



SCHOOL NEWS 27 APRIL 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the Bank Holiday weekend I wanted to write to you and thank you for your continued support and understanding with the National Industrial Action being taken by teaching Unions. I feel the need to address an imbalance in what is being reported in the media. As an Executive Headteacher/CEO of a Trust my views should not be biased either way, but regrettably the information that is being presented continually talks of funded pay awards to teachers of 4.3%, this is not factually correct. The Government has agreed to fund anything over 4%, the rest is an award that schools can make through their normal budgets, therefore they are only funding 0.3% of the award.

If schools have to fund the recommended pay award from their own school budgets and reserves, many schools will not be able to afford it and this will mean that they will use their depleted reserves and not be able to use those funds for any school development in the future.

It is with sincere reluctance that I write to you and it is not my aim to be biased towards my staff, but when the news is not reported accurately, it is important to clarify facts. Hopefully you will be able to recognise that the pay dispute is not only about pay awards but funding in general.

Thank you for your patience and kindness during this Industrial Action period and I hope there can be a resolution as soon as possible.

Pan Panayiotou
Executive Headteacher
CEO South Downs Education Trust

Thank you for your ongoing support, despite the ongoing disruption the industrial action is causing. As we communicated earlier in the week, Tuesday 2 May will also be impacted and on this day, school will only be open to Year 11 and vulnerable students. Year 11 students will be dismissed at 1:30pm on this day.

Reflecting on the previous week, there has been a huge amount going on in school. The 10th Simply Dance show took place last Thursday and it was fantastic! This was the first one we have been able to host since before Covid, so it felt very special to welcome parents in for the live event. Thank you to all of our dancers from Year 7 to 11 for exceptional performances and thank you to Miss Strudwick and the PE team for their time and effort planning and preparing.

Year 11s are another week closer to their exams and our message is a very simple one; every minute counts. The harder they work in class and the more they do at home, the better they will do. Please encourage your child to attend Period 0 and 6, and if your child has already established good habits around study, please reassure them – it will all be worth it!

Year 9 parents and carers will soon receive their child's second progress report of the year and this will be followed with the Academic Review evening next Thursday 4th May. This is a virtual meeting with your child's tutor to discuss the report and any other issues or concerns you might have. If you have not had the opportunity to book a slot, there is still time to do this. Please use the following link to make your appointments <https://worthinghigh.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Looking ahead, next week on Thursday 4 May we will have our whole school photo. As you can imagine, organising a photograph for over a thousand students is a logistical challenge, but a really important community act and one we very much look forward to. The day before on Wednesday 3rd May is the Year 11 year group photo.

Year 11

Earlier this week, the Year 11s had an assembly on expectations around examinations and there are a few points I would like to re-emphasise with parents and carers.

Firstly, to clarify, rules and regulations are decided by the Joint Council for Qualifications, not Worthing High School. So malpractice or rule breeches are not determined by us. If a student fails to follow a rule, or misbehaves, they risk disqualification and receiving zero marks for that paper. As a school, it is highly unlikely we would be able to challenge this.

We also clarified the importance of punctuality. If a student is late, they are at risk of not being able to sit the examination. They **will not** be able to catch up with the examination, at a later date and will receive zero marks for that particular paper.

Finally, students were reminded of the importance of pre-examination checks. Ensuring things like notes, mobile phones, watches, calculator lids etc. are removed from their person and left in a bag. We will of course, remind students before every exam, but if they bring a banned item into the exam venue, they risk disqualification and receiving zero marks for that paper.

For a comprehensive guide to examination conduct, please visit our website. [Worthing High School - Arrangements for GCSEs 2023](#)

Adrian Cook
Head of School

Early Help awareness and Signposting for Parents for Self-Harm concerns.

As a school we work closely with the West Sussex Early Help Team and are provided with updates as to the support accessible to parents and young people in the community. The following link is Early Help support for young people struggling with self-harm, and provides awareness and signposts parents to the support available in the local area. Please follow the link provided, or speak to your child's Pastoral Leader for more information.

<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/self-harm-in-the-community-awareness-and-signposting>

Laura Baron-Frost
Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager

Biennial Sponsored Walk

During assemblies next week, we will be formally launching our biennial sponsored walk which will take place on Monday 19 June 2023.

This is our opportunity as a school community to unite and raise valuable funds for the amazing work of Chestnut Tree House. There are hundreds of children and young people in our local

community who need support. Tragically, many are unlikely to reach adulthood, and there are even more parents and family members who will need care, help and support.

It costs £10,000 per day for Chestnut Tree House to provide care and support for life limited children and young people in Sussex and Southeast Hampshire, and the money you donate will help provide this valuable support and care to children, young people and families that need it. Here is a video of the work of Chestnut Tree House:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGdx6HdxewQ&t=4s>

The plan is for all Worthing High staff and students that are able, to raise money by walking 12 miles from school to Chanctonbury Ring and back.

