



Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Year 12

### **WGS Newsletter (54) Year 12 Study Leave and Change to Villages Arrangement (24.6.2021)**

I would like to share with you two important announcements. Firstly, we are introducing study leave for all Year 12 students during their exam period (5-9 July), hence students will only be required to be in school when they have an exam. It is important that students learn how to manage their time independently and are able to motivate themselves in preparation for an important set of assessments. This will be good preparation for their actual exams next summer.

Students are working well in preparation for these assessments with many of the recent tutor times and assemblies used to discuss different strategies to ensure revision is focused and effective. Alongside the work of tutors, teaching staff have also been supporting students with their revision by providing lists of topics that will be assessed this summer, and revision resources to help your child revise independently at home.

Exam timetables and timings of exams have been given to students and are available on Insight, if you require any further information around timetables and/or timings please contact Ms Nutt, Exams Manager, ([L.nutt@wgswitney.ork.uk](mailto:L.nutt@wgswitney.ork.uk)). Students should report to the hard play area in front of the restaurant 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the exam ensuring they know their seat number. Students are expected to bring all the necessary equipment required for their exams. Please be aware the Pensclose and Madley gates are closed during the school day so students must come to their exams via the Main gate, and so should allow themselves more time to arrive.

We realise that all students might not want to study at home so there will be a supervised space for those wishing to remain in school and revise. If your child wishes to remain in school, could they please inform their tutor by Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June so that we can make the necessary arrangements?

Secondly, for all this year, students have remained in our villages system, which has been one of our ways of managing through the pandemic. We are now reaching the end of the school year and are at the point where we would like to give students the experience of moving to specialist rooms again before next September. For Year 7 in particular, they have never experienced 'normal school'.

From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July Years 7-9 will move to the usual model of students moving to specialist department and tutor rooms for all their lessons. I am very aware of the rising number of cases of Covid again nationally, and in risk assessing this change we have taken this into account. There are several factors that make this move achievable. As well as home testing for staff and students, and the increased number of adults who are vaccinated, the biggest factor on 5<sup>th</sup> July is that there are very few students on site relative to the size of the site. Year 10 and 12 have exams and years 11 and 13 have left, so the school is over half empty. This makes the transitions between lessons far less busy. In addition, other schools locally have moved away from their village models, so we have useful examples to look at. These schools have not seen a rise in Covid cases as a result.

We will be asking staff and students to wear masks voluntarily again between lessons and all rooms will continue to have hand sanitizer and wipes.

Hence, from the 12<sup>th</sup> July when students return from their study leave they will return to 'normal' school rather than the village system. Students will receive a printed copy of their timetable on their first day back after exams, confirming new rooms for each of their lessons.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Shadbolt'.

Mr R Shadbolt  
Headteacher