



# Walderslade Girls' School

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18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and would like to welcome students back to school. In this letter, I will outline several changes and work that has been undertaken at the Academy, during the break.

## Toilets

Each year group will now have their own designated toilets, which will be accessible during break, lunchtimes, and lesson changeover, and will be fully supervised at these times. By having allocated toilets for each year, there will be ample opportunity during break & lunch for students to access the facilities and negate the need to leave classrooms mid-lesson. The toilets will remain locked during lesson times, however, those students who have a medical diagnosis or a toilet pass will be able to use the toilets in the G corridor, which will remain unlocked. These changes still allow students to access the facilities hourly at a minimum. Teachers can exercise discretion in cases of emergency.

The reasons for my decisions are three-fold. First, and foremost, the welfare of all our students is paramount. Students need to feel safe and have staff available should they need assistance; toilets are not supervised during lesson time. Secondly, it is vital that students are not missing any part of their lessons and are maximising their learning opportunities. Thirdly, part of our role is to prepare our students for the world beyond our doors and in many places of work, there are similar restrictions upon when staff can access toilet facilities. It is important we support our students in becoming familiar and adept at managing their time and personal needs effectively. **To clarify, the designated toilet areas at break and lunchtime with effect from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 are:**

**Year 7 – 'S' floor toilets**

**Year 8 – 'F' floor toilets**

**Year 9 – 'Pink' G floor toilets**

**Year 10 – 'Blue' G floor toilets**

**Year 11 – Daylo toilets**

The site team have ensured that all the toilets are in full working order, all doors lock, and all have the appropriate level of cleanliness. I would like to remind all students that the toilets should be left as they are found. These are shared facilities; any abuse or vandalism will result in a restorative consequence. Thank you for your continued support with these changes.



## Safeguarding

A reminder that our students should be in school at 8.30am each day and they will not be allowed to leave the site during the day. If you have any concerns for your daughter at all, please contact the school and speak to either a member of our safeguarding team, your daughter's Form Tutor, or her Head of Year. We will shortly be carrying out a survey on any further concerns your daughter has for her safety at school. After the incident last term, I am pleased to report that the school has now returned to being a quiet, productive, and a safe environment for all our students.

## Inclusion

We continue to make Walderslade Girls' School a place for all students and staff, whatever their background. We have installed a new world map outside G1, where we will be celebrating the diversity of our community and highlighting the nationalities represented within school. Whilst we may have different backgrounds and heritages, our goal of being proud to belong to the Walderslade Girls' School community remains the same.

## Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones must not be used or visible when on site between 8.30am -3.30pm. If mobile phones are seen, they will be confiscated. Please check our electronics policy for collection arrangements. [Microsoft Word - Mobile Phone Policy.docx \(sflt.org.uk\)](https://www.sflt.org.uk/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Mobile%20Phone%20Policy.docx)

## One-Way System

We shall be continuing with the one-way system, which was very successful in Term 4. Students have remarked on how much easier and more pleasant it has been to move around the school.

## Staffing

After many months of supply staff in some subjects, I would like to welcome our new permanent staff joining us this term. We are now almost fully staffed and hope to recruit in French and Spanish soon. I am confident that our new starters will quickly establish themselves with their students, deliver quality teaching, and build some excellent and collaborative relationships with our girls.

## Paintwork

The process of repainting the school has begun. We will be redecorating the entire site in white, which will make the school look fresher and cleaner. Over the Easter break, the walls were painted; this enormous amount of work was undertaken by volunteers, which included students, staff, and family members. I would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved. If you or your daughter would be interested in being part of a painting party, please let me know. I intend on opening the school over a few weekends to get the school painted quickly.

## Seating

Seating has been replaced in the Wedgewood open space. This open space is for Year 11 quiet study at break and lunchtime. In Term 6, when the Year 11 exams are finished, this space will be made available to Year 10. This is a privileged space, and any inappropriate behaviour or vandalism will not be tolerated and will result in the space being allocated to a different year group.

## Canteen



