

October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now at the end of our first half term at St Wilfrid's Academy, and I'd like to take this opportunity to provide some updates for after the holiday.

Lateral Flow Testing

We would like to thank all the students who returned to school in September and carried out the lateral flow testing during the first days of the term – this allowed everyone to return to school safely and added to the other ongoing measures we have in place. The academy still has plenty of home testing kits available for students to bring home, and we ask that you encourage your child to complete a lateral flow test, ahead of returning to school on November 1st 2021. Please contact St Wilfrid's reception (01302 562540) or your child's PLA, if you would like additional testing kits sending home with your child this week.

Mobile Phones

Since the return to school following lockdown, we have found that many children are struggling with putting their mobile phones away during the academy day, despite our 'no phones' policy. For some students, this is becoming a barrier to engaging in lessons. We are also aware of an increase in students experiencing online issues, via social media, outside of school, which can then lead to ongoing problems during school time. To this end, we have decided to have a proactive approach to enforcing our Mobile Phone Policy and have invested in some safe storage lockers for phones, which will be built into the student cloakrooms.

From Monday 1st November, ALL mobile phones brought onto the academy site will be placed in the safe storage lockers at the start of the day, and retrieved as students leave. During the school day, any young person needing to make an emergency call will be able to do so via the academy reception, or with a member of the PLA or Senior Leadership Team. Similarly, we are happy to pass on any urgent messages parents/carers make us aware of during the school day.

Smoking

Like all school sites across the country, St Wilfrid's Academy is a smoke-free site: this includes vapes and E-cigarettes.

Any student bringing any items associated with smoking or vaping on to site, including lighters, will have these confiscated. **Confiscated items will only be returned to parents/carers.** There will be strict sanctions in place for any students caught smoking or vaping in any area of the school site.

Relationships and Sex Education 2021 updated policy

We have an updated RSE policy – this is available on the academy website, www.stwilfridsacademy.org.uk under *About>Statutory Information> 'Delta Relationship and Sex Education Policy 2021'*

This week, you should have received a link, via a School Comms, giving you access to the parents/carers consultation on this policy. We welcome your views and feedback.

School Comms

'School Comms' is a free, secure, communication service, available to all our parents and carers – we use this to provide regular academy updates. You can also reply to messages, without charge.

If you are not currently registered to receive School Comms messages from St Wilfrid's Academy, please provide your child's PLA with your contact mobile phone number and an email address, to which your School Comms messages will be sent.

Uniform

As we move into winter and the weather turns cooler, students are able to purchase a black Delta school jumper, to wear under their blazer (non-uniform jumpers are not permitted). These cost £13.99 for XS/S and £14.99 for M/L/XL. To order please phone school and speak to our Finance Manager Sam Askew, or your child's PLA.

We would like to thank you all for your support since September. Parents and carers are such a central part of each child's success, and we appreciate how you have supported your child's learning, particularly for those students who have recently joined the academy. We look forward to seeing students return on Monday 1st November.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Pittard
Head of Academy

Mrs J Pittard
Executive Principal