

**Principal: Mr I Garforth**

Winterstoke Hundred Academy, Beaufighter Road,  
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Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the end of the Christmas term, it feels like a particularly appropriate time to look back and reflect on our experience as an academy community since we first opened in September.

The past months have the most challenging time that any of us in education can remember, and our students entered this time (whether in Year 7 or in Year 12) having spent a significant amount of time out of school throughout the spring and summer terms.

It was therefore heart-warming and reassuring to see the enthusiasm that our students came to us with. Whilst, inevitably, there was anxiety and concern regarding COVID, it was also very much the case that students were looking forward to starting life at WHA.

Throughout this term, we have been very proud of our students; they have worked hard, engaged with their learning well, and created a real identity for our academy. Life at Winterstoke Hundred is vibrant, exciting and rewarding. I'm particularly impressed with those students who have endured two periods of self-isolation in quick succession. Their forbearance and determination in continuing to make the most of their learning through these unprecedented challenges is to be commended.

It was very pleasing to meet (albeit virtually) so many of you in our online tutor/parents' evening. We are very grateful to hear of your support and appreciation for what we have achieved as an academy community. It is also important to note, as well, that we are also always grateful for the feedback you offer us to enable us to further improve, and we would hope that you are always able to contact us to raise issues or discuss any concerns you may have.

**INSET Days, and the last day of term (Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec)**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan are INSET days, and students should not attend the academy on these days. On the final day of term (Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec), in line with many local schools, we will close at lunchtime. After lesson 4, students will have the chance to collect food from the canteen, and to collect their belongings, before we begin to clear the site from 12:45 onwards.

**Homework**

We have, over recent weeks, gradually fine-tuned our approach to homework, and it may be worth reminding you of our current system.

Homework is compulsory for all students. The member of staff will always be clear about when the homework is due in, and it will be recorded on Class Charts. We will always set sufficient time for students to check their understanding with their teacher should they struggle with a particular homework, and they can seek further support at Homework Club after school on a Mon, Tues and Thurs.



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If, after this, a student does not hand in their homework at the required time, they will receive a 30 min after-school detention on the next available Friday. (If the homework is due in on a Friday, this will be moved to the following Friday).

If the homework is then not handed in by the end of break on the following school day, the 30 min homework detention will be extended to 60 min.

Sanctions (and of course, rewards) are always available to view on Class Charts, but where possible, we try to let you know about after-school homework detentions by text message as well, in order to ensure you are fully informed regarding this important aspect of your child's education.

**Season's greetings**

Finally, from all of us at Winterstoke Hundred Academy, we wish you and your family a very merry (and safe!) Christmas, and happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming our students back in January refreshed, recharged and ready to go.

With best wishes,  
Ian Garforth  
Principal



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