up to date on our school system.

Therefore, if you have recently updated your address, telephone number and/or email address, please email admin@winterhill.org.uk to update these details for your child.

As you will be aware, we use a range of communication methods to ensure you have the most up to date information, and as much of the information we access daily is done so digitally, please can you ensure we have a recent, active email address and mobile number.

PARENT GOVERNOR OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in becoming a Parent Governor? We are looking for a new parent governor who has: an interest in education; time, energy and enthusiasm and a willingness to accept the responsibilities of such an important role.

You will notice there is no requirement for educational expertise or formal qualifications; we are simply keen to ensure our governing body is representative of our diverse community and have the people skills and life experience to make a difference to the lives of our young adults.

Of course, governors are crucial to the running of the school, the different perspectives they can bring to the school are invaluable to the headteacher, staff and students. Therefore, if you are interested in becoming a parent governor at Winterhill School, or would like further information, please contact Mrs Julie Parkin (clerk to the governing body) jparkin@winterhill.org.uk

NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS TIER 3: SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

As you will be aware, as of Wednesday, 2nd December 2020, Rotherham has been designated Tier 3 restrictions and alert level 'very high'. Face coverings must be worn by all students when entering and exiting the school building, moving around indoors at lesson changeover and in communal areas at social times. Students will also be asked to put on their face covering by their class teachers before they leave their lessons. **Please ensure your child has a face covering with them at all times.** We have continued to support students by giving out facemasks on entry to the school building, however, it remains the responsibility of the students to have their face covering with them.

For students who are consistently not adhering to this expectation, group tutors will telephone home and we will follow the school consequence system accordingly. As we continue to ventilate the school building, students may also wish to wear a school hoody or plain black, grey or blue hoody in lessons.

Finally, may I ask that students do not arrive at school before our start time of 8:45am. This allows us to manage the entry to the school site in a safe manner and prevents gatherings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 11th December: Christmas Jumper Day - (£1 donation)
- Friday, December 18th: Non-Uniform Day. Students finish at 1:15pm.
- Year 8 Group Tutor Phone Calls: w/c 4th Jan/11th Jan
- Year 11 Mock exams: w/c 1st February 2021

*Everyone at Winterhill would like to wish you
a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

