

The Oldershaw School

Valkyrie Road
Wallasey
Wirral CH45 4RJ
Tel: 0151 638 2800



Executive Principal:
Mr J Bush

E-mail: schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk
Website: www.oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk
Company Registration: 07652792

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Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at the end of the most challenging year most of us have ever faced. Having dealt with everything we thought Covid had to throw at us, the impact of the Delta variant over the final three weeks of term has been exceedingly difficult for everyone and I have been very frustrated that so many children have had to self-isolate when we want every child in school every day. We really value the **resilience** shown by our community.

However, while we don't know what the future holds, I can say unequivocally that my staff and I are desperate to have a full school year for all pupils in 2021/22 and will do everything we can to deliver that. I remain incredibly proud of the way my staff has worked throughout