THE WINSFORD ACADEMY

Friday 30th May 2025



Ms Emma McLaren
Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear Winsford Families,

I hope that you enjoyed a lovely bank holiday and half term week.

It has been another busy break, with students enjoying a trip at the Waterpark in Coniston. Students had a fabulous time and showed great resilience getting to grips with canoeing, kayaking and sailing.

This final half-term is strongly punctuated with assessment windows, as such it is imperative that students have good attendance. For this academic year, students across all year groups will sit core exams in the Sports Hall. This strategy will support students to become familiar with exam protocols and routines with the view to reduce apprehension in future years. Assessment information will be used to identify student knowledge gaps and inform curriculum planning for the next academic year.

A key factor to student success in exams is attendance to school and lessons. A new research report from the Department for Education discusses how Year 11 students that have attendance rate of 95%-100%, **were nearly twice as likely (1.9 times) to achieve Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE** compared to students who attended 90% - 95% of the time.

Throughout this half term students will also engage with various visits that enrich the academic or personal development curriculum. Students will visit museums, universities and colleges, Year 9 students will also engage with the 'Wickes Wellbeing Challenge' led by the Careers Hub. More details to follow!

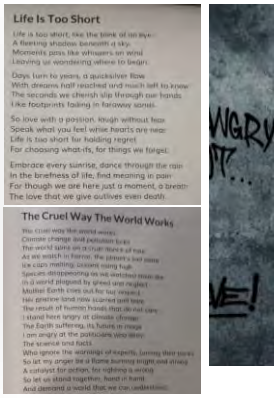
Within this newsletter, I have included term dates for both the next academic year and 2026-27. Over the next few weeks, we will confirm and share dates for Parents' Evenings and academy events to support with planning around work schedules.

Wishing you a lovely weekend; We very much look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday morning and wish Year 11 the very best with forthcoming exams.

Student Shoutouts!







Congratulations to our very own 'WA Young Writers' who have had their poems published. This is a brilliant achievement, and we are very proud of your success.

Proud as a Lion(ess)

Our wonderful U14 WA Lionesses had a brilliant season which took them all the way to the Cheshire Cup Final.

The final was gripping with WA 1-0 up at half time with a strong Neston team levelling the game up to 1-1 during the second half. The exciting game ended with penalties, with Neston just pipping WA to the post.

We are incredibly proud of our WA lionesses who are both talented and determined; Our lionesses are always gracious in both victory and defeat and are role models to other students.

Gratitude

A huge thank you to Ms Stoakley, members of the PE team and our dedicated families who cheer on our teams in all weather!





WA End of Year Assessments 2025-26

To practice formal assessment routines and expectations, Year 7-9 students will sit English and Maths exams in the Sports Hall.

- ✓ **17.06.25 1:30pm – Yr 7 Maths**
- ✓ **18.06.25 1:30pm – Yr 7 English**
- ✓ **19.06.25 9:30am – Yr 8 Maths**
- ✓ **19.06.25 11:45am – Yr 8 English**
- ✓ **19.06.25 1:30pm – Yr 9 Maths**
- ✓ **20.06.25 9:30am – Yr 9 English**



Other assessments will be completed in formal conditions in classrooms

To ensure students feel fully prepared, students should school attend everyday.

Student Absence: WA Reminders

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

School attendance is crucial for students to be successful; We know that attendance is linked to strong achievement.

The following are *not* reasons to be absent:

Common cold	Feeling sick	Period pains	Hay fever
Headache	Stomach pains	Cough	Feeling tired

We want to work in partnership with families to remove any barriers; if families would like additional support, please contact the attendance team attendance@winsfordacademy.org.uk



Shoes for September!



13 Week Notice: Advance Warning for September 2025, all students must wear formal school shoes.

This new expectation should reduce confusion and ongoing discussions about coloured trainer soles, laces and logos, this should also save families money, as some of the trainers that students are wearing to school cost over £100.

