



# Wildern School

An Introduction to Year 8

The Year of Choices



*Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts.*



# Aim of the Evening

- Our culture and expectations
- Key priorities for all
- GCSE's – what I need to start thinking about?
- The benefits and perils of social media
- The importance of literacy and numeracy
- The teenage challenge
- The Home/School Partnership
- Communication
- Working together
- Parent Handbook





# Our culture and expectations

We want a happy, healthy, safe and focussed school where all staff and students can thrive

We want to be a school where all:

- students speak politely and listen to each other and staff
- students show respect to their teachers through the way they communicate and respond
- students are well mannered to each other and staff
- students respond appropriately in communications
- students respond at the first time of asking
- moments count





# Our culture and expectations

So this year to address this our key foci for all staff, students and parents will be

- Culture and ethos
- Routines and expectations
- Metacognition - thinking about thinking





# Our culture and expectations

## Respectful culture

As a Rights Respecting school, at Wildern we expect all students to be respectful and polite in the way they communicate with all members of our community. We have outlined this as:

**Talk** - think about your **tone**, **words** and **volume**

**Actively listen** and **respond appropriately**

**Look interested** - show positive body language

**Kindness** - show empathy, avoid judgement, respect others' ideas

Students will learn about this through their Education for Life curriculum, day to day interactions across all subject areas and in tutor time and assembly. This will be a continuous thread throughout the whole academic year.







# Our culture and expectations

## Uniform expectations

- School identity starts with the uniform
  - Safeguarding
  - Hard wearing (52% of the year is in uniform)
  - Identity and pride
  - A sign of conformity
- Individual identity
  - Being them! (We want to encourage them being them)
  - Bring things into the 21st century!
  - Still want to avoid extremes of fashion
- Safety and security
  - Still has to be a priority

If we get this right, more time is focussed on learning & pastoral conversations.





# Our routines

Everyone has clear routines at home and these are crucial to us getting through the day!

A school needs embedded and well-communicated routines

These include:

Well-established and understood systems of behaviour (sanctions, corridor and classroom expectations, moving around site)

Removal of uncertainty about school expectations, which reduces anxiety and creates a sense of normality and security for students

Allows more time for quality conversations both inside and outside the classroom

**It's what we do here, we are Wildern**





# Routines for all

- Morning routines - tutor time, phones switched off and in bags for the day, equipment and uniform checks
- How students move around site - use of one way corridors to avoid congestion and ensure students and staff can move around our school site safely and purposefully to ensure every minute of learning time is optimised
- Lining up outside classrooms
- Entry and exit routines for all lessons
- Having all equipment and student planner out and readily available every lesson
- Assemblies - where to line up, how to come in and how to leave







# Metacognition

This is the science behind cognition, or thinking about thinking

- Includes how we learn
- how our memory works
- how we regulate our thinking and emotions
- how we respond to situations

Students will learn about this through their Education for Life curriculum, curriculum lessons, day to day interactions across all subject areas as well as in tutor time and assembly. This will be a continuous thread throughout this and the next academic year.





# The year of choices



*Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts.*

# It can be so difficult!



*Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts.*



# The Year of Choices - Pathways

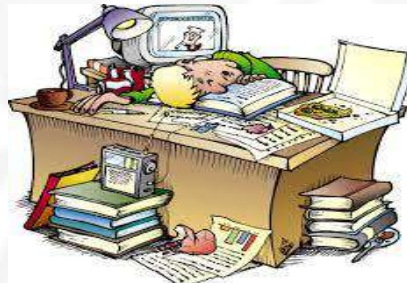
- Structured programme for all students and parents around GCSE choices
- Discussions you could start having with your son/daughter:
  - Interest and enjoyment in subjects
  - Peer influences
  - Teacher influences
  - Career aspirations
  - Keeping doors open
  - Managing the decision process





# Learning routines and habits at home

- To feel safe and secure
- To ensure there is time for fun or spending time together
- To develop a sense of responsibility
- To develop basic work skills and time management







