

30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

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Headteacher  
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Executive Headteacher  
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Dear Parent/Carer

## **Wrotham School - New School Year - Important Information**

I hope you have had a good summer.

I would like to start by congratulating our GCSE and A-Level students who achieved incredible results this year. The results achieved by both Year 11 and Year 13 students were some of the best in the school's history. Well done to all involved, and good luck for the future.

I am writing to remind parents of some of the changes we will be seeing when we start back in September and how these might impact you.

The new £49 million school build is moving forward at pace, and you will immediately notice the significant changes to our school site that have taken place over the summer. These changes will continue to develop over the coming year.

The scale of this construction will present challenges, some of which are unavoidable. As a community, we will need to be patient and flexible while this building is taking place.

The most immediate change you are likely to notice is the entrance/drop-off/pick-up route.

I have summarised these changes below:

- There will be no access to the school via our front gate.
- Parking on-site will be extremely limited, and visitor parking, where available, will now be located behind the tech block as you enter the site via the Grange Park entrance.
- The pick-up/drop-off route now runs across the front of the school, and students will be picked up and dropped off each day.
- Please follow all signs and staff directions.
- There will no longer be overtaking or passing areas in this zone.
- A "No Waiting" policy is in place, and cars parked in the drop-off route will be moved on. We ask that parents do not wait on the route once their child has been dropped off or picked up.
- If you can pick up away from the school in safe, local roads or at BG Station, this would help reduce traffic on-site. Please do not pick up from Grange Park car park, in bus stops, or near busy or dangerous road junctions. Grange Park continue to manage their own car parking area and have every right to instruct any vehicle blocking their entrance/exit to move on.

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS  
CHALLENGE  
OPPORTUNITY**

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- The school will continue to have a secure line by which all visitors, including parents, must buzz through during the day and follow any relevant signage to our reception area. This is to ensure that student safety is paramount. As before, we are only able to meet with parents who have been invited to the school or who have booked an appointment prior to arriving.
- Students can leave on foot via the front and back entrances using the walkways provided.
- Red Route buses will continue to pick up from inside the school and will park up behind the food pod at the end of each day.

I should be clear that these changes are not ideal but are unavoidable. The temporary arrangements in place have been carefully planned to make the best of the restrictions imposed by the build in the safest and most efficient way possible.

The school will not tolerate abusive or anti-social behaviour/ driving when using this facility. It is not an entitlement for this process to be quick—school drop-offs and pick-ups are always busy at all schools; we are no exception. We ask for patience, respect, and support when using this pick-up/drop-off zone.

As always, we encourage parents to reduce traffic by utilizing car shares and alternative/public transport, including walking to school where possible.

### **Changes to the Structure of the School Day**

The school day will now start at 08:30 with the first lesson of the day—form time will be in the middle of the day.

This means that punctuality in the morning is vital to ensure learning isn't missed. Students will go straight to lessons for Period One, and registers will be taken within the first 10 minutes of the lesson.

We recommend that students arrive at school before 08:15 to allow enough time to get to lessons.

Year 7 students will continue to line up on the playground and be escorted to lessons by their teachers throughout the day.

We will be operating a daily "late gate" and students late to school without reason will be issued with a detention to make up the time lost.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing everyone when we return.

Kind regards  
Mr M Cater  
Headteacher