Summer Term Diary Dates 2025

Year 11 GCSE Examinations take place from Monday 2nd June – 18th June 2025
Students must attend in full uniform

Monday 2nd June 2025	**Students return to school through the gate by 8:40am**
WC 2nd June	**Year 10 Assessment Week 2** **Year 9 Assessment Week**
WC 9th June	**Year 9 Assessment Week 2**
WC 16th June	**Year 7 & 8 Assessment Week**
Friday 20th June	**Year 11 Assembly, WA Theatre 10am**
Friday 20th & Saturday 21st June	**Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition** **Departs at 3:30pm**
WC 23rd June	**Year 7 & 8 Assessment Week 2**
Tuesday 24th June	**Year 8 HPV Vaccinations**
Wednesday 25th June	**Visit to Sir John Deane's College (Group of 25)**
Friday 27th June	**WA Pledge Day 2025** ✓ **Y7 & Y8 Visit to Museum** ✓ **Y9 Careers Challenge: Inspirational Learning Group** ✓ **Y10 University Visit**
	WA Year 5 Day: Transition Day
	Year 11 Prom, 7pm – 11pm
Tuesday 1st July	**Y10 Visit to Warrington & Vale Royal College**
Tuesday 1st July	**Year 6 Induction Day 1**
Wednesday 2nd July	**Year 6 Induction Day 2 & Evening, 4pm – 6pm**
Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July	**Duke of Edinburgh Expedition**
Thursday 10th July	**Celebration Evening 5pm – 7pm**
Friday 18th July	**Last Day of Term**

Year 11 Exam Results Day – Thursday 21st August 2025

Summer Break: Monday 21st July – Monday 1st September 2025

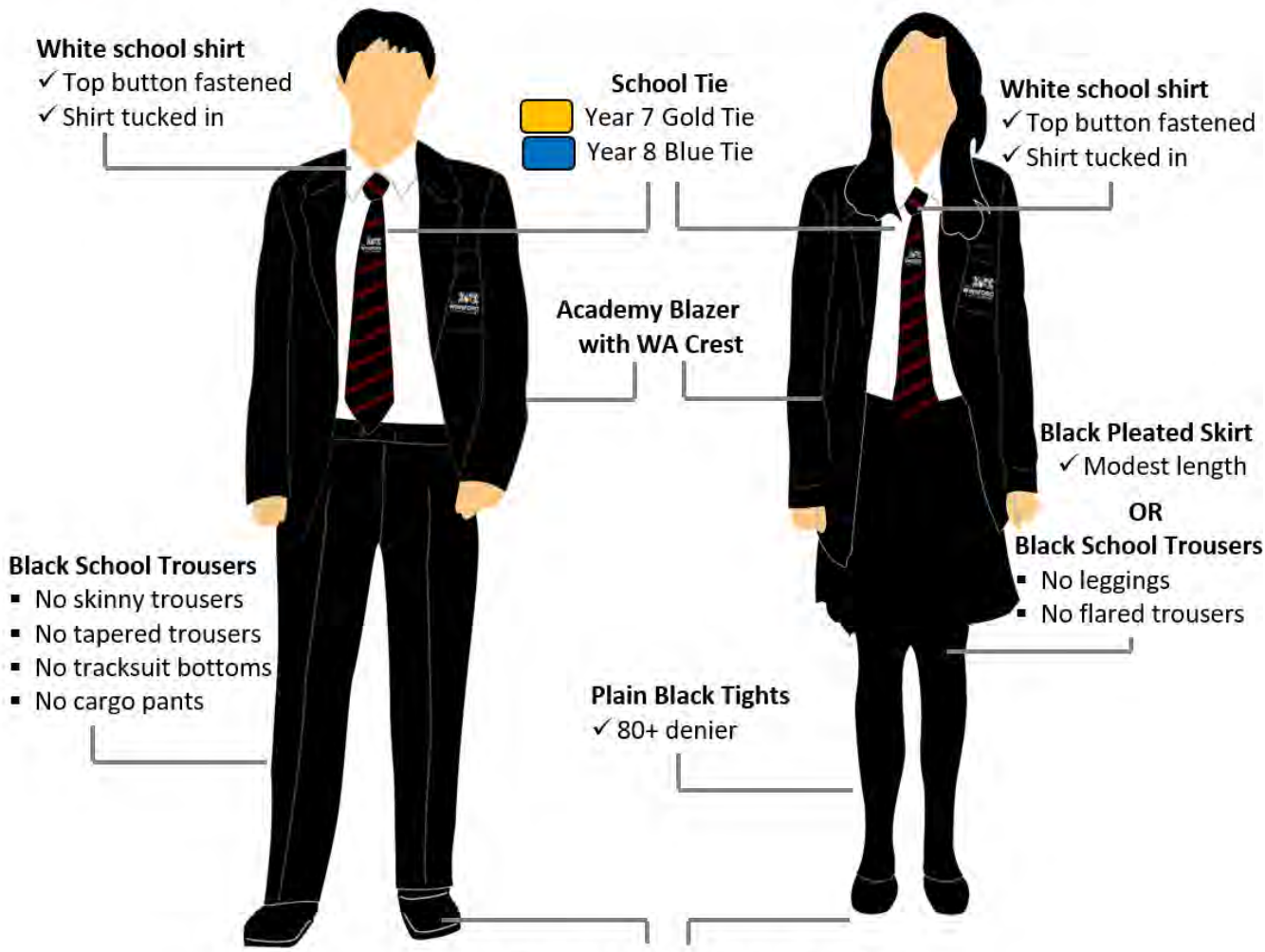
WA Term Dates 2025-26	
Autumn Term Starts 2025	INSET Day: Monday 1st September 2025 INSET Day: Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Wednesday 3rd September 2025	Year 7 & Year 11 students return
Thursday 4th September 2025	All students return
Autumn Break: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025	
Monday 3rd November 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 4th November 2025	Students return to school
Friday 28th November 2025	INSET Day (TBC)
Christmas Break: Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026	
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Students return to school
Spring Break: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026	
Monday 23rd February 2026	Students return to school
Easter Holiday: Thursday 2nd April - Friday 17th April 2026	
Monday 20th April 2026	INSET Day (TBC)
Tuesday 21st April 2026	Students return to school
Monday 4th May 2026	Bank Holiday
May Break: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026	
Monday 1st June 2026	Students return to school
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	School closed for students
Summer Break: Thursday 23rd July 2026 – Tuesday 1st September 2026	