# The importance of literacy and numeracy



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"



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# The importance of literacy

## How you can help at home?

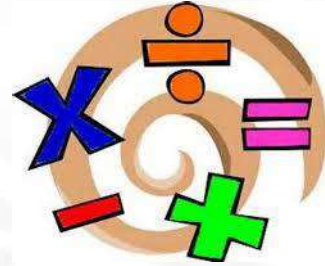
- Encourage to read
- Discuss different styles of text
- Discuss favourite authors, producers, directors or illustrators
- Visit the local library
- Discuss new and unusual words
- Encourage to write
- Playing word games





# The importance of numeracy

## How you can help at home?



- Be positive!
- Read through the problem with them
- Encourage them to refer to their class notes and worked examples
- Demonstrate using maths to solve everyday problems e.g. best value for money, how much change, budgeting for a holiday/trip
- Check they can still use their times tables
- Get them to show you how their scientific calculator works





# The benefits and perils of social media

## #followtheschool

More advice and these slides are on the **school website** parent members area:

Username: **parents**

Password: **wildern**







# Online safety advice

- T- Talk** about staying safe online
- E - Explore** their online world together
- A- Agree** rules about what is ok and what is not
- M - Manage** your family's setting and controls

Help your kids stay safe online.  
Work as a **TEAM**



Talk



Explore



Agree



Manage







# Online safety advice

- Age appropriate apps
- Who are you letting into their rooms?
- If you aren't sure, check
- Keep devices out in communal areas downstairs overnight- rest everything and everyone.

Help your kids stay safe online.  
Work as a **TEAM**



Talk



Explore



Agree



Manage





# The teenage challenge

Welcome to being a parent of a teenager. Prepare for a large amount of eye rolling, emotional outbursts, and thoughts of running away. And that's just the parents.





- Being Kind
- Antibullying Ambassadors
- How we treat each other
- #talk2us



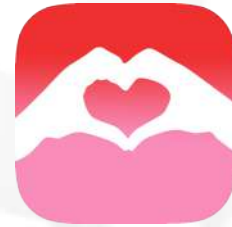
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# Student voice

Student voice is very important to us and is shaping our school. This is an ongoing opportunity throughout the whole year. Students views are gathered through

- SLT student meetings
- Student #mywildern
- #talk2us
- Education for Life quizzes and surveys
- Students surveys
- Focus groups
- Subject reviews







# Parent voice

Your voice is just as important to us and we value your feedback, when we get it wrong but as importantly, when we get it right.

There are many ways you can share your views with us throughout the year. Parent views are gathered through

- Parent survey - biannual
- Mini parent surveys in Wildern Weekly (these appear regularly)
- Email [wildern@wildern.org](mailto:wildern@wildern.org)
- Ofsted Parent view (328 completed in 2022 for nearly 2000 students)
- Your child's tutor
- Parent open morning and coffee meets
- Parents evenings - information and communication







