



WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School
Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman BSc



Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0BS



Telephone: 01702 476026
Website: www.whsg.info email: generalenquiries@whsg.info



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all continue to be as well as possible.



Science

This may well be my last weekly letter to you. When schools return in September, it will be hard to imagine that some pupils (Years 7-9 and current Year 11) will not have been in school for 24 weeks.



Engineering

I want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our pupils. They have coped incredibly well with remote learning and many have developed exceptionally good independent learning skills that will be a real benefit for the future (or possibly the next lockdown!).



But I also want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our staff who have risen to the challenge and ensured our pupils are in the strongest possible position for a return to full time education at school.



Southend-on-Sea

We also know that some have found this time to be incredibly challenging. We hope we have been able to support everyone in this situation, but we shall also monitor all the pupils on their return to provide targeted support as necessary.



Mental Health Support

In addition to our school's Pastoral Team, we are pleased that the NHS have allocated two mental health support workers who will each be with us for one day/week next year.



Property left at school

We have tried to ensure that all named property has been returned to the relevant pupils. We have sent out around 200 parcels and trust these have been safely received.



House Championship

We have managed to locate all the results needed for the House Championship (ending Easter 2020).

The overall result is:

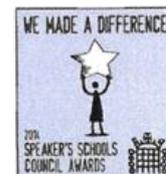
- 4th Bohun
- 3rd Bouchier
- 2nd Devereux

And many Congratulations to Mandeville this year's winners.



Catch Me Reading

The winner of the summer 2020 Catch Me Reading prize is Imaan Betteridge of 7.5. She will be awarded her Amazon voucher in September.



Timetable for Next Term

The timetable for each pupil will be issued through My Child At School (MCAS). This message will be sent out before term starts.

If your daughter has PE on the first day, they will not need their PE kit.

Autumn Term Daily Routine

To assist parents with planning their child's day at school, I am able to let you know that our current plans are based on trying to maintain a regular structure and full curriculum:

- Pupils arrive as normal before school and go to their outdoor waiting/social areas (these may include marquees which we are looking to purchase);
- Lesson 1 will start at 08.35 and will include morning registration;
- Gaps between lessons will be extended to allow for movement time around the site using some pre-defined routes (this means most lessons will last for 55 minutes);
- There will not be a break time service in the canteen;
- Lunch times will be staggered and shorter. Where possible pupils are encouraged to bring a packed lunch, but the canteen will provide a 'full service' with a reduced menu and more items of a 'grab and go' nature; lunches will be eaten outside in the allocated areas or in the canteen;
- Form time and assemblies (undertaken remotely until further notice) will take place in the middle of the day;
- There will be a slightly staggered ending of the last lesson to allow pupils to move while reducing overlap/mixing. The end of the day will be around the same time as now (3.30pm).

Key Points:

- Pupils will be in uniform;
- Pupils must wash hands on arrival at school (there will be extra hand wash stations) and wash hands regularly throughout the day;
- Hands to be sanitised before entering toilets and washed on leaving;
- Every pupil must have their own hand sanitiser;
- Pupils will not have lockers;
- Movement to be maintained in corridors;
- Pupils should bring the minimum necessary number of books/stationery items to school;
- Everything needed for the school day, including PE kit if required, must be in one named bag (preferably the named PE bag);
- Pupils to bring a large old shirt to wear if needed for Art or Design & Technology/Food lessons;
- At the end of each lesson pupils will be provided with a steri-wipe and they must wipe down surfaces used (table/chair);
- Initially there will be no lunch time clubs or support sessions;
- All items brought to school must be taken home each day;
- Pupils must not mix with pupils outside their year group and where possible, reduce this to a smaller number.

Cleaning

There will be an enhanced cleaning regime in place at school.

Mini Whiteboards etc

We are buying an A4 mini whiteboard and pen for every pupil, so they each have their own. We are also buying each pupil a pair of safety glasses for use in laboratories. Please ensure these are labelled with your child's name. If lost, new items will have to be purchased.

Coffee Shop

From September, at all times of the day, the Coffee Shop will be for WHSG staff and WHSG Sixth Form use only.

IT Rooms after School

We are able to offer this facility **after school only**, but pupils must be pre-booked by their parents/carers. A Google Form will be issued for this. If attending, pupils from different year groups must maintain social distancing.

Buses at End of Day

Pupils sanitise hands and don face masks.

Sports/PE Kit

From September 1st, we are not allowing pupils to leave their PE/Sports kit at school, including in lockers. These items should go home on the day they are used so they can be laundered.

Pupils Timetables for September

These will be on My Child at School - MCAS before term starts.

First Days of Next Term

Thursday 3rd Sept– Years 7 & 12 only

Friday 4th Sept – Lessons start period 4 as Week A

On return to school, we shall go through the new guidelines and rules for behaviour and conduct with the students, which we have had to adapt whilst we remain in the pandemic.

Arrival Next Term

All Year 7 and Year 12 pupils are due in school at 08.35am on Thursday 3rd September, and will leave school at 3.30pm.

All pupils in Years 7-13 are due in school at 08.35am on Friday 4th September.

Normal teaching will resume for pupils in Years 8-11 period 4.

Year12 & 13 Forms

To reduce mixing between year groups, we are (for now) having separate Year 12 and Year 13 Forms. Each pupil will maintain contact with their original Form Tutor.

Remote Learning from September

From September, remote learning will only be available for pupils who are self-isolating or where they are complying with clinical advice.

Library



We have been working extremely hard to ensure the Library will be safe for you when you return in September. Inevitably we have had to make some changes, rearranging the seating, installing hand sanitiser stations and introducing new ways of working; however, we hope to maintain as complete a service as possible, with a 'book drop' returns service, as well as 'click and collect' and all the usual online features via the Library catalogue.

The Library catalogue (accessible through the school website) will become your first port of call for browsing the catalogue as we need to limit the handling of physical copies for now to reduce cross-contamination. Browsed books boxes are dotted around the Library to ensure books are cleaned before being returned to the shelves. Similarly, all returns will be cleaned before they are reshelfed. Computers, tables and chairs will also be wiped by the students after each use.

Our opening times will be 8.30am until 4pm, although there may be restrictions in place in terms of which year groups it will be accessible for each day. Library induction lessons for Years 7 and 12 will go ahead as usual, supported by Powerpoint presentations.

Dates for Autumn Examinations

Students in England who are unhappy with the awarded grades will be able to take A-level exams in October and GCSE exams in November.

AS and A-level exams will take place from October 5th -23rd, and all GCSE exams will occur between November 2nd -23rd, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has announced.

The autumn exam series is for students in England who would like to improve the grade they receive, or for those who are unable to receive a calculated grade this summer.

Visiting the School

To help maintain a 'covid-secure' environment, we are requiring all visitors to hand sanitise on entry and to wear a face mask while on site. This includes parents/carers attending the school for any reason.

Actions if a Covid Case is Suspected or Confirmed

If any member of the school is suspected to have Covid-19 they will be isolated and any relevant areas disinfected. They will be required to undertake testing.

If negative, they can return to school.

If positive, any close contacts (this could be a whole year group) will be required to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person. Their wider household will not be required to self-isolate unless anyone self-isolating develops symptoms.

Some light relief!

Centenary Cake Competition

Congratulations to:

3rd place Lucinda Hastings
2nd place Alexandra and Henrietta Thacker
WINNER Katie Crabb

Art Exhibition

This year we cannot hold our popular Art Exhibition. Instead, Mrs Conlan has created an on-line Art Exhibition to showcase the work of our talented Year 11 and Year 13 students.

The link for the Art Exhibition is: <https://lauraconlon25.wixsite.com/westcliff>

Music – Virtual Summer Concert

Friday 7pm via Facebook, or can be seen on the YouTube channel, whsg music.

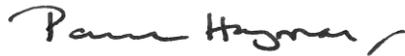
Finally, our wellbeing calls will stop as of Friday 17th July 2020. However, our wellbeing resources will still be made available on our website under curriculum.

Have a great summer and I hope your family manages to get a well-deserved break and we are looking forward to seeing all our pupils in September.

Look out my letter to be sent out late August.

Keep Safe!

With best wishes.



Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher