



March 2021

Dear Families,

End of Spring Term Updates

Firstly I would take the opportunity to thank the students for the way they have adapted this term. We are still in extraordinary times and it has been wonderful to hear the Academy full once more.

Here are some important updates and reminders as we approach the end of term.

End of Term

We break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 1st April 2021 at the usual time of 3:10pm for Year 7 and 3:25pm for Year 8. Students will return on Monday 19th April. The gates open at 8:30am for Year 7 students and 8:45am for Year 8 students.

Next Term – Clubs and Student Council

Next week we will be sharing our plans for extra-curricular clubs and activities that will begin after Easter. We are so pleased to be able to do this and offer more positive outlets for the students and sadly covid has removed lots of the enrichment that we were able to offer last year. Students will be able to sign up for extra-curricular activities using e-praise. We strongly recommend that you download the e-praise parent app in order to see your child's rewards, the clubs on offer and other useful information about the Academy.

In addition to this, we are relaunching the WBCA Student Council. Students who are interested in representing the views of their form and contributing ideas to shape the Academy as it grows should stand for Student Rep election. All information has been shared in Form Time this week and class elections will be held next week.

Progress Reports and Exam Results

As you know, children have recently completed several exams, which although intense are incredibly important for us to know the best way to support the students as they have returned from lockdown.

Staff are finalising the marking and moderations of these exams over the Easter holiday and these will help to inform future work and interventions. You will receive your child's Progress Report for the Spring term and their exam results in the first week back after Easter.

Student Conduct on the way to and from the Academy

We have recently received a number of complaints about the conduct of a small number of students as they travel to and from the Academy. While students are in WBCA uniform and in the community they represent our school and values and are still under our jurisdiction on the streets outside the Academy. I and other staff have been out in the community to remind students of their responsibilities over the past few days.

Please remind your child to be mindful of others, to keep noise to a minimum, to maintain social distance and to keep to the paths. We are working with the local Police next week to provide students with more guidance on how to behave responsibly in the community via an assembly.

Uniform

On Monday 29th March we will be conducting a series of uniform and equipment checks. We understand that it has been difficult for many families to find new items of uniform due to the shops being closed and so have given a period of grace to put things right.

On Monday we will carry out a thorough check and make contact home to discuss if there are any issues. If you require any support with uniform please let us know.

Some Reminders:

- Hoodies, hooded sweatshirts, tracksuit tops or sweatshirts with logos are not permitted.
- On PE days students may wear their blazer or a plain black jumper on top of their PE kit. Alternatively, CC Uniforms now stocks a WBCA branded tracksuit top – this item is not compulsory at the moment but you are welcome to purchase it.
- Trainers must not be worn apart from on days where students have PE.
- Earrings, if worn, must be small studs, not hoops. One nose stud is allowed, no other facial piercings are permitted.
- When the barbers and hairdressers open up again, students are not permitted to have lines or patterns shaved into their hair. Extreme hair styles and colours are not allowed.

Equipment

All students should bring this equipment to school each day:

- A bag large enough to carry an A4 folder
- Student planner
- Plastic folder provided by the Academy (we will provide one replacement if it is lost)
- Pen (black or blue), pencil, ruler, green pen, rubber
- Desirable: highlighters, coloured pens or pencils, calculator, geometry set

Contacting the Academy

If you need to speak to someone within the academy about your child please call us on 0121 393 4850 or send an email to info@wbca.shirelandcat.net Please do not arrive in main reception without an appointment or speaking to someone in advance; this is to comply with our Covid risk assessment.

Covid

Finally, Covid has sadly not yet left us though things are improving nationally and in the local area.

Your child should continue to use the Covid tests they have been given twice per week (Tuesday and Thursday) and over the Easter holiday. All test results must be reported to the government website here:

[Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

Please make sure that your child continues to test themselves on Tuesday and Thursday next week, and that they have a negative test result before returning to the academy after the Easter holiday.

Families can obtain free Covid tests from several locations in Sandwell: details can be found here. [Rapid Covid-19 home tests for adults who live with school age children | Sandwell Council](#)

Moving Forwards

As lockdown restrictions ease we will see what opportunities arise around trips and visits and processes within the Academy. However, until we get official notification of the relaxing of restrictions, all of our current covid secure processes, including wearing masks in school, covid testing and social distancing will remain.

Thank you for your continued support this Term and we look forward to seeing the students back in the Academy on the 19th. I wish you all a safe and restful break.

Yours sincerely

Mr George Faux

Principal