Students will be receiving a sponsorship form from their tutors after all assemblies have taken place and can start collecting sponsorship for this challenge. The preferred way of collecting sponsorship is through our Just Giving page using the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/worthing-high-school-1682416243384>

Money can also be donated through Wisepay. Please only use cash as a last resort if you are unable to access Just Giving or Wisepay.

Since our first sponsored walk in 1999, we have raised over £100,000 with over £14,000 raised last time.

Our target this year is £15,000 which we will reach if all students are able to raise £20.

Thank you for your support in helping us reach our £15,000 target.

Uniform

Many thanks to all of those students who have returned to school wearing their uniform so well. Please may I ask all parents/carers to ensure that students continue to meet our expectations regarding uniform, make-up and jewellery. If a student wears jewellery in excess of our policy it will be confiscated and will require collection by parents.

Please may I also remind parents/carers that false eyelashes are not permitted and if seen, students will be asked to remove them.

Many thanks for your support with this.

Mr Swift

Consultation on extending the school Day

The Department for Education has set out its expectation that the total hours spent in school is set at 32.5 hours per week. Our current hours total 32.08 hours, giving us a weekly shortfall of 25 minutes. This means, we need to add 5 minutes to each school day. Our priority is to make a change that positively impacts the education of our students, therefore, we are looking to extend Period 5 by five minutes.

Consultation has already taken place with staff, Governors and Trustees and it was felt this model would add most value because currently Period 5 consists of 10 minute Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) time, meaning curriculum time during this period is reduced to 50 minutes. Adding an additional 5 minutes will mean, curriculum time is increased to 55 minutes and subjects taught during Period 5 will not lose as much teaching time.

This will mean the school day will finish at 15:10 and no other timings of the day will be impacted:

8:40 – Registration/Assembly

9:00 – Period 1

10:05 – Period 2

11:05 – Break

11:25 – Period 3

12:30 – Period 4

13:30 – lunch

14:00 – end of lunch

14:05 – Period 5

15:10 – End of school day

As with any changes to the school day it is appropriate that we consult with parents and carers and we welcome any feedback or comments you may have. Please email office@worthinghigh.net by 12 May 2023, if you wish to comment or have a question.

Save the date!

On the evenings of Wednesday 12 July and Thursday 13 July you are invited to Worthing High School Play, Brainstorm. Have you ever wanted to know what's really going on inside a teenagers brain? Well here's your chance. The show is shaping up to be a fabulous evening with inspired performances, dances and even a song or two all devised from the teenage brain. Information regarding tickets will be out after the May half term.

Many thanks
Mrs J Batchelor

Uniform Donations

Friends of Worthing High would very much welcome any clean, spare, unwanted uniform. A donation box labelled Friends of Worthing High (FOWHS) uniform can be found in the entrance of student services. These items will be placed into uniform sales, dates and details of how to purchase items available will be shared with all families.

Physical Education

Clubs Summer Term 1

Clubs are back up and running this week. Most clubs will run 3:10-4:10pm; some clubs run at slightly different times, please check the New Summer Term 1 club timetable [click here](#) all students are welcome to attend clubs. Registers will be taken weekly therefore there is no need to sign up to a club prior to it starting. If students are attending clubs please can we remind you that they must be in their full WHS PE kit. The weekly newsflash can be found here [click here](#) and will be updated every Friday.

Marie Field
Leader of PE

Message from West Sussex County Council

Parent/carer advice on accessing clubs/activities and reporting concerns regarding adults in positions of trust.

- what to do if you are concerned about a professional or adult in a position of trust
- how to safely assess and access activities, clubs and services for your children

[Click here](#) for further information.

VACANCIES AT WORTHING HIGH SCHOOL

We advertise staff vacancies on our website under [Join Us/Vacancies](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 1 May 2023 – May Day Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 May 2023 – Industrial Action
Wednesday 3 May 2023 – Year 11 School Photo
Thursday 4 May 2023 – Whole School Photo
Thursday 4 May 2023 – Year 9 Academic Review Evening – Virtual
Monday 8 May 2023 – Additional Bank Holiday for King Charles Coronation
Wednesday 10 May 2023 – Year 9 Teen Booster Vaccination Day
Monday 29 May 2023 – Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June – May Half Term

TWITTER

For up to date information don't forget to follow us on the links below:

Whole School: @WorthingHigh

Headteacher: @WorthingHigh_ht

South Downs Education Trust: @sdetrust

Trips: @worthinghighout

Worthing High Careers and Employability Service: @WorthingHighCar

Lettings: @HighLettings