

21st September 2020

Dear Year 8 Students and Parents

I thought I would write to first say how sorry I am that we are unable to have our normal Open Evening this year because of Covid-19 restrictions. This is a real shame because I know this night gives students and parents a real taste of how exciting it is to be a WBHS student. However, we will be offering a number of opportunities to find out more about WBHS, which we will let you know about via your current school.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about Whitley Bay High School which I would normally do in my introduction at the Open Evening.

I am very lucky because students and parents often contact me to thank the school and our staff for the guidance, support, teaching and amazing opportunities that are available here. From the many I could have chosen, I think the following quotes sum up what we are all about:

Year 13 Parent *'My son has achieved his dream of going to university which I know would not have been possible without the inspirational teaching and wonderful support he has received throughout his 5 years at WBHS. Thank you so much.'*

Year 9 Student *'We have a huge range of extra-curricular opportunities to choose from – there really is something for everyone.'*

Year 9 Student *'I love the atmosphere at WBHS.'*

Year 10 Student *'Teachers get you really involved in lessons which make them really enjoyable.'*

Year 11 Parent *'Please pass on my huge thank you to all the amazing and incredibly dedicated staff who have supported my daughter for the past 3 years with their caring approach and excellent teaching.'*

I think these quotes highlight what all staff at this school want, which is happy students who achieve outstanding grades and get involved in the wealth of opportunities on offer at the school. We are one of the highest performing schools in the country not because we are an examination factory but rather because of our caring, nurturing approach and fantastic teaching.

In a survey of Year 9 parents last academic year, 100% of parents said their child had settled well at WBHS and they would recommend WBHS to other parents. This level of support from parents is quite exceptional for any school but never something we take for granted.

We want students to ENJOY all aspects of school life, PARTICIPATE in all the extra-curricular opportunities on offer and then go on to ACHIEVE fantastic results.

Our success is also based on the strong positive relationships that develop between students and staff. These relationships are at the heart of everything we do and it is something that visitors to the school often comment on when they see our school in action.

Students of all abilities, including those with special educational needs, make outstanding progress at this school, which far exceeds the progress of students with similar ability nationally.

We devote a huge amount of time to making learning fun, interactive and immensely enjoyable – for me this is how students learn best. We want students to develop a love of learning and this allows them to achieve their personal best grades.

We also do everything we can to support students from the moment they join the school to the day they leave to pursue their Post 16 or Post 18 ambitions. Indeed many students return to us long after they have left, sometimes for more advice or more commonly to tell us how they are getting on.

Despite our excellent academic success and our Ofsted outstanding status, what I, and the staff at this school, are most happy with is the real sense of pride students have in this school and the fantastic community atmosphere that exists as you walk round the corridors every day.

We believe students are all different but all equal and we embrace that difference to allow students to thrive at this school and go on to be incredibly successful at many different levels. Students are also supported by a dedicated and experienced pastoral team, where there is a whole school focus on wellbeing. Indeed, we are one of a small number of schools who have a full time counsellor employed by the school to work with students who require additional support.

We are a large school and this brings many benefits including the huge variety of additional opportunities on offer and having one of the broadest range of subjects available at both GCSE and A Level in the area. This allows students to carefully select courses that are right for them and then go on to pursue their future ambitions. However, very importantly, despite our size we maintain a small school community atmosphere, which is integral to our success.

As a Head, I would not be happy if students left WBHS having achieved excellent results but had not enjoyed their time with us. That is why enjoyment is a key aspect of our ethos. We want students to enjoy their learning, enjoy the wealth of opportunities available, enjoy the social side of coming to school and indeed enjoy the whole school experience. I am pleased to say, from what students and parents tell us, we are successful in this aim.

Therefore, if you choose to come to WBHS I can promise:

- You will be looked after and cared for
- You will feel part of the WBHS community
- You will be encouraged to achieve your personal best grades
- You will be offered a wealth of opportunities
- You will enjoy the whole school experience
- And you will achieve your ambitions for the future.

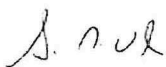
This is a very happy school where students are successful at many levels.

Being the Headteacher at this school is a fabulous job because I get to work with fantastic students, inspirational staff in a lovely community atmosphere.

I, and the rest of the staff, look forward to welcoming you to WBHS should you choose to come here.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



STEVE WILSON
Headteacher