



## SCHOOL NEWS 14 DECEMBER 2023

Dear parents and carers

As our first term draws to a close tomorrow, I just want to thank you, as parents and carers, for your constant support and how excellent your child has been in accessing all of their lessons and extracurricular opportunities at Worthing High School.

Our Christmas concert tonight will be an ensemble of music, dance, drama and full of festive cheer. A huge thanks to all our students who make this performance possible and especially to Mrs Batchelor and Miss Strudwick for their boundless energy.

Please do take some time to read our Autumn 2 newsletter and gain a sense of everything we have achieved during this term. I am always truly astounded by how much is achieved in such a short amount of time. [Click here](#).

Finally on behalf of myself, Governors, Trustees and all the Staff at Worthing High School, have a safe, healthy and restful Christmas break and a happy New Year

Pan Panayiotou  
Executive Headteacher of Worthing High School  
and CEO of South Downs Education Trust

As we end 2023, I would like to thank all of our students who work so hard, our staff who continue to go above and beyond to help them achieve their potential and our families for their ongoing positivity and support.

I hope students and their families all have an enjoyable and restful break, ready to return on 3 January. Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and Happy new year!

Adrian Cook  
Head of School

Tomorrow is Christmas Jumper Day. Students are not required to wear uniform. A donation of £1 to be donated to Save the Children Christmas Jumper Appeal.

### **Maths challenge winners**

We had an enormous number of entries for this competition. The students are encouraged to solve problem solving questions. This competition is only open to WHS students.

We wish to congratulate all of our students who entered this competition.

Please see the attached for our Autumn 2 2023 Maths challenge competition winners.

### **New Free School Meals (FSM) application process**

From **1 January 2024**, there will be a new process for parents to submit their applications for Free School Meals (FSM). The process will be entirely online. The system will give parents an instant indication of their child's FSM eligibility status, with the aim of ensuring eligible children receive their FSM entitlement as quickly as possible, by helping to reduce the time for checks to be returned in busy periods. **Please see attached Booklet.**

Most parents will be familiar with this new electronic process, as it uses the same portal that parents need to use for their school admissions preferences and/or 2-year-old entitlement checks.

This process, in most cases, allows parents to receive their initial eligibility result instantly. Our Catering Services FSM team will then run further checks and confirm the outcome via email to both the parent and the school.

With the move to online applications fully functional on **1 January 2024**, we will have a one-month transitional period where paper FSM applications will still be processed by the team, to allow schools to communicate the change to their parents, and to ensure no application forms are caught between systems.

From **1 February 2024**, all scanned paper copies of FSM application forms sent to us will not be processed, and the applicant or school will be contacted and advised of the online process.

If a parent is struggling to complete the online form, and the school has been unable to support, please advise them to contact our team directly on **0330 222 5555** or at [fsm@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:fsm@westsussex.gov.uk). Links on the Council website will be updated to take parents to the new online FSM application form as of **1 January 2024**. Until then, the process will remain the same as it is currently.

#### **Information from West Sussex County Council – Winter HAF 2023**

Please see the attached poster with further information regarding South coast skate club.

#### **Message from Student Services**

Student Services have a number of “UNNAMED” coats in their office along with 2 pairs of girl’s black school shoes. If your child has lost one of these items, please ask them to go to Student Services to identify and collect.

If these are not claimed by the 12 January, they will be donated to a local Charity shop.

#### **Food Department**

Please donate your empty Celebration, Quality Street, Heroes or similar biscuit and sweet tins. We recycle/reuse these and give them to students to take food home that they have cooked with us in Food lessons. Last year we received hundreds of containers - Thank you very much!! Students can bring them to T5/T4 Food rooms where they will be very gratefully received.

Mrs Whitby  
Subject Leader for Food Preparation & Nutrition

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

##### **Advance notice:**

Friday 15 December – no clubs will run due to early closure for Christmas Holidays

##### **Club and Fixture timetable for Spring Term 1 clubs**

Clubs will start the first full week back Monday 8 January. Spring Term 1 clubs [click here](#).

Marie Field  
Leader of PE

### **Haircuts and piercings during the festive season**

We hope that our students have a restful and peaceful holiday period but wanted to remind you that on their return they should not have inappropriate haircuts or piercings that they cannot remove before attending school. We want them to be able to return with a focus on their learning. Avoiding unnecessary uniform and presentation issues enables them to do this.

We have attached the uniform policy for your reference.

Many thanks for your support.

S Swift  
Deputy Headteacher

### **VACANCIES**

We advertise staff vacancies on our website under [Join Us/Vacancies](#). Please take the time to have a look and share the information with anybody you know who might be interested in applying.

### **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

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Today 14 December 2023 – School Christmas Show

Friday 15 December 2023 – Last day of term – students finish at 12.30pm

Friday 15 December 2023 – Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 2 January 2024 – INSET DAY 5 – School closed

Wednesday 3 January 2024 – all students return to school after the Christmas break

Thursday 4 January 2024 – Year 7 Academic Review Evening – further information will go out shortly

Thursday 11 January 2024 – Year 9 Options Event