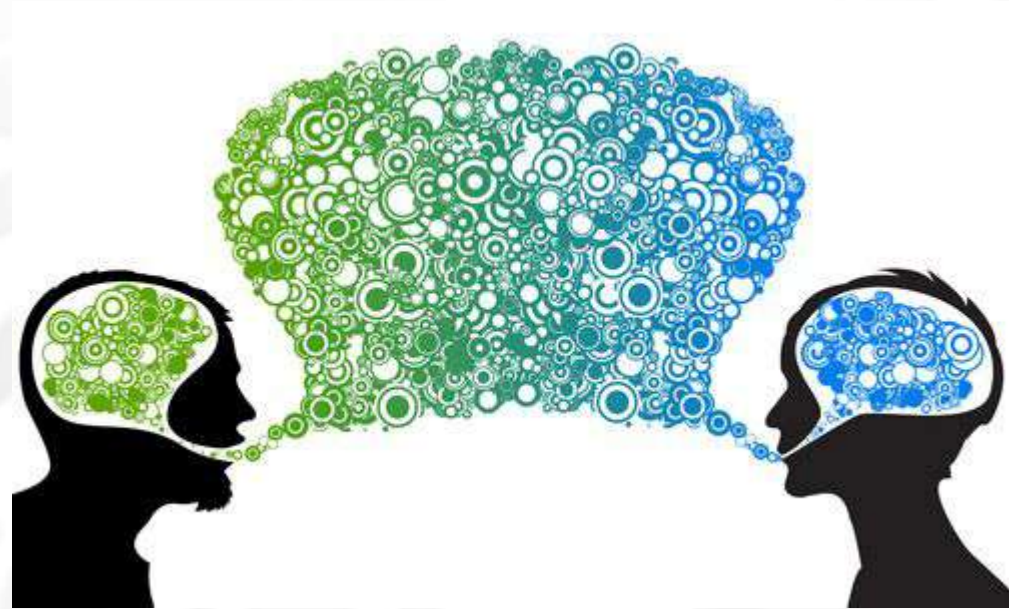
# Impact of Attendance

- Attendance matters!
- Students who had attendance of less than 90% in year 11, achieved on average 1-2 grades lower in their final GCSEs (this is the equivalent of 1 day a fortnight)
- However... students who were in school 96% or above, achieved grades that were 1.5 grades higher than other students who didn't attend as often
- If students are not in lessons, they are not here to learn in their lessons as well as receive support and feedback from their teachers
- If they are here, they fly!
- We will not approve absence unless there are extremely exceptional circumstances





# Communication



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# “Meeting Me” Conversations

**These will take place on Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th September**

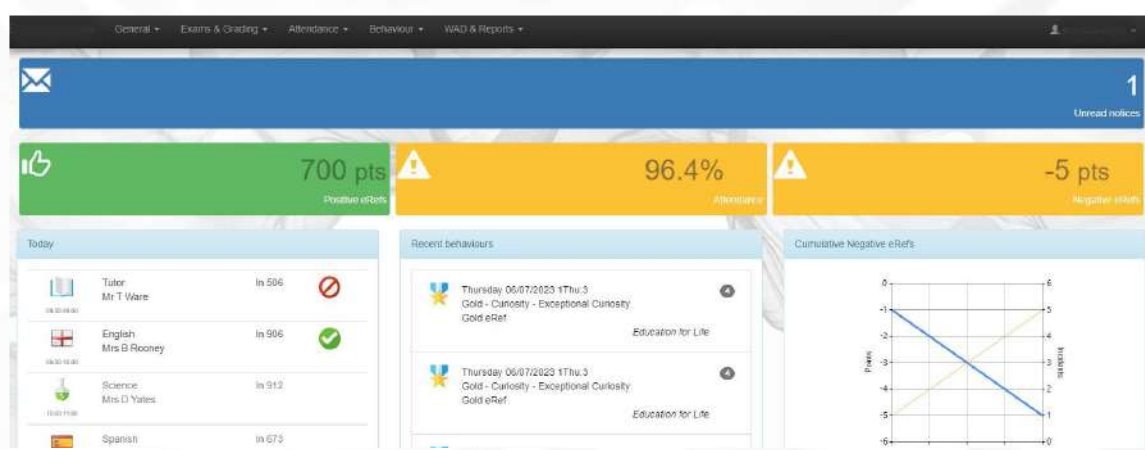
- All students (and parents) will be allocated a time to meet their tutor over these 2 days
- Face to Face
- Discuss the year ahead
- Share any news from the summer
- Meet possible new tutors
- Share any concerns
- Give over any new information
- If needed can be virtual for the parent (students must attend)





# INSIGHT

- Check Student Attendance
- Check Student Achievement and Behaviour
- Check Student Timetables
- Update Student and Parent Information
- Report an Absence
- Check the School Calendar
- Receive messages from the school
- To set up your INSIGHT account we need to have your email address on our system - we will then send you an invitation.

