



Newsletter



Autumn Term
Newsletter 26
December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am extremely pleased with how our students have returned to what has felt like a much more normal school year. Across all years our students are showing respect, responsibility and especially resilience on a daily basis as they get on with their learning.

I described this start as our 'reset'; getting back to normal expectations of school life; engagement, behaviour expectations and attitude towards learning. I thank you for your support with this focus and it I hope it will continue.

In this newsletter you'll find some of the fantastic achievements of our young people which we are very proud to celebrate as well as some of the important issues we've been focusing on. I would equally like to praise our Y7 students for the start they've made to their Winterhill family and to our Y11 students for their hard work and outstanding attitude towards their mock exams.

Finally, as we approach the end of a very long Autumn term I would like to wish you and your families a relaxing break and a very Happy Christmas.

S. Rhodes, Headteacher

The WINTERHILL WAY: SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

As we approach the end of the first term a reminder to all students regarding our expectations around **uniform, attendance and punctuality**. Students must attend school in **full school uniform**, including a suitable school bag, their learning equipment, as well as bringing their full PE kit as per their timetabled lessons. Full details of our uniform expectations can be found on our website. In particular please wear correct footwear and note that trainers of any kind are not permitted. As the weather starts to get colder, and whilst complying with our COVID measures around ventilation, students will be allowed to wear an additional item of clothing along with their school jumper whilst in school. This can be a Winterhill hoody, or a plain black, dark blue, dark grey hoody or jumper. Students are required to remove any outer coats on entry to the school.

As you would expect via our school ethos 'everyone succeeds', an attendance of **95%+**, as well as arriving at school **promptly at 08:45**, is vital to students achieving their full potential. Each week, our tutors engage students around their attendance and punctuality with weekly awards for achieving good attendance and arriving at school on time.

TEACHING AND LEARNING TERM 1

In English, Year 7 students have been studying poems on the theme of 'Growing up', looking at the ideas and representation of childhood through the ages. This has formed the foundation for some wonderful and interesting creative writing responses. Year 9 have been reading about different places around the world and then using this to inspire their own travel writing pieces. So far, they have visited Mexico, Australia, the Himalayas and Vietnam! In science, Year 7 have been exploring the solar system with some incredible models produced for homework. Well done everyone.

In History, Year 7 have spent this term looking at the impact of the Roman Empire in Britain, Year 9 have spent the first half of the term looking at the Holocaust and the lessons that need to be learnt from this period of History. In the second half of this term, Year 9's have spent time looking at the Slave Trade and the Middle Passage. Year 10's have spent the first half of the term looking at the Vietnam War and the consequences of this conflict. During the second half of this term, Year 10's have been recapping the Cold War and its consequences.

Across the curriculum for Year 11, they have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their mock exams which they undertook with resilience and have achieved incredibly well in. Well done Year 11!

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 changed your address, telephone number 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 from us and we strive to share this information digitally as much as possible, so a recent, active email address and mobile number are essential.

WINTERHILL COMMUNITY

Winterhill students continue to support our local community with various projects running throughout the year. Over the past 6 years our students, along with local businesses and half a million pounds worth of grants have transformed the area around the Engine Pond across from the school. This would not have happened without the determination of our students and the profile of Winterhill. They have recently erected a sculpture and have taken part in a COP26 initiative for which they were given an award, they were chosen for this as there were no other student led projects in the area which provided such impact and longevity.

We continue to work closely with Wentworth Woodhouse and have our second Summer Ball arranged for our Year 11 leavers at the end of the school year. Some of our students have recently attended the 2nd Wentworth Woodhouse Forum Ambassadors meeting, where the students work on initiatives and events to attract more young people to the house. The students presented their ideas to the CEO's of Wentworth Woodhouse and have already booked in some big events for year ahead.

The prefect leadership team continue to develop and grow, with over fifty Year 10 and Year 11 students now involved, led by our Head and Deputy head boys and girls.

WINTERHILL WELLBEING

Mental health and wellbeing has been a main focus for the school this term. Our PHSE curriculum covers a wide and varied range of topics such as, a mental health overview, managing stress and anxiety, challenges for teenagers, Group tasks on helping others, how to give advice, Identity and bullying to name but a few. Our group tutor sessions continue to provide opportunities for our students to work alongside their peers to discuss these important topics and the support we can offer each other. We realise that for some students the challenges faced on returning to school have been particularly difficult and we are working with a number of external agencies to offer the support they need. We also continue to provide and develop our enrichment offer both through our curricular and extra curriculum provision.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday 7th—Thursday 9th December School Pantomime
Alice in Wonderland
- Friday 10th December—Christmas Jumper Day (£1 donation)
- Friday 17th December—Break up for Christmas—students to finish at 1:10pm. (Non-uniform day)
- Monday 3rd January 2022—Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 4th January 2022—First day back at school
- Thursday 20th January—Disaggregated INSET-students to finish at 1:10pm
- Monday 31st January—Friday 11th February—Y11 mock exams
- Friday 18th February—Break up for half term
- Monday 28th February—First day back after half term

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

