



24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

Despite the heavy rain this morning I wanted to say how lovely it was to welcome students back at the gate this morning after the half term break. Not many Headteachers are on the gate every morning doing this, but I do it for two reasons: Firstly, because I believe it is really important that all students are welcomed, feel that they are seen and belong as part of our school community and secondly, because it gives me an opportunity to model for students how we show genuine mutual respect and are warm, welcoming and friendly to others. It is a really positive start to my day, however this morning lots of students arrived at school without suitable clothing for the weather and I would like to ask you to encourage your child to bring a coat with them and wear it during this period of unpredictable weather.

This week, our Year 11's are continuing and Year 13 students starting to sit their mock exams, and we have been incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves so far, demonstrating focus, maturity, and a strong commitment to their studies. As a parent of a son in Year 11 at the moment, I know that this doesn't come without a need for a huge amount of encouragement and support from parents and carers and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you are doing to support your child in their preparations for these and their final examinations.

As well greeting students at the gate every morning, I also – along with other senior leaders and staff – do gate duty at the end of the day. A big part of the reason for doing this is to provide a safe crossing point on Tithepit Shaw Lane for students. Despite this, there are still a small number of students who do not cross at the point by the entrance to the school and instead cross in less safe places where there are no staff to support the crossing. Please can I ask you to check and reinforce with your child the need to exercise real care in crossing this busy road, looking both ways (and not at mobile phones) and crossing with the support of staff. The safety of all members of our school community is of paramount importance to me, our staff and, of course, to you.

Staff at the school work hard to support students when arriving and leaving the school premises and to make positive choices both in and outside of school, reinforcing expectations and providing guidance to help them act responsibly. When staff engage with students at the end of the school day, it is almost always related to safety and responsible behaviour that is considerate of others. Before half term, we have encountered some situations where students are not following instructions once they are off the school premises, stating that school staff have no authority beyond the gates. Can I ask you as parents to reinforce the fact that not only does the school have the legal power to sanction students for behaviour on the way to and from school, but more importantly almost all instructions from duty staff are for their safety and that of others students.

We have also received concerns from local businesses and residents regarding unacceptable and dangerous behaviour from a small minority of students in recent weeks, including students pushing others into the road, using inappropriate and disrespectful language, and disrupting businesses. As members of the local community, our students play an important role in shaping its atmosphere and reputation. Their behaviour reflects not only on themselves but also on the school, you - their families, and the wider community. We value the strong relationships we have with local businesses and residents, and it is essential that students show respect and

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consideration when moving through shared spaces. We would appreciate your support in reminding your children that their conduct both in and outside of school matters and has a direct impact on those around them in our school and wider community.

Finally, a big part of our school community is the PTA who have, with your support and donations, raised a significant amount of money that has already helped provide new and effective interactive whiteboards in some classrooms in the school. The PTA is keen to work with the student body to identify fundraising targets for student-led initiatives in the school in the remaining term and a half of this year.

The PTA and the amazing work it does is not possible without volunteers and committee members. There is currently a vacancy for the position of Secretary. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in supporting the school community and contributing to the success of our events and initiatives. If you are interested or would like more information about the role, please contact the Chair via [Chair@warlinghampta.co.uk](mailto:Chair@warlinghampta.co.uk).

The Secretary plays a vital part in ensuring the smooth operation of our PTA, supporting meetings, keep records, and connecting the school community.

What the Secretary does:

- Assists the Chair in planning and organizing meetings
- Communicates with the school and committee, sharing agendas before PTA meetings
- Records key points, decisions, and action items by taking minutes at meetings
- Manages communication between the PTA, volunteers, school, and wider community
- Prepares event publicity, including flyers, posters, and tickets
- Ensures meetings meet quorum requirements
- Maintains records and shares essential information

This role is perfect for someone or even two friends who:

- Is motivated, helpful, and enjoys being part of a team
- Writes with accuracy and attention to detail

Thank you for your continued support at the start of this new half term, I wish you and your child (or children) a happy, safe and successful spring term.

Kind regards



Mr P Foster

Headteacher