



WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

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HEADTEACHER: Mr T Hardcastle

Our Ref: THA/LHE

Re: October 2025 update

Dear Parent/Carer,

The start of a new school year is always exciting. Students are settling into new timetables, new classes, and refamiliarising themselves with routines. Many believe it takes around three or four weeks to form a new habit and get into a routine. We see evidence of that in school; the first few weeks back after the summer holidays can feel like hard work to many of our students, but as September rolls into October, they settle well into the usual rhythm of school. Well done, all. We look forward to them returning after the well-earned break, feeling refreshed and ready to work just as hard. To help you fully support your child next half term, I would like to outline a few important messages and changes:

Homework

At Wickersley, things move quickly; we are always thinking of new ideas and ways to improve our teaching and students' learning. As many of you know, we've been developing our approach to home learning for some time. Following careful consideration, last month, we were pleased to introduce a new, clearer, and more robust homework calendar.

We know many parents want to support their children by structuring their time and managing deadlines. Our new calendar makes this easier by letting you quickly see when homework will be set. We 'soft-launched' the new homework calendar in September to help us identify and fix any teething issues. We appreciate the feedback parents provided during this trial period. After reviewing the policy and feedback, we are ready to officially launch the new homework calendar after half-term.

A separate letter with the final homework calendar and full details will be sent home before the official launch of our new homework approach. I would like to highlight a few key points:

- The calendar shows when the homework is assigned, not when it is due.
- The day homework is set might not be a day your child actually has a lesson in that subject.
- Each school day, your child can expect one homework task to be set. This task will take no more than 30 minutes for younger students and 40 minutes for older students.
- Your child's regular class teacher might not always set homework. Instructions may be sent via email from another staff member or through an online learning platform (such as Seneca).
- Homework for Years 12 and 13 remains the same: teachers will continue to set their weekly independent study tasks directly during lesson time.



To help both students and parents successfully transition to our new homework calendar, we encourage you to:

- When packing their school bag, please double-check that your child brings their homework planner to school every day.
- Especially for students in our youngest year groups, please ask your child what homework has been set, and double-check they understand how to complete and submit it.
- Please encourage students to establish a routine for completing their homework. For example, your child might complete a task right after school each day.
- Students are welcome to stay after school to use our Homework Club. They can access necessary resources, such as IT, if needed to complete their work.

Finally, if you have any questions, please speak to a member of staff, ideally your child's subject teacher in the first instance.

Celebrate successes

I am always thrilled to see how engaged our students are with the events and activities outside of lessons. Our Sponsored Walk has been another huge success. I thoroughly enjoyed celebrating with the students who completed the walk, and I'm incredibly proud of the money we've raised for charity - the final total will be revealed soon.

A big well done goes especially to our Year 11 and 13 students, who handled their first round of mock exams maturely and confidently. Finally, congratulations to our new Year 7 students; you have fully integrated into the Wickersley family and made a truly fantastic start. It was lovely to see so many of our Year 7 parents at this week's 'Meet the Tutor' event. I am also thrilled with the other achievements across all year groups, from sporting wins to successful fundraising and extracurricular activities. Proud to be Wickersley.

And finally...

We have another packed half-term coming up, with many key events for your diaries:

- Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 13th November, 2025 - If your child is in Year 11, please [book](#) a place for our Open Evening to find out more about our Sixth Form and how to apply.
- Year 11 Mock Exams: Week commencing Monday 8th December, 2025
- Year 9 Parents' Evening: Thursday 20th November, 2025
- Year 13 Parents' Evening: Thursday 27th November, 2025
- Wickersley Pantomime (Beauty and the Beast):
Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd, Thursday 4th and Friday 5th December 2025

I hope all our students have a relaxing and enjoyable half-term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support - the combination of home, school, and student here at Wickersley is truly unbeatable.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Hardcastle
Headteacher