

Wolstanton High School

Empowering Learners for Life

Headteacher: Mr M R Boughey (NPQH, MA, PGCE, BSc)

Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton,
Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 9JU

Tel: 01782 742900

Email: office@wolstanton.shaw-education.org.uk

Web: www.wolstantonhigh.org.uk



@WolstantonHigh

Dear Parents/Carers and Students of Wolstanton High School

Parent and Student Consultation

I have been working closely with colleagues over the last few months and had the opportunity to meet many of our wonderful students to seek their views on what is already great about our school and what they thought we could do better. As a result, I am writing to you now to seek your views on some changes that I propose to make as of September 2020. Over the coming weeks, I will be contacting you again as we review our school policies as I am keen to hear your views. Please be assured that any proposed changes are absolutely made with the best interests of our students and the school's success at heart. When I was appointed, I was clear that I am committed to Wolstanton High School for the long term: I want our school to be a beacon of excellence for our community and this is not a short-term goal.

I understand that the world is focused on other things at the moment, we are indeed in unprecedented and very challenging times. At times like these though, it is vital that we look to the future with hope and expectation of great things to come. I hope the contents of my letter show both my commitment to our school and also give you a sense of excitement and pride in what we can achieve together.

Please find attached information regarding proposed changes to:

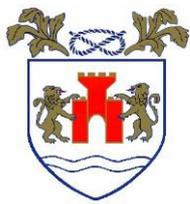
- School Timetable Structure/Times of the Day
- School name and logo
- School uniform

I encourage parents/carers and students to send your views on the changes either via email to feedback@wolstanton.shaw-education.co.uk or through postage to the main school by Wednesday 20th May. I know that there has been change in the past, including the leadership of the school, but I am sure you will understand I need make the changes I feel are needed. I appreciate your support with this and look forward to hearing your views.

I am delighted to inform you that our school is over subscribed for September 2020 which shows our increasingly strong reputation and success locally. As a parent myself, I understand how important it is for children to be happy and enjoy school as well as achieving their potential, I will be relentless in ensuring our school fulfils your hopes and aspirations.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Boughey
Headteacher



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School Timetable Structure/Times of the Day

The school took the decision to move to a one-week timetable in January and I am committed to continuing with this as it was proving highly successful, however I feel that there is still more that we can do to ensure your child has the outstanding curriculum opportunities that they deserve. Therefore, I would like your views with regards to launching a new, updated school day proposal with effect from 1st September 2020. Please find details below:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:40 - 9:35am	Period 1
9:35 - 10:30am	Period 2
10:30 - 10:50am	Tutorial
10:50 - 11:10am	Break
11:10 - 12:05pm	Period 3
12:05 - 1:00pm	Period 4
1:00 - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:25pm	Period 5
2:25 - 3:20pm	Period 6

Tuesday (CPD)

8:40 - 9:35am	Period 1
9:35 - 10:30am	Period 2
10:30 - 10:50am	Tutorial
10:50 - 11:10am	Break
11:10 - 12:05pm	Period 3
12:05 - 1:00pm	Period 4
1:00 - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:25pm	Period 5

Thursday (enrichment)

8:40 - 9:35am	Period 1
9:35 - 10:30am	Period 2
10:30 - 10:50am	Break
10:50 - 11:45am	Period 3
11:45 - 12:40pm	Period 4
12:40 - 1:10pm	Lunch
1:10 - 2:05pm	Period 5
2:05 - 3:20pm	Period 6

Key questions around the change of the school day:

Why 6 periods instead of 5? We want to offer the students a wide-ranging curriculum that is broad and engages all learners. 6 periods a day gives us greater flexibility to include PSHE, enrichment, and a wider range of curriculum study. A student timetable will consist of 29 lessons instead of 25.

Why 55-minute lessons? As the school day is moving from 5 lessons to 6, reducing the lesson length allows for a reasonable length of the school day. Indeed, it only increases by 25 minutes per day, yet offers a superior curriculum experience. 55-minute lessons still allow practical subjects sufficient time.

What is enrichment? By removing the tutorial on a Thursday, period 6 is extended to 75 minutes. During this time, staff will be able to offer an enrichment activity for all students to enable them to learn new skills, develop new interests and have fun! Activities would last half a term and then rotate with a new group of students.

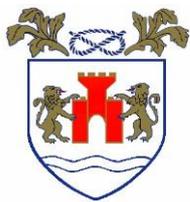
Why is the start time later? Starting the teaching day 10 minutes later gives both the staff and students a longer period of time in the morning to prepare for the day ahead.

What is the Tuesday CPD? School will finish for students on Tuesdays at 2:25pm. Staff will then have an extended opportunity for professional development and meetings until 4:00pm, to allow us to ensure our provision for your child is excellent.

