



Walderslade Girls' School

Specialist College for the Arts

Mrs E Eddy
Headteacher

Bradfields Avenue Chatham Kent ME5 0LE

Tel: 01634 861596

Email: wgsoffice@sflt.org.uk

www.sflt.org.uk/waldersladegirls

9 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your daughter back to year 11 at Walderslade Girls' School. This is an important and crucial year in your daughter/ward's education and, after the most unusual circumstances we have all experienced, we want to make sure we offer as much help and support as possible.

As some of you or your daughters/wards may be aware, I have now returned from maternity leave and will be guiding your daughter/ward throughout this year. I pride myself on being as accessible as possible, and am happy to be contacted via email to discuss any concerns you or your daughter/ward may have surrounding the transition into year 11.

The last 2 academic years have been very strange for all of us. I, and all of the staff at WGS, want you to know that we are here to support and guide your daughter/ward in any way we can.

In preparation for the year ahead, I wanted to reiterate some of the expectations that we have at WGS. At the beginning of year 11, your daughter/ward will receive a Year 11 code of conduct that closely follows the Skills for Life EMPLOY ME ethos. This is printed in the first few pages of the school planner. Your daughter's/ward's form tutor will discuss this with her and I would appreciate if you as a parent/carer would do the same.

Uniform

Students are still expected to follow normal school uniform rules. Trainers must not be worn without medical evidence and authorised by either the head of year or senior leadership team. Students are not permitted to wear false nails or false eyelashes or eyelash extensions, makeup and hair should be natural and students are only permitted to wear one small stud in each ear lobe. Facial and body piercings are strictly prohibited. Jumpers must be untucked and skirts un-rolled at a suitable length. Blazers must be worn unless otherwise communicated by the head teacher. Sanctions will be put in place for those that break these rules. The idea here is to prepare students for their next steps; if they have a job with uniform restrictions they are expected to adhere to them, just like school. If there are any issues, please do let me know so I can support where I can.

Equipment

Students must bring in their own equipment for the day. It is essential for your daughter/ward to be organised. Equipment includes, black/blue and red pens, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener, highlighters, calculator, protractor and compass, coloured pencils and any subject specific equipment they may need. If there are any problems at all with this list, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can arrange support where needed. Year 11 are still expected to participate in all PE lessons so must bring in the full expected kit for PE and dance. Again, please do contact me or the Mrs Chapman, head of faculty, if there are any issues with this.



DEAR Time

All students this year are expected to participate in DEAR time, or 'Drop Everything and Read'. This is a fantastic initiative run by our English faculty in order to support, extend and nurture our students ability in reading; a skill that goes hand in hand in increasing GCSE achievement across all subjects. Your daughter/ward is required to carry a reading book in her bag at all times and will have a compulsory 20 minute silent reading session every day. Our English department has worked tirelessly to create a new and improved on site library, as well as creating a WGS

book shop, where your daughter/ward can purchase a reading book. I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic scheme and I look forward to seeing and discussing your daughter/ward's book choice!

I am sure that you and your daughter/ward are experiencing a world of emotions as she returns to school in year 11. She may be excited, nervous, or full of anxiety, but please rest assured our members of staff are here to support as and where we can.

I am happy to talk through any issues and offer support where I can now and throughout the year. My email address is ldevaney@sflt.org.uk

I very much look forward to working with you and your daughter/ward throughout this exciting year, I have every faith that it will be a success!

Best wishes,

Mrs L Devaney

