

# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School  
Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman BSc

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1<sup>st</sup> May 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I very much hope you and your family remain safe and well.

### Pupils needing to be in school

School continues to be open to provide a learning space for the children of Key Workers where there is no one at home able to supervise them, or those who are vulnerable. If your child needs to use this facility, please email [generalenquiries@whsg.info](mailto:generalenquiries@whsg.info) to register for this. Please note (below) you will need to register separately for the Bank Holiday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### May 8<sup>th</sup> VE Day Celebration

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> is a Bank Holiday. Work will not be set for pupils on this day.

The DfE have agreed that schools only need to open on May 8<sup>th</sup> if there is a need for pupils to attend. Separately from any usual requests, please can you email [generalenquiries@whsg.info](mailto:generalenquiries@whsg.info) to make a specific request for this day.

### Contact with Parents/Carers and Pupils

A large number of our staff are involved in contacting our parents/carers and pupils once a week by telephone.

Please can you do your best to take this telephone call; it is an important way for us to stay in touch, monitor wellbeing and address any problems as they arise.

During half term (May 25 – 29) these calls will only be made to our vulnerable and SEN pupils.

### Parent's Contact Details

If the contact details for any parent or carer change, (email, mobile etc) please can you contact the school via [generalenquiries@whsg.info](mailto:generalenquiries@whsg.info) with the updated information.

### Pupils checking emails

Can I please remind you that pupils must be checking their school emails each day. They should also use email for initial correspondence with staff if they have any issues with the work set.



Science



Engineering



Southend-on-Sea



### IT Provision for Students

We have now received some details of this provision. As a school, we are allowed to order laptops for up to 9 disadvantaged Year 10 pupils.

Provision for pupils who have a Social Worker or who are Care Leavers is being handled by the Local Authority, and we are waiting for details from them about how this will be organised.

### Year 10 Exam Grades

We expect to send out a mark-sheet with these grades next week.

### Year 7 and 8 Examinations

All Year 7 and Year 8 examinations will be delivered via Google Classrooms and will 'go live' 10 minutes before the examination start time to ensure they are ready at the scheduled start time.

The exam can be started later in the time period allowed, providing the time spent doing the work is as published in the timetable.

Details of any equipment or printing requirements will be published in the Google Classroom by 18:00 the night before.

**Year 7 Exam Timetable May**

| Date        | 9:00 AM                               | 11:30 AM                                     | 2:00 PM          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 18 May 2020 | Geography (40 min)                    | Design Technology (40 min)                   | Art (40 min)     |
| 19 May 2020 | History (50 min)                      | French or Spanish Listening&Reading (30 min) | English (45 min) |
| 20 May 2020 | Science (50 min)                      | French or Spanish Writing (30 min)           | Food (40 min)    |
| 21 May 2020 | Mathematics - non calculator (60 min) | Textiles (20 min)                            | Drama (30 min)   |
| 22 May 2020 | RS (25min)                            | Computer Science (45 min)                    | Music (40 min)   |

**Year 8 Exam Timetable May**

| Date        | 9:00 AM                               | 10:30 AM                   | 12:00 PM                          | 2:30 PM                  |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 18 May 2020 | RS (40 min)                           | Drama (30 min)             | Spanish Listening&Reading(30 min) | Music (40 min)           |
| 19 May 2020 | Science (50 min)                      | Textiles (30 min)          | French Listening&Reading(30 min)  | Art (40 min)             |
| 20 May 2020 | Mathematics - non calculator (60 min) | Food (40 min)              |                                   | English (45 min)         |
| 21 May 2020 | History (50 min)                      | Computer Science (45 min)  |                                   | French Writing (30 min)  |
| 22 May 2020 | Geography (40 min)                    | Design Technology (40 min) |                                   | Spanish Writing (30 min) |

### Zoom Lessons

While some staff may choose to use a Zoom videoconference as part of their remote teaching, not all staff are in a position to deliver a videoconference. We also know that not every student has access to the technology needed, so please understand that this type of teaching cannot be an expectation.

### Homework

The feedback we are receiving suggests that work set as homework is not always manageable or it is taking too long.

From Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>, I shall ask staff not to set any homework for Years 7-10, though pupils should complete any outstanding pieces.

### Pupils Contacting Each Other

During this period of time away from school, we know many students will benefit from some regular contact with each other.

I have been pleased to hear of Year 12 students contacting each other by Zoom (only to discuss work!), and I know that many Year 7s are part of a WhatsApp group (though I think this has a lower age limit!) If parents agree and are able to supervise this type of social interaction, it may help to overcome some of the challenges created by the distancing we need to maintain.

