

3 September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted to be able to welcome the students back to school, and to the start of their Key Stage 4 journey after what I hope was a restful and relaxing holiday for all our Year 10s and their families. I am confident that all of our students are ready for a positive and productive year ahead. I know that they are excited and perhaps slightly nervous to begin their GCSE options choices, and of course the core subjects that they will all study. We recommend that students take part, not just in lessons, but in enrichment options and after school activities. It is important that their school life is about more than just lessons. Our aim is to enable your child to enjoy learning and fulfil their potential.

Your child is a valued member of Year 10 and can expect a high level of pastoral support and care from their tutor, the Key Stage 4 Hub and the Year 10 leadership team: Mrs Lyddon (Head of Year 10) and Mrs Dhir (Head of Key Stage 4). We also work closely with a range of specialist services, from external agencies and the local borough, to offer students support, including counselling and mentoring where needed.

How do I contact the school?

Reporting Absence - PLEASE READ

You will now be able to report your child/ren's absences via your Arbor parent app, moving away from StudyBugs. Please ensure that you have downloaded the latest version of the app in order to use this new feature.

As before, you can also report absences by emailing KS4@waldegravesch.org or by phoning the hub. We would also like to remind you that absences due to medical and/or dental appointments should be communicated to us at least ten days prior to the appointment taking place.

Wellbeing/ Pastoral support:

For any issues/queries relating to your child's wellbeing, mental health or friendship issues the first point of contact should be your child's Form Tutor. This can be escalated to me (Mrs Lyddon) as Head of Year if deemed appropriate. You can contact your child's Form Tutor by emailing into KS4@waldegravesch.org and in the subject line write 'FAO Mr/Mrs ...'. This will then be sent directly to them.

Please note that we will not be able to have meetings without an appointment.

****If there is anything that relates to your child or another's safeguarding then please contact the school for the attention of myself (Mrs Lyddon) and Ms Moore/Mrs Dhir and we will ensure we get back to you as soon as possible.**

Inclusion support:

If your child has additional needs they may also be supported by our Inclusion department which is led by Ms E Salsbury, SENCO.

Subject Specific concerns:

If you have any subject specific concerns relating to progress / tests or homework then please contact your child's Subject Teacher. You can find their name on your child's timetable and can email them via info@waldegravesch.org and in the subject line write 'FAO Head of' (then input the subject you would like to speak to).

I hope that your child will feel safe and empowered at Waldegrave to make the most of the opportunities available to them. Tutor activities and whole house events have been planned to ensure students are fully supported to develop into well rounded and confident students, prepared to face the challenges ahead of them. I believe this can be achieved by us all working together. Waldegrave students are tomorrow's leaders: our ethos for Year 10 is 'Embrace each other's differences and be the best version of ourselves'

Please engage with our Parental Bulletins which will outline Waldegrave news as a whole, but will also present you with year group specific information too. In order for you to further keep abreast of Waldegrave events, I would encourage you to also visit the school website; and follow the school on Twitter @WaldegraveSch.

We would also encourage you to register, if you have not done so already, on the website <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> and give your views about the school as this gives the school valuable information.

Important dates for you and your young person are listed below and you will be contacted with details for the Y10 Parent information morning in September.

Event	Dates
Year 10 Parent Information Morning	15 October 2026
Year 10 Monitoring A	December 2026
Year 10 Parent Consultation	5 May 2027
Year 10 End of Year Assessments	June 2027
Year 10 Monitoring B	July 2027
Year 10 Work related learning and careers	5 - 9 July 2027

Our school policies may be found on the website, in particular the school's behaviour for learning policy and homework policy. Our first rule is '**Respect and value learning, each other and our environment**'. We would also love to hear or be made aware of any of your child's out of school achievements, no matter how small, so that we are able to celebrate them through different forums.

As part of our every day expectations please support your child by ensuring our school uniform is correctly adhered to and mobile phones are not accessed, a summary of these expectations are below:

Uniform

Please can you ensure the following:

- Students do not come to school wearing fake nails, nose studs or other body piercings, false eyelashes or hair that is not a natural colour.
- Make up and nail varnish should not be worn.
- Wrist watch only - no smartphone devices.
- One set of stud earrings is the only jewelry that is permitted
- Uniforms are worn appropriately and correctly.

The current school uniform policy can be viewed in full on the school website under the section School uniform.

Mobile Phones / Smart Watches / Smart Glasses

In keeping with Government guidelines, phones are not allowed to be used during the school day. If you need to contact your child during this time, please do this via the Key Stage 4 hub.

We offer students three options regarding mobile phones. These are:-

1. Download the Blackout app for smartphones
2. Use a 'brick' phone
3. Do not bring a phone to school

We will be explaining to students what steps need to be taken to download the Blackout app on their smartphones for this current academic year on their return to school. Please let us know which mobile phone option will be applicable to your child.

Please note that Smart Watches and Smart Glasses are not allowed in school.

We look forward to working with you to support your child in this important school year, and anticipate this being a successful partnership between home and school. We would also love to hear or be made aware of any of your child's out of school achievements, no matter how small, so that we are able to celebrate them through different forums.

Please do get in touch if the need arises but in the meantime I wish you and your child an enjoyable and positive year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Lyddon
Head of Year 10

Mrs A Dhir
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Key Stage 4