



Ref KMH/jmc/EndofTermLetter

21 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move towards the Christmas break, many of us are thinking about having an opportunity to rest and relax with our families after what has been a very busy Autumn Term.

What an exciting Autumn term it has been for the Primary Phase! A priority for the Primary Phase has been to continue and develop further our engagement with parents and carers. The coffee morning organised by Mrs Stewart was well attended. All those that came agreed that it was beneficial and that they gained valuable advice that they will use to support their child. 'Learn with Me' continues to be a huge success. The Autumn learning focus was on maths and writing. Please check the newsletter in the new year for announcements about future 'Learn with Me' dates and aims of the sessions. 'Little Lions' for EYFS children started in the second half of the Autumn term. Look out for news of us expanding this to Year 6 parents and children; you may receive an invite!

The last half term has been dominated by festive activities. The Nativity and Carol Concert were wonderful, and the students wholly demonstrated our value of ambition. What wonderful performers your children are! We would also like to say a huge thank you for all the support given to make the Christmas Fair a triumph. The children had a fabulous time and we managed to raise £1847 for school funds. This achievement will help to ensure that we can continue to offer memorable experiences for your children. This term, the children have had the opportunity to experience Quidditch, Boxing and Taekwondo as well as Forest School and numerous school trips that bring the curriculum to life.

In the Secondary Phase and Sixth Form, we have been reflecting on the positive attitudes of so many of our students and it is with great pride that we have been able to celebrate their many successes in our end of term assemblies this week. Since September, we have been reminding students of the steps that we all need to take to shape our school community to ensure that WHGS is not only the very best place to learn, but also to grow and flourish. Students have frequently heard over the past few weeks why a sense of collectiveness and togetherness is important in strengthening our school and thriving through our charters of ambition, compassion and respect. Our Year 11 and 13 students have shown great resilience when completing their mock exams; students are making good progress in their learning, and it has been especially pleasing to see how so many have matured through the experience.

Beyond the classroom our students also continue to expand their experiences; our diverse, collaborative and remarkable group of young people have already, since September, shown the very best of the secondary phase. There have been MasterChef competitions, culture days, Saturday schools at the Royal Northern College of Music, athletics, cricket and football tournaments, geography field expeditions, coffee mornings, concerts, drama showcases, book club discussions and so much more. On top of this our students across all phases have once again demonstrated their commitment to diversity and inclusion by wholeheartedly and with gusto being involved in celebrating national and

**Respect - Ambition - Compassion**

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local events such as Black History Month and our WHGS Culture days. We are incredibly proud that our students have raised £5994.58 for local charities. Our students are truly living up to the school charters - ambition, compassion and respect!

This end of term video <https://youtu.be/JN0oSQzx13g> shows a snapshot of some of these events/activities. This will be available on our website next week, along with a downloadable 'newsletter' version.

As we look forward to a spring term of new challenges and successes, we say 'Goodbye' to Emily Cooper (Senior Leader), Sadiya Patel (Year 5 Teacher), Stuart West (Caretaker) and James Bedell (Learning Mentor). We wish them all well in their future ventures.

Finally, on behalf of all our staff and governors, we would like to thank you all for your invaluable support this term and I hope that you all have a safe and relaxing Christmas break or Winter holiday and very best wishes for 2024. The Term Dates for 2024-25 have now been finalised and are available to view on the website by following this link <https://www.whgs-academy.org/parent-info/key-dates>. I know it's the time of year when many of you like to book your holidays!

School re-opens for pupils on **Monday 8 January 2024** (week two in the Secondary Phase).

Yours sincerely

**K M Heaton**  
Principal

**T H Copestake**  
Head of School (Secondary)

**L S Dalton**  
Head of School (Primary)

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