Won't the timings be confusing? 4 days of the week run the same Periods 1 to 5, with Period 6 being removed for one of them. The enrichment day (Thursday) would be different, although periods 1 and 2 will be the same, as will the end of the day.

Why is tutorial after period 2? The focus at the start of the day will be on getting straight to learning at the time of the day when students are most alert. We will then timetable the PSHE to be before tutorial once per week to give us extended time to allow special assemblies and external speakers to work with students.





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School Name and Logo

Everyone I have spoken to over the past few months has told me how they want to be part of a brilliant school. I would go one further: I want us to be a leading school across the region, driven by our “Empowering Learners for Life” vision. To help us achieve this, a fresh start is needed. Wolstanton High School is well-known and well-loved across the area and I know many people in our community value the longstanding tradition associated with our beautiful school buildings. Therefore, we want a new name to embrace the success and history of the school and give our community something they could be equally proud of. Therefore, I would like to propose the following change to the school name please see below: (note - the logo is for illustrative purposes at the moment and is under development)



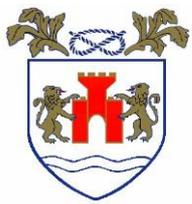
Why the name ‘The Orme Academy’? Dr TF Rutter was the first Headmaster of the Orme Boys’ School from 1907-1928 and subsequently became the Headmaster of Wolstanton County Grammar school when it replaced the boys’ school. Newcastle had been the educational centre of North Staffordshire for three and a half centuries. It had produced in the Grammar School and the Orme School, re-formed after 1872 as the High School, the main means of secondary education for most of the area, including the Potteries.

The Orme School was founded under the will of the Revd. Edward Orme (d. 1705), at one time master of the borough school, who left various lands in trust, the revenue to be applied to educating and apprenticing the poor children of Newcastle. The Orme Middle School, condemned in 1923 by the Board of Education, as closed by 1927, and in 1928 the buildings were bought by Newcastle Education Committee. The school was replaced in the same year by the erection of a new local authority Grammar School at Wolstanton. It was designed for 500 boys and laid out on a double quadrangle plan. The school was open to boys from the county area and adjacent parts of Cheshire.

Hence, the new school name ‘**The Orme Academy**’. As well as the Orme history of the school site, the point that Revd Edward Orme left revenue from his estate to the education of local children in the area completely encapsulates the sort of place that our school strives to be.

I believe the name The Orme Academy not only embraces the proud history that our school and community have, but also provides the backdrop for the brilliant academy that we are rapidly becoming. Please email your views on the proposed changes above to feedback@wolstanton.shaw-education.co.uk.





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School Uniform

Our students told me that their uniform is, in their words, “boring”. They wanted a uniform that they could be proud of and one which stood out as being associated with our school, indeed many staff, students and parents have expressed concern at the way a few students wear our uniform in a way which does not meet our high standards. I met our Student Academy Council and reviewed a number of options with them. I am very aware of both the current extremely challenging situation we find ourselves in a country and the financial pressure that this has placed many families under. Therefore, I am delighted to be able to inform you that the school will be fully funding a new blazer and tie and for all existing students in current Year 7, 8 and 9 and a skirt for girls who wish to wear one. Current Year 10 will wear the current uniform into Year 11. The only change for current Year 10 is that any girl wishing to wear a skirt must wear the new school skirt, but again this would be fully funded by the school. The students felt that our new uniform is something that they would be really proud to wear and would also be comfortable for school. Following this, we have agreed that the new school uniform, from September 2020 will be as shown below.



Main school uniform description:

Royal blue blazer with new “The Orme Academy” Logo

White shirt

Charcoal grey trousers (boys and girls)

Blue/black tartan pleated skirt (girls)

School tie

Grey/black socks/black tights

Black school shoes (no colours/logos, no trainers/pumps)

To be clear, once agreed, the uniform expectations stated above will be compulsory for all students. The only expense for parents for September is the usual annual purchase of school trousers, shirts, shoes and socks as required. These items can be bought from your usual suppliers including Marks & Spencer’s, Asda, Tesco etc for a very reasonable price. The cost of the new blazer, tie and, for girls, skirts will be met by the school (for current Year 7, 8 and 9, as well as skirts for current Y10) as a gesture of our support for parents and students during this difficult time and our commitment to ensuring our students look exceptionally smart and are proud of their uniform. We will also have a new PE kit, but parents will not be expected to purchase this unless their child has outgrown their current kit, children will be able to wear existing kit for as long as it lasts, then move to the new kit as they need it. A full list of compulsory uniform/kit, along with optional extras, will be provided once all is agreed.