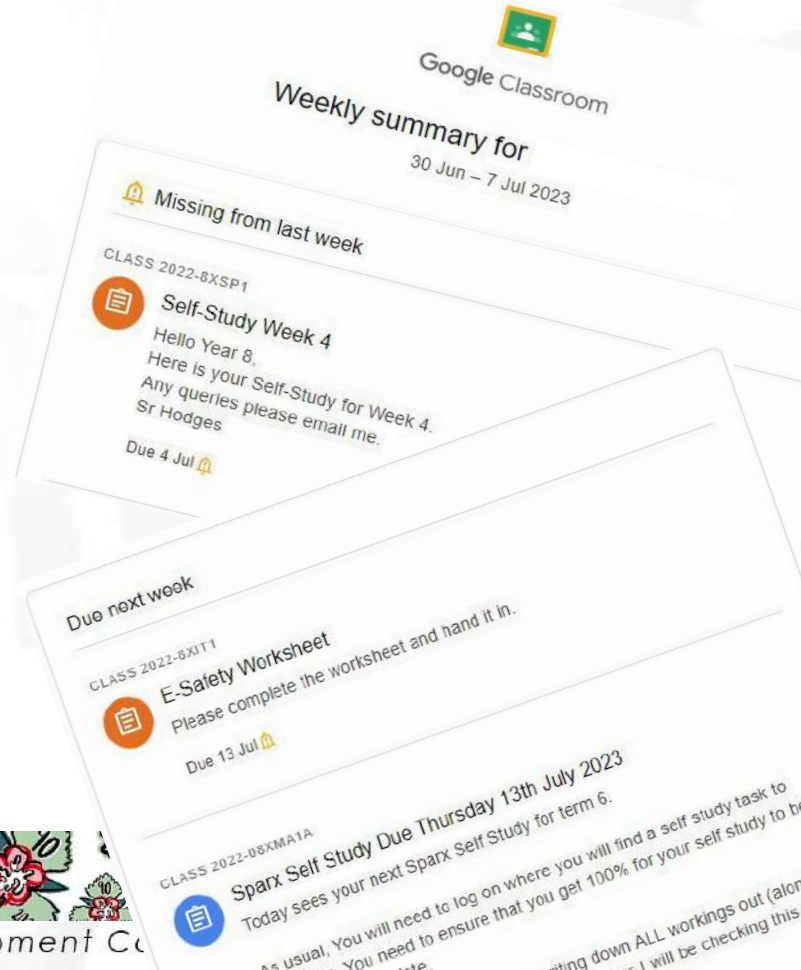






# Google Guardians

- Sends you a daily or weekly summary
- Includes any work:
  - that has been set,
  - that has **not** been handed in
  - that is due the next few days
- Useful to help you support your child in managing their self-study
- Informs you of what has and hasn't been done







# Wildern Weekly

- Sent out on Fridays
- Links for all letters
- Reminders & key dates
- Spotlight features
- Advice & guidance
- Food menus
- Extra curricular
- Sports results
- All previous issues are available on our website



## Wildern Weekly

Parent Bulletin

Friday 7 July 2023



I'm Mrs Dixon, Director of Learning for Humanities and subject leader for Geography.

The Humanities subjects at **Wildern** are History (subject leader Miss Greensword), Religious Education (subject leader Mrs Watson), Travel and Tourism (subject leader Mrs Mistry) and Geography. I love all of the humanities subjects because they help to explain our place in the World, create empathy and to always consider the impacts our actions have on the World and people around us.

July 11th is World Population Day, a day which seeks to bring awareness to the growing pressures and opportunities a growing population can bring. This week there is an opportunity for us all to reflect on our population of 8 billion people and how our humanities subjects are woven into this. Our population is able to live longer due to historical breakthroughs in medicine and growing international efforts for peace. Our population of 8 billion all have rich and diverse religious, cultural and social backgrounds which we can all celebrate not just within this week but always. Then we have to decide how we can balance the challenges of a growing population in an ever fragile World.