### Form Tutor Periods

As part of supporting pupils and their wellbeing, Form Tutors will take part in a trial of using Zoom for a Form Tutor session. Information about this will be emailed to the students.

### School's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 was a very significant day for WHSG as it was 100 years ago that we first opened our doors as The Commercial School in Victoria Avenue. We began life as a combined co-educational secondary school with WHSB in 1920 and moved to our current site in 1931.

Although we are unfortunately unable to celebrate this significant milestone with our school community, we are thinking of all our past and present pupils and staff who have all played such an important part in the school's history over the past 100 years.

Our Centenary celebrations may have changed, but we look forward to celebrating with our wonderful school community as soon as we are able to. The Centenary Ball has been postponed to October 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 and our Joint Garden Party with WHSB has now been moved to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021. A revised full programme of events will be circulated as soon as we are able to make the appropriate decisions.

These are unprecedented times and we hope you are able to join us in celebrating 100 years of WHSG later this year.

### House Photography Competition

The School's Inter-House Photography Competition will be running as it has in previous years. Mr Yeomans will be publishing the details next week via email. The email will contain all the necessary information such as this year's theme, the age categories, the closing date and some suggestions/examples. Remember that every entry earns a house point so participation is the key!

### Don't Rush Challenge

Our PE department is organising a 'Don't Rush Challenge'.

You may have seen the recent #DontRushChallenge's which have been appearing on social media. If not please use the link to see the England Netball one as an example.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1253268739128262656>

We would like to challenge our pupils to create their own #DontRushChallenge with their form.

Pupils need to:

- Try and include everyone in the form
- Have some sporting aspect to it
- Try to be as creative as possible
- Think outside the box when it comes to equipment as not everyone will have access to the same equipment (eg a toilet roll, a pair of rolled up sock, a frying pan or other household items that would help you to replicate a sporting movement)
- Think about the choice of music as the finished video must not be longer than 3 minutes.

This is expected to be a whole form effort and will need Form Captains and Vice Captains to take a lead on organising it. Mrs Wilkin advises setting mini deadlines along the way so that everything comes in on time and there is time to edit it all together.

The PE Department would like you to post finished videos on the PE google classroom (pvarna4). The deadline is Monday 1st June 2020.

### Charity week 2020

We do not know when schools return how social distancing rules will be implemented, nor for how long. With this in mind, we will be working with the senior team of pupils to maintain Charity Week in its current time slot (3<sup>rd</sup> week of October) but much of it will have to be in a different format. We will let you know more as this is developed.

### Year 8 – Second HPV Injection

The second HPV injection (HPV2) was scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> April. The immunization team have confirmed that this can be delayed and can occur up to two years after the first (HPV1). We remain in contact with the team and will update as further information becomes available.

### Period Products

We are able to source these items at no cost for distribution to our pupils. If you would like a supply to be sent home, please contact our Office Manager, Mrs Martin ([st-sally.martin@whsg.info](mailto:st-sally.martin@whsg.info)), and we will arrange to have these products delivered on a regular basis.

### Parents' Guide to Coronavirus

An organisation called 'The Parents Guide' have developed a free online guide ***The Parents' Guide to coping with school closures (April edition)*** to help support parents during this challenging time. It provides up-to-date, practical information on how parents can look after their children's physical and mental health, as well as how to help them study at home, and information on what to do if your children were due to take exams this summer.

This free guide can be viewed and [downloaded here](#) or by visiting [www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/coronavirus). This resource covers details such as what is coronavirus, how to stay safe, supporting your child's education at home and mindfulness.

### Havens Hospices Bereavement Line

Havens Hospices have launched a coronavirus bereavement line for both children and adults living in Essex. Adults and children over 16 can self-refer, children under 16 must be referred by a parent or carer. The line is run by trained counsellors and bereavement support workers.

<https://www.havenshospices.org.uk/coronavirus-crisis-bereavement-line/>



#### [Coronavirus Crisis Bereavement Line - Havens Hospices](#)

Coronavirus Crisis Bereavement Line Call 01702 220 321 Our Crisis Bereavement Line is a telephone helpline for bereaved adults and children from across Essex whose loved one has died directly or indirectly as a result of Coronavirus. Our trained team of counsellors and bereavement workers will listen, advise and signpost people so they can manage...  
[www.havenshospices.org.uk](http://www.havenshospices.org.uk)

This support is aimed at people who have been affected directly and indirectly by loss due to coronavirus. It is a free service, but donations are welcomed.

With very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hayman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Paul Hayman  
**Headteacher**