Heads Up! WA Term Dates 2026-2027 *(INSET Days TBC)*	
Autumn Term Starts	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Autumn Half Term	Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026
Christmas Holiday Break	Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027
Spring Term	
Term Starts	Monday 4th January 2027
Spring Half Term	Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027
Easter Holiday	Friday 26th March 2027 (Bank Holiday) - Friday 9th April 2027
Summer Term	
Term Starts	Monday 12th April 2027
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
Summer Half Term	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
Summer Holidays	Thursday 22nd July 2027 - Wednesday 1st September 2027

WA School Uniform September 2025

All students should always wear the following items

Students can ask permission to remove their blazers during lessons



Wearing our Uniform - The Winsford Way

Hoodies, gilets, tracksuit or 'zip up' tops are not to be worn on the academy campus
A school bag is worn at all times (School bag should be able to fit an A4 folder inside)
Blazers are worn at all times – Blazers should never be worn around the waist.
All shirts are fully tucked in
No coloured garments to be worn underneath shirts
Skirts should of a modest length, no shorter than 5cm on the knee
Skirts must be pleated and not rolled-up
Black 80+ denier tights should be worn with skirts
Formal school trousers only, no tracksuit bottoms, leggings or flared stretchy trousers
A black formal shoe must be worn (Please see guidance on what is acceptable)

WA School Uniform September 2025

Black formal shoes – REQUIRED

- Shoes should be a formal style, all black, patent or polishable.
- Shoes should have a flat heel, no higher than 2 inches.
- Laces must be fastened and be plain black
- Shoes should have a back and not be open toe – no sliders, mules or Crocs.
- **No trainers/canvas shoes/pumps including Converse pumps are allowed**
- Footwear that resembles trainers will also not be acceptable.
- Shoes should not display any sporting logos or adornments.
- Boots are not suitable footwear. Anything above the ankle is deemed as unacceptable footwear.

SUITABLE



Black, formal, polishable or patent shoes are allowed.

NOT SUITABLE



- ***No canvas shoes including Converse pumps***
- ***No trainers including On Clouds***
- ***No boots***
- ***No sporting logos***
- ***No fashion/heeled shoes***
- ***No Crocs***

Social media influencers are people who have established credibility in a specific industry and have the power to influence other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, 'influencers' will usually have a large number of followers and be viewed as authentic by their audience. It is for this reason that many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.

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What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'





AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the 'perfect body' and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like they're own life isn't very fulfilling.



ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.



THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Safety Tips For Parents

FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.

TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.



Meet our expert



Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.

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