If you're curious to find out a little more, find out which billionth person you are by using this website <https://worldpopulationhistory.org/my-population-number/>.

If you have any concerns with your child's progress or attainment in Humanities, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself and we will be more than happy to discuss this with you.



### Recent events @ Wildern

On Wednesday evening we celebrated our annual Awards Evening. Congratulations to all our winners and their families. Special mention to George and Sophie for the outstanding performances in such a large venue, the staff behind the scenes and the Kings Community Church.

A final huge thank you to our Senior Student Leadership Team: Harry, Evie, Josh and Flo for the brilliant way they hosted the evening. Supported by a team of really helpful prefects around the venue.

We have also had two Headteachers lunches for 140 student with an aet score over 700 this week.

Start of Term Arrangements 2023-24:



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# Partnership

## You are not alone



**Over the next year what the school will also offer;**

- Fresh starts to focus on subjects chosen
- Learning about Careers through curriculums
- Personalised curriculum support
- Access to the school counsellor
- Practice exams

**Parent Information Evenings focusing on:**

- **Love Languages** - (Nov 2023)
- **Wellbeing** - (Nov 2023)
- **Edtech to support learning** - (Dec 2023)
- **Year 8 Pathways** - (Jan 2024)
- **E-safety** - (Jan 2024)
- **Supporting your teenager** - (Feb 2024)
- **Stretch and Challenge** - (March 2024)
- **Chromebooks** - (May 2024)
- **Relationships and Sex Education** - (May 2024)
- **How to support your child's' reading** - (June 2024)
- **Healthy Eating** - (June 2024)





# Partnership

## How we work together



- Behaviour for learning
- Participation
- Uniform
- Feedback
- Self-study
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Holiday requests
- Behaviour in the community





# Partnership

## How we work together



### Behaviours for learning

- a) Being respectful to teachers and other learners in the classroom at all times
- b1) Being punctual to lessons to maximise learning
- b2) Attending all lessons to maximise learning
- c) Being always appropriately equipped and ready to learn
- d) Being fully engaged in lessons, listening carefully and following instructions
- e) Completing all class work or Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) to a required standard
- f) Completing all self-study on time and to a required standard
- g) Working independently and actively seeking out appropriate opportunities to maximise your potential
- h) Understanding and acting on feedback
- i) Preparing appropriately for assessments or NEA
- j) Using appropriate subject specific vocabulary and skills

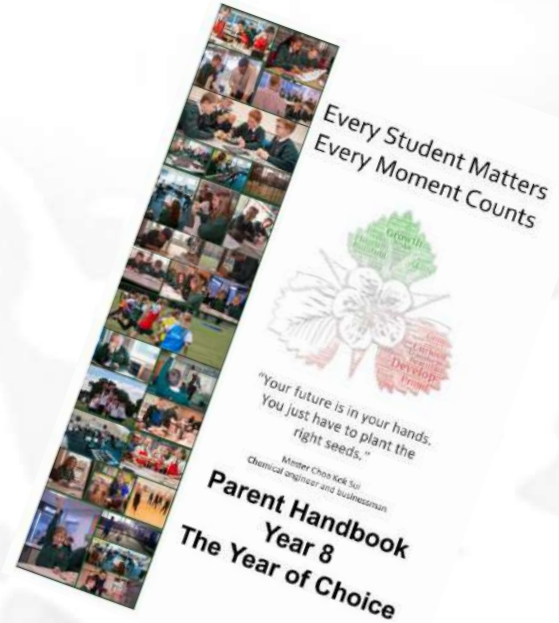






# Parent Handbook

- Your comprehensive guide for day to day information
- Curriculum info
- Pastoral info
- Key dates
- First point of reference for questions







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Feedback from  
tonight & share  
your ideas



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