



The Talentum Learning Trust



OVER 100 YEARS OF RESPECT RESILIENCE AMBITION PRIDE

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

telephone 01538 370930

email [www.office@ttl.org.uk](mailto:www.office@ttl.org.uk)

website <http://www.ttl.org.uk>

Headteacher: Mr M Taylor

Our Ref: TYL/jc

February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### February Update

I hope that you and your families had an enjoyable half-term break.

Though the coming half-term is relatively short, we have a lot to pack in! Please find below some updates and information for each of our Year Groups.

#### Year 9

We were delighted with how well our Year 9 students engaged with our Enterprise Days which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February. Organised as part of our Careers Programme and linked with National Apprenticeship week, the Enterprise Days allowed students to work in teams alongside a 'Dragon' to plan, market and pitch a new product or service. The 'Dragons', invited guests from industry, colleges and other education providers, were impressed with the ideas and enthusiasm of our students, and commented on how well they conducted themselves.

The Options process begins this week with the Options Evening on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. This event provides students and parents / carers with the opportunity to find out more about Key Stage 4 subjects and the different courses that they can choose to study in Years 10 and 11. We encourage all students to attend to help ensure that they are fully informed before they make their options choices.

The Year 9 Parents' Evening takes place later this term on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Again, we recommend that all students and parents/carers make appointments for the evening in order to gain a full understanding of progress made and how best to support next steps.

#### Year 10

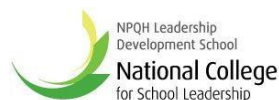
It is a busy half-term for Year 10 students, with international visits to Spain and Germany scheduled to take place within the next 5 weeks. We are grateful to the Modern Foreign Language staff for organising these trips, and wish all participants safe travels.

Year 10 examinations take place in the week after the Easter holidays this year (week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April). These internal assessments provide the Year 10 students with their first experience of full 'examination conditions' ahead of the trial exams and national exams that take place in Year 11. Taking place in the Hall with external invigilators, we want students to get the most out of the experience by preparing as thoroughly as they can. Teachers

## Inspiring Students for Ambitious Futures

The Talentum Learning Trust Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company number: 9999238

Registered office address: The Talentum Learning Trust, Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8NP



will ensure that students have access to all the information they need; students should ensure that they speak to staff about anything they are unsure of, and especially if they have any concerns.

### Year 11

As I am sure you are aware, there are now 9 school weeks until the beginning of the summer exam series. Though this may for some seem like an alarmingly short amount of time, we know from experience that hard work and commitment from this point on can make a huge difference to the grades that students attain in the summer. Students have been issued or guided to appropriate revision guides and online resources that can support their preparation. We encourage students to attend and engage with the different revision opportunities that take place each week in school (an updated schedule will be sent out to students and parents this week).

Many students will have started their revision, and now is the time to start if not. 'Little and often' is a simple and effective way to approach revision – 15 to 20 minutes on a subject/topic at a time, with a break ahead of the next chunk. Teachers will continue to share this and other techniques with students in the build-up to the exams, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

We encourage all students and parents/carers to attend the Year 11 Parents' Evening that takes place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Advice from teachers at this stage will be invaluable, and an excellent opportunity to address any misconceptions and to receive essential advice.

This week we will be launching our 'Strive for 5' initiative with the aim of inspiring students to push for a minimum of a grade 5 in all their subjects. Though a grade 4 is a 'standard pass' and an important benchmark, we want all students to strive for a minimum of grade 5, regarded as a 'strong pass', helping to position students in the best place to take their next steps. More information and advice for students and parents will be shared this week in a separate letter.

Finally, well done to those Year 11 students that have submitted their Westwood Sixth applications. For those who have not, there is still time – forms are available from Old Hall Reception or via the school website. For those considering staying-on, there is the Sixth Form Matters Evening on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. This event is open to internal and external students and is an opportunity to hear from teachers, current students and University Admission Tutors about what to consider when selecting your Sixth Form options.

### Sixth Form

40 Sixth Form students returned last week from an exciting visit to New York. Staff reported that students were a credit to the school, trekking up to 18 miles in a day in order to see everything that the city has to offer. We hope that the visit has provided students with many great memories to look back on, and we thank Mr Edwards, Mrs Cook, Mrs Rylands and Mr Critchlow for their time in organising and supervising the visit.

As with Year 11, the Year 13 summer examination series is fast approaching. Many students will be well into their revision schedules by this point. Plenty of advice and guidance is available from subject teacher and Tutors. Students must ensure that they speak to teaching staff and/or Mr Wallinger and Miss Maunders if they have any questions or concerns.

### Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to those students who improved their attendance last half-term. As we have said before, being in school every day is the most effective way to make progress. Though we recognise that absence can at times be unavoidable, please help us to work with students by ensuring they are here as much as possible. If you have any concerns about attendance or if we can support in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Cook, your first port of call for all things attendance.

With best wishes for a good half-term.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Taylor  
Headteacher