

7th December 2020



QUALITY • AMBITION • INDEPENDENCE

Dear Parents & Carers

It has been a challenging year for us all, but being back in school with the students this term has been rewarding and enjoyable for all of us here at Westwood. We have been very fortunate in being less affected by COVID-19 than many schools in Coventry and I would like to thank all of you for your vigilance and for supporting us with the measures we have had to put in place. It has been an unusual term of identifying gaps in students' knowledge and putting programmes in place to address these. At the moment our Year 11 students are working hard on their mock examinations after a busy term focused on enabling them to be able to demonstrate the progress they have made this term.




Our new members of staff have settled in well and our existing staff continue to give their all to raise our standards and attainment even further; I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for all of their hard work and dedication this term under the most difficult of circumstances. Our partnership with Kenilworth continues to develop with many of our departments now working with staff over at Kenilworth School. Many of our sixth form students are benefiting from classes taught over at Kenilworth, which we were unable to offer here and hence our sixth form provision continues to grow.


Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented much of our extracurricular work from going ahead this term but I hope you have all been able to see the '12 Days of Christmas' videos which have been featuring on our Twitter feed over the last few days showcasing some of our very talented students – and staff! We look forward to a time when we can see them performing in person once again. Our new Year 7 cohort have impressed us with how well they have settled in, despite the circumstances. They have an outstanding work ethic and their standards of behaviour are excellent; I look forward to watching them grow over the next 5 years.

Despite the virus and its obvious constraints, we have still endeavoured to provide a rich experience for our students this term. There have been a number of inter-form competitions in a range of subjects with students competing for points to go towards our improved reward system. Mr Stephenson is looking forward to awarding the first trophies to the winning mentor groups in assemblies next week. After successfully gaining the Careers & Prospects Award Gold Standard earlier this year, Ms Hodge continues to work with local businesses to enhance the careers provision in school. Earlier this term we ran 'Westwood Week of Work' where many departments put on lessons to give students an insight into how their subjects are relevant in the real world. We also had Barclays bank in school to run some (socially distanced) workshops with the students which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day will take place this week on Friday 11th December. Children can wear an appropriate festive jumper and we encourage a contribution of £1.00 which will be donated to the Save the Children charity – every year, through your support, we are proud to donate a considerable sum of money to this very worthy cause. Christmas jumper wearers do not need to wear their school blazer but all other uniform must be worn as normal. For children not wearing a Christmas jumper all normal school uniform, or PE kit, must be worn.

Westwood Academy, Mitchell Avenue, Coventry CV4 8DY

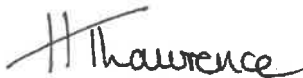
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In addition to this, I have also agreed with the Sixth Form fund raising committee that the last day of term, Friday 18th December, can be a non-uniform day for a £1.00 contribution with all proceeds going to charity. Please advise your child that their dress still needs to be appropriate for a working day at school. On this day pupils will finish slightly earlier, at approximately 1:30 pm, after our, this year, virtual, traditional Christmas assembly. We have asked if the S61 bus could arrive at 1:40 pm on that day. As soon as we hear from the bus company we will email parents with their reply.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back on **Tuesday 5th January 2020**.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H Lawrence". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Ms H Lawrence
Head of School