

3 September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to the start of this very important and exciting year at Waldegrave for your child. I was impressed by the way the vast majority of students worked and conducted themselves as members of the year group and the wider community, engaging in lessons and getting involved in school activities and opportunities last year. I was particularly impressed by the maturity shown during work experience and towards preparing for the Year 10 assessments. I feel confident that all our students in the Year group will continue to build upon these foundations during this final year of Key Stage 4 and enjoy and achieve success as a result.

We are pleased with the students' achievements across a broad range of skills and activities to date and also pleased that our students are happy and enjoy school. Once again, we ask that they get involved in after school activities so that their school life is much more than exam results alone. Our aim is to enable your child to enjoy learning and fulfil their potential.

Your child is a valued member of Year 11 and can expect a high level of pastoral support and care from their tutor, the Key Stage 4 Hub and the Year 11 leadership team: Mrs Mortimer (Head of Year 11) 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 (Ms Mortimer) 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 (Ms Mortimer) 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 Salisbury, 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.

Please engage with our Parent 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.

Event	Dates
Year 11 Drop Down Day (Revision and Wellbeing focus)	7th October 2026
Year 11 Session on supporting students to manage revision (for parents only)	7th October 2026 6pm
Waldegrave Sixth Form Open Evening	14th October 2026 5.30 start
Year 11 Mock Exams * (some dates in the Autumn half term)	2 weeks starting 2 November <i>*Year 11 to attend school on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November</i>
Year 11 Monitoring	December 2026 (post mock feedback)
Year 11 Parents Consultation Meeting	9th December 2026
Year 11 Core Mocks	1st March -5th March 2027
Year 11 Monitoring	March 2027
Easter Revision Sessions	In the Easter Holidays Dates/Times of specific sessions TBC
Year 11 Dress Up Day	6th May 2027
Year 11 Final Day Celebration Assembly	7th May 2027

Start of public exams	10th May 2027
Year 11 Prom	Thursday 24 June 2027

Please note that more specific details of these events will follow in due course. Including exam timetables etc.

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**'. Please encourage the rule to be embraced in all aspects of school life, and encourage homework to be completed as close to the day it is set. Please support your child in engaging with Google classroom to access all homework, lesson resources and pastoral resources. If there are issues related to homework then the Head of Department for the subject should be contacted in the first instance through info@waldegravesch.org or by telephoning the school.

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. Year 11 Students have the option to download the Blackout app on their smartphones for this current academic year, and details on how to do this will be shared with students on their return to school. 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,

Ms Mortimer
Head of Year 11

Mrs A Dhir
Assistant Headteacher
Head of Key Stage 4