



Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to welcome back our Year 9 students; I hope you all had a lovely summer break. The students have made a good start to the academic year, looking very smart, displaying a mature attitude and a sensible approach to their classes.

This is the most important academic year the students are yet to face. In Year 9 students must build upon their knowledge and achievements they gained in Years 7 and 8. They must also prepare for their Year 9 options and what subjects they will be taking for their GCSEs. Students must pay close attention to what subjects they wish to study. More information around GCSE choices will happen during our GCSE Options Evening on **Thursday 16th January 2025 17:00-18:00.**

This year the Form Tutor, myself and you, as the parent/carer must work together to ensure that your child takes advantage of all that Wilmington Grammar School for Boys has to offer. In order to achieve this, it is vital that as a collective we focus on the following:

- Maintaining good attendance and punctuality.
- Continuing the excellent standards of school uniform.
- Respecting the schools PRIDE values.
- Ensuring independent study is completed and handed in on time.
- Maintaining good communication between school and home.
- Benefitting from the wide range of extra-curricular activities we have to offer at WGSB.
- Being organised and keeping on top of schoolwork.

As parents, please be reminded that when a student’s attendance is below 95% it is a cause for concern. As you can see from the table below, even at 95% attendance, nearly 50 hours of learning is lost plus all the benefits of socialising and interacting with peers.

Annual Attendance percentage	Days attended	Days missed	Hours of missed lessons
100%	190	0	0
95%	180.5	9.5	47.5
90%	171	19	95
85%	161.5	28.5	142.5
80%	152	38	190
75%	142.5	47.5	237.5

Ensuring attendance at school is a parent/carer’s legal obligation and we are keen to support parents with this, not least because of the huge amount of national data that proves the correlation between good attendance and academic progress. Please continue to report any absence via Edulink.

Punctuality will also continue to be monitored. Please can we ask parents to support us in encouraging good attendance and punctuality.



We believe communication is the key to building good relationships between school and home and are always keen to meet with parents to resolve matters face to face. We continue to work together and understand that urgent issues can arise but please bear in mind that we cannot see parents who arrive without notice during the school day. Staff are often teaching or in meetings. Please call ahead to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet as we are happy to discuss any ongoing issues on the phone or in person, please allow up to 48 hours to respond, however, I will endeavour to get back to you sooner.

Student photographs will be taking place on Thursday 12th September 2024. I will also be delighted to welcome you to Year 9 in our virtual Meet the HOY and Form Tutor evening. This will take place on **Thursday 12th September at 17:00**. The link for this meeting can be found below:

[Head of Year 9 & Form Tutor Virtual Meeting](#)

I am Mr Hook, your child's Head of Year for Year 9. I look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure an incredibly successful academic year. If you wish to contact me via email, please do not hesitate to do so. My email can be located at the foot of this letter, along with Mrs Jones' email who is the Year 9 Student Manager. The school policy is for us to respond within 48 hours however, we will endeavour to contact you earlier.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Hook
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Mrs Jones
Year 9 Student Manager
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