THE WINSFORD ACADEMY

6th October 2024



Ms Emma McLaren
Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear Winsford Families,

It was fantastic to see so many families attend the Open Evening last Thursday! Initial figures show that it was a busiest evening for a very long time with lots of parents and carers wanting to see our excellent facilities and meet the Winsford Academy Team.

One of my personal highlights of the evening included visiting our wonderful Spanish café which not only served as an opportunity for our brilliant student 'waiting staff' to practise their Spanish speaking skills but also enabled staff and visitors to try tasty tapas and sweet treats, the churros with chocolate were delicious! Visitors also got the opportunity to get involved with numerous hands-on activities which included making mini boats out of recycled materials in design and technology, using microscopes in Science, designing Jon Burgerman style characters in art and problem solving in maths.

To further strength our partnership with Winsford primary schools, each night this week Subject Leads from Winsford Academy are meeting with Key Stage 2 leads from all of the local primary schools to discuss planning and curriculum continuity from Year 5 onwards. As a Key Stage 2-3 specialist, I understand the importance of a smooth transition from primary school so that students can make excellent progress through the curriculum. We are really looking forward to meeting our Year 7 families at the Settling in Evening on Thursday 17th October 2024, it will serve as a great opportunity to answer any questions and to update parents about student progress during the first few weeks at Winsford Academy.

In a short amount of time, I feel incredibly fortunate to have met lots of families. A key theme that has come through from parent discussions is homework expectations at both key stage 3 and 4. Within this newsletter I have included further details about the amount of homework that students should receive along with the extra-curricular timetable for this term. If students do not have a quiet space to complete homework, each evening the library is open for 'Homework Club' so students can complete set tasks in school.

Wishing you a lovely week and thank you for ongoing support.

Homework & Independent Study – Key Stage 3

The recommended amount of homework for Key Stage 3 students is set out below. If students do not have a quiet space to work, they are welcome to complete tasks in the Library after school.

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9		
Subject (Curriculum area)	***Approximate length of homework (time)**	**Frequency**
English	30-60 minutes	Weekly
Maths	30-60 minutes	Weekly
Science	30-60 minutes	Every 1-2 weeks
Geography	30-45 minutes	Every 2-3 weeks
History	30-45 minutes	Every 2-3 weeks
Languages	30-45 minutes	Every 2-3 weeks
Drama, Music, Art, RE, ICT	30 minutes	1-2 times per half term
DT and Food	30 minutes	1 per half term
PSHE	30 minutes	1 per half term

Homework & Independent Study – Key Stage 4

The recommended amount of homework for Key Stage 4 students is set out below. Students are also actively encouraged to use feedback from assessments to revisit topics/knowledge where student did not achieve full marks.

Year 10 & Year 11		
Subject (Curriculum area)	***Approximate length of homework (time)**	**Frequency**
English	1 hour	Weekly
Maths	1 hour	Weekly
Science	1 hour	Weekly
Option Subjects x 4	1 hour	Weekly

Year 11 students are also encouraged to attend lesson 6 (3:20pm - 4pm).
Tuesday – Science, Wednesday – Maths, Thursday – English,
Friday – History, IT, Music, PE

Extra-curricular Offer – Autumn term 2024

Most afterschool clubs run from 3:20pm – 4pm. If students are invited with sporting events/football fixtures timings may change.

	Lunchtime	After school
Mon	Football on 3G Astro pitch/MUGA KS4 Health & Social catch-up Library Club including reading, comics, Battleships, Top Trumps, Lego & colouring KS3 Dance Club KS4 Dance Rehearsals Viva Canto Y7 Singing group KS4 Art Club Breathe Y7 Mindfulness	Homework Club Touch Typing & Colouring Wellness Dungeons & Dragons Colouring Wellness
Tues	Football on 3G Astro pitch/MUGA Library Club including reading, comics, Battleships, Top Trumps, Lego & colouring KS4 Dance Club KS4 Dance Rehearsals KS4 Art Club Breathe Y8 Mindfulness	**Football Fixtures Night** Netball Club Boys Football Club Y7, Y8 & Y9 Homework Club Touch Typing & Colouring Wellness Dungeons & Dragons Play Reading & pizza Y7 Dance Club Y11 Dance Club KS4 Drama Club
Weds	Football on 3G Astro pitch/MUGA Library Club including reading, comics, Battleships, Top Trumps, Lego & colouring Y11 GCSE Set Phrase Drop Melodix Y9 singing group Breathe Y9 Mindfulness	**Football Fixtures Night** Fitness Club Badminton Club Girls Football Club Girls Football Fixtures Homework Club Touch Typing & Colouring Wellness Y10 Dance Club Acoustix Orchestra Club Fitness Club





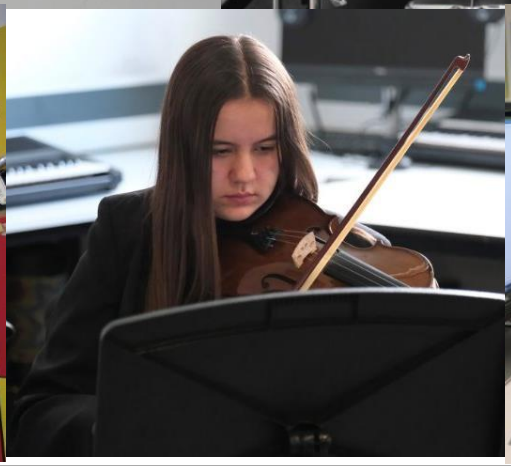
Extra-curricular Offer – Autumn term 2024

	Lunchtime	After school
Thurs	Football on 3G Astro pitch/MUGA Library Club including reading, comics, Battleships, Top Trumps, Lego & colouring My House / YAYA Dance Club Northern Attitude Y10 singing group Breathe Y10 Mindfulness	**Football Fixtures Night** Football Club Homework Club Touch Typing & Colouring Wellness Dungeons & Dragons Y8 & Y9 Dance Club Y11 GCSE Dance Revision Shadow Dance Company (by audition) Vocalise -Singing harmony group Samba – Y7 Percussion group KS3 Cook Club
Fri	Football on 3G Astro pitch/MUGA KS4 Health & Social catch-up Library Club including reading, comics, Battleships, Top Trumps, Lego & colouring Me Too - Dance club Y8 Singing Group KS4 Art Club Breathe Y11 Mindfulness Learn French Club	Homework Club Touch Typing KS4 Dance Rehearsals











Colder Weather!
Just a reminder for students to bring an outdoor coat to school.

- Students **must wear blazers at all times** in the academy - REQUIRED
- A plain black jumper may be worn under a blazer – OPTIONAL
- Hoodies are not a replacement for a school coat and are not to be worn on the academy campus
- Zip-up tops are not a replacement for a school coat and are not to be worn on the academy campus
- Gilets are not a replacement for a school coat and are not to be worn on the academy campus

