

3 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back Year 8 Students and Parents/Carers

I hope you have had a lovely summer holiday and that your child is feeling refreshed and ready to start this new academic year at Waldegrave.

I am delighted to be taking on the year group as the Head of Year 8 and I am looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. We aim to ensure that your child feels safe and empowered at Waldegrave and encourage them to make the most of all of the wonderful opportunities that we have available. Tutor activities and whole house events have been planned to ensure students are fully supported to develop into well rounded and confident young people, prepared to face the challenges ahead of them. We are focused on fostering the school values of **Enjoy, Achieve and Empower**, and we look forward to working with you in doing so.

The shared aim for all of the Year 8 community is to start the year positively and remember the Waldegrave first rule; respect and value learning, each other, and our environment.

Below are some reminders to help your child get off to the best possible start to the academic year.

Focus for Year 8 - Making a positive start

As we begin Year 8, we want the focus to be on supporting our students as they embark on the next stage of their learning. We hope that you will reinforce this at home by discussing the school day with your child and supporting them in their use of Google Classrooms to keep abreast of homework, lesson resources etc.

To get information about the topics being covered in each subject in Year 8, you can visit the curriculum area of the school website:

<https://waldegrave.richmond.sch.uk/curriculum-overview/curriculum-guides-by-year/>

Uniform and equipment

To aid a positive start to the term, please can you ensure the following:

- All students have the appropriate pens, pencils, a ruler, a gluestick, a purple pen and a whiteboard pen etc, ready for the new school year.
- Students do not come to school wearing jewellery, fake nails, nose studs, false eyelashes or hair that is not a natural colour. Ear piercings are allowed to facilitate one stud earring in each ear but no other piercings are permitted.
- Make up and nail varnish should not be worn.
- Uniforms are worn appropriately and correctly.

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 3 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 contacting you in the coming days explaining how to download blackout for this school year, and asking you to 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.

Making Contact with 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 ks3@waldegravesch.org or by phoning the relevant Hub via 0208 894 3244. 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 if they are having friendship issues the first point of contact should be your child's **Form Tutor**. Any queries can be escalated to me as Head of Year if deemed appropriate. You can contact your child's Form Tutor by emailing into KS3@waldegravesch.org and in the subject line write 'FAO Mr/Mrs ...'. This will then be sent directly to the appropriate member of staff.

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

****If you have any safeguarding concerns that relate to your child or another child within school, please contact the school for the attention of Ms Ansell and Ms Moore/Mr Greaves. We will ensure that we get back to you as soon as possible.**

• 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).

Following School Events and Sharing Your Views

In order for you to keep informed of Waldegrave events, I would encourage you to access the weekly parental bulletin, visit the school website, and follow the school on [instagram@waldegraveschool](https://www.instagram.com/waldegraveschool). We would also encourage you to register on the website <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> to give your views about the school as this gives the school valuable information.

Enrichment Option

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The Waldegrave Trust: Registered in England and Wales 8130508

This year your child has chosen an additional subject to enrich their learning. Thank you to all families for helping with this process. Your child's allocated enrichment option will be added to their timetable.

Purchasing a chromebook:

If you do not currently own a chromebook and would like to purchase one then please contact us via KS3@waldegravesch.org and write in the subject line 'Chromebook Purchase Year 8'.

Important dates for you and your child are listed below.

Event	Dates
Year 8 Reports - feedback from subject teachers	February and June
Year 8 PCM	11 November 2026

* Please note that more specific details of these events will follow in due course.

We wish your child every success in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Ansell
Head of Year 8

Mr P Greaves
Head of Key Stage 3