



5 September 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had a lovely holiday this summer and that those of you who celebrated Eid last week enjoyed your time with family and friends. We return to school for the new academic year with a lot of good news. Firstly, our GCSE results have gone up from 45% in 2010 to 55% in 2011 for 5 A* - C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. This is the biggest improvement the school has ever had. We are all immensely proud of our students and I would also like to thank parents/carers for supporting their daughter(s) so effectively through their exams.

Secondly, the school has been going through a lot of refurbishment during the summer holidays to improve the facilities here for all students. This will be finished by the end of September. By that time, we will have 5 brand new Science labs, a new library, improved accommodation for the Sixth Form, a covered walkway between the two main blocks, a covered area outside for eating and many areas around school newly decorated. In addition, we have upgraded all our computers for staff and students, and every Sixth Form student will be issued with her own laptop to use during her time here.

Thirdly, we have gone through a re-branding exercise and now have a new logo and new signage around school. This has meant that we have had to change the uniform a little by introducing a new sweatshirt with the new logo on as well as developing a new website which can be accessed at www.hwgs.org.uk. We will now be using the website to facilitate better communication with you.

I would like to stress that it is important that the girls wear the correct uniform to school in order to maintain standards. We will address issues with uniform if they crop up, so I would welcome your support in this matter. The uniform is as follows:

- ◆ Long smart black trousers or a skirt - no jeans, tight-fitting trousers or mini-skirts.
- ◆ A 'V' neck black tunic with school logo can be worn over trousers
- ◆ Black shoes (**not fabric, black trainers or slippers/pumps**)
- ◆ A white blouse
- ◆ A black sweatshirt with school logo and red stripe around the neck (available from Gognas)
- ◆ A plain black headscarf (optional). The headscarf must be without any adornments or fringes.

ASPIRING FOR EXCELLENCE



In addition to uniform, it is also very important that your daughter brings a bag to school which is big enough to carry all her books, writing equipment and PE kit, when needed. I would be very grateful if you could ensure that your daughter's bag is big enough to contain her books and equipment. We now have a stock of bags in school which will be issued to any girl carrying an inappropriate bag for the day.

Finally I would like to remind you of the new school day structure. From 5 September 2011, we will be operating on a new school day structure. School will still start at the normal time of 8.40 a.m. but will finish at 3.20 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, school will finish at 2.20 p.m. for the students. If any parent/carer wishes their daughter(s) to stay at school on Wednesdays until 3.20 p.m., could they please contact the school so that arrangements can be made.

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	Time	Wednesdays	Time
Registration	8.40	Registration	8.40
Period 1	8.45	Period 1	8.45
Period 2	9.45	Period 2	9.45
Break	10.45	Break	10.45
Period 3	11.00	Period 3	11.00
Lunch	12.00	Lunch	12.00
Period 4	13.00	Period 4	13.00
Period 5	14.00	Assembly/Form time	14.00
Assembly/Form time	15.00	End of school day for students	14.20
End of school day	15.20	CPD time for staff	14.20 – 16.20

I am really looking forward to this academic year and hope to meet more of you. You will be receiving further communication from us regarding Parent Information Evenings where we will provide advice and guidance on a wide range of issues including using our website and the new VLE, supporting your daughter with her homework and getting through exams. If you are concerned about anything to do with your daughter, then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Walters
Headteacher