



The Talentum Learning Trust

# Westwood College

Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek,  
Staffordshire ST13 8NP

telephone 01538 370930  
email [wwc.office@ttl.org.uk](mailto:wwc.office@ttl.org.uk)  
website <http://wwc.ttl.org.uk>

CEO & Executive Headteacher: Mr A Shaw  
Headteacher: Mr M Taylor

Our Ref: TYL/jc  
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Dear Parents/Carers

## **RE: September 2020**

I hope that you and your families and friends are well.

In line with Government Guidance, Westwood College will re-open to all students in September 2020. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will be welcomed back on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, with students in Years 12 and 13 beginning their term on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Our aim in September will be to offer students access to a full curriculum whilst implementing measures to support the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. The timings of the school day will remain as normal, and students will follow a full timetable (distributed, as usual, on their first day back). At the heart of our approach is promoting good hygiene practice whilst facilitating social distancing wherever it is practical to do so.

Students will be fully briefed on the systems that will operate across our site on their return and details can be found in our updated Risk Assessment (<https://wwc.ttl.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/sites/10/2020/07/WWC-Coronavirus-RA-September-2020.pdf>) and Re-opening Plan (<https://wwc.ttl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2020/07/Re-opening-Plan-September-2020.pdf>). The measures we will be taking include:

- Year group 'bubbles', seeking to minimise contact with students from other year groups;
- A full one-way system operating across the school site, including in each building, incorporating designated entrance and exit points;
- Hand sanitisation points at all entrances to buildings and in all classrooms, to ensure all students sanitise frequently;
- Designated social areas (including toilets) for each year group across the site;
- Designated times for students from each year group to access the canteen each day;
- Promotion of frequent handwashing, and adherence to catch it, bin it, kill it;
- Enhanced cleaning regimes and the availability of cleaning materials in all teaching spaces.

Our intention is to create an environment that allows staff and students to feel safe whilst supporting a full curriculum. We will also be planning for timetabled catch-up opportunities, in particular for students in examination years, in order to ensure that they are as prepared as they possibly can be for next summer.

Whilst academic progress is an important driver behind our planning for September, we will place strong emphasis on supporting the emotional wellbeing of all students. We are very conscious that students have been away from school for a long period of time, and as such may well be anxious about returning. Our aim will be to ensure that they are comfortable in the school environment and have full access to support and guidance.



Throughout lockdown and partial school re-opening, we have relaxed our expectations in terms of school uniform. From September, all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will attend in full school uniform, as recommended by the Government's guidance. Details of uniform expectations can be found on the College website, though we would like to draw your attention to the following:

- With regards to skirts, our policy states that the skirt must be charcoal grey in colour, knee length and worn with solid black tights. Skirts can either be pencil or pleated but must **NOT** be stretch fabric. With respect to trousers, these must be charcoal grey school trousers – in a standard style and **NOT** skinny fitting or jeans type fabric.
- In terms of shoes, these need to be plain solid black shoes. Fabric or canvas type shoes are not permitted and nor is trainer type footwear with a logo – even if these are predominantly black. High heeled shoes and boots are also not permitted, except in the latter case, when there has been significant snowfall and students are expected in College.

The plans outlined in this letter, and the measures referred to in the Risk Assessment, have been arrived at in accordance with the Government's latest guidance. There is, of course, a chance that the local or national situation will change between now and September. If this is the case, and we are forced to change our plans as a result, we will inform you of the details as soon as possible. As such, please keep an eye on your email and on our website to ensure that you are aware of any amendments.

The Government has published updated guidance to parents in readiness for the wider re-opening of schools in September, that can be found <https://www.ttl.org.uk/polices/returning-to-school-information-covid-19/>.

Details of the arrangements for this summer's results days for students in Year 11 and Year 13 have been sent out to parents and students. We look forward to welcoming students back to collect their results, and will have staff available to offer support and guidance to both year groups. We are delighted with the number of students in Year 11 who have applied to join Westwood Sixth Form next year; those who have not yet applied can still do so via our online form (<https://www.ttl.org.uk/sixth-form/>) or via speaking to staff available on results day.

The end of the academic year sees some changes to staff at Westwood. We say goodbye this summer to Mr McDonnell who has worked as a key part of our English team for the last two years. We would like to thank Mr McDonnell for all his hard work and the support he has offered to students, and to wish him luck for the future.

September will see the arrival of new staff at Westwood in both the teaching and support teams. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Whitehouse to our English team, and Miss Simcox to our Social Science Department. We are also pleased to welcome Emma Loraine and Beth Shenton to our admin team.

Throughout the lockdown period Westwood has remained open to keyworker students and, more recently, has opened more widely to support students in other Year groups. Our focus throughout has been the wellbeing of students and staff alike, and I would like to thank the staff at Westwood for their unwavering commitment, and the students for their approach to online learning and their conduct when back in school. I would also like to acknowledge the support of parents and Westwood's Governors during this period; their messages of support have been much appreciated.

On behalf of the Governors and staff at Westwood, I would like to wish you a relaxing summer break with the hope that September brings a 'normal' that we are all more familiar with.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Taylor  
Headteacher