



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well.

First of all, I would like to thank you once again for the overwhelming support you have shown in ensuring that our learners are well dressed for school. Since September, the number of uniform-related issues has vastly reduced, and our learners are looking smart, confident and ready to learn. By way of clarification, a small number of pupils have recently been wearing socks over their tights. Our uniform code states that *socks or tights* should be worn — not both. Uniform is important to us at Oldbury Wells, it encourages a sense of community identity and shared pride, we are grateful for your support.

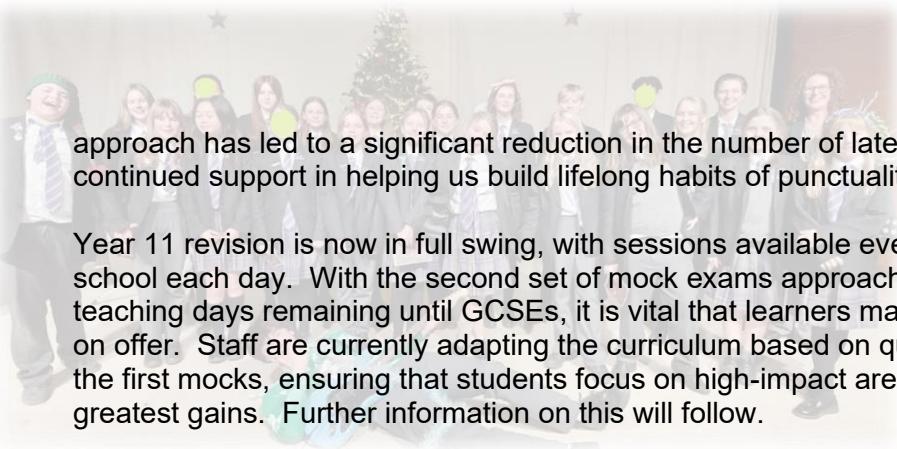
Some of you may be aware that four young men from the community entered the school site on the final Friday before Christmas. This matter was dealt with promptly and effectively by the Senior Leadership and Pastoral Teams, who ensured the group were swiftly escorted from the site. As a precaution, West Mercia Police were contacted and have since followed up the matter. At my request, they also provided a visible - and I hope reassuring - presence at the school gate on the first day back in January. We have additionally increased the number of staff on duty at the end of the school day. I am pleased to report that there have been no further incidents of trespass.

Attendance remains a key whole-school priority, and it is important that every child strives for the highest level possible. Through the Go4Schools app, you are able to monitor attendance live; further details can be found on [Attendance | Oldbury Wells](#). Our aim is for each learner to maintain attendance above 95%. Figures closer to 90% are a cause for concern, as further absence may place a child in the 'persistently absent' category. National statistics show that children who fall into this category often struggle to recover their attendance. Persistent absence can result in large gaps in learning, potential misconceptions and in some cases anxiety about returning to school. We continue to ask for your support in sending your child into school if they are experiencing a mild illness and are able to manage the day - we look forward to seeing them.

To help promote excellent attendance, we have introduced an attendance ladder in form time which enables learners to track their attendance each week. We also provide queue-jump passes for 100% attendance and for the most improved learners. In addition, our new form-time attendance league sees form groups competing in the Champions League, Premier League and Championship divisions for prizes that reward high levels of attendance. You may also have seen our 'Countdown to Christmas' initiative on social media, where we awarded a variety of prizes to celebrate learners' commitment to school. Congratulations to the student who won the restaurant voucher – I am told it was well spent on a delicious pizza!

We recognise that some learners may face additional challenges that affect attendance. If this is the case, please contact your child's form tutor, Pastoral Support Manager or Head of Year so that we can work together to support them.

I am also delighted to report that punctuality has continued to improve. Learners who are late to school after the bell without a valid reason are required to make time up. This



approach has led to a significant reduction in the number of lates. Thank you for your continued support in helping us build lifelong habits of punctuality and responsibility.

Year 11 revision is now in full swing, with sessions available every lunchtime and after school each day. With the second set of mock exams approaching and fewer than 55 teaching days remaining until GCSEs, it is vital that learners make the most of the support on offer. Staff are currently adapting the curriculum based on question-level analysis from the first mocks, ensuring that students focus on high-impact areas where they can make the greatest gains. Further information on this will follow.

Our Year 9 Options process has begun with real momentum! We have launched our 'Options Assemblies,' where Heads of Department and Cluster Leads have been inspiring learners with engaging presentations about their subjects, outlining GCSE specifications and the exciting future pathways each course can open. This year, we have taken the additional step of *recording every assembly*, which will shortly allow learners and their parents/carers to watch them together at a time that suits them. Alongside this, we have refreshed the Year 9 Options Booklet to further support families in having meaningful conversations about next steps. Even more information about the 'choice-making' process will be shared shortly as we guide learners towards making confident, informed decisions about their future.

At the end of last term, we enjoyed several exciting 'firsts'. Our inaugural Year 11 Mock Results Day gave learners a preview of what real results day feels like, helping them reflect on their progress and next steps. Over 35 members of staff received thank-you postcards from students - a touching recognition of their hard work and dedication. Our contribution to the 'Bridgnorth Food Bank' was gratefully received, in fact, there were so many 'tins' sent into school in support of this brilliant cause, several trips had to be made to collect! Thank you for your amazing support and enabling us to collectively make a difference to our community at Christmas. We also continued to develop our blossoming relationship and literacy focus with Wolverhampton Grammar School and hosted our first Christmas Concert in over five years. More than 300 guests joined us for a wonderful evening featuring 'Vocalise', our student band and pianist, and contributions from our primary partners. It was Oldbury Wells at its very best, and a true celebration of our fantastic community.

Earlier this half term, GCSE Music, Art and Textiles students took part in a two-day residential trip to London. They visited world-class museums and galleries, including Tate Modern and the Barbican, and attended West End performances of *The Lion King* and *Stranger Things*. Students represented the school brilliantly, returning with valuable research, renewed motivation and a richer appreciation of the Arts.

Alongside this, we continue to offer a wide range of trips and opportunities, including visits to France, Bletchley Park, the Black Country Museum, Belgium, Telford Ice Rink, local cinemas, the Harry Potter experience at Warner Bros. Studios London and careers events with the Army and Royal Air Force. Oldbury Wells is proud to provide a rich and exciting extra-curricular offer, and I encourage every learner to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support and for your valuable time. Please also congratulate your children on their excellent return to school.

Yours faithfully



Adam Walker
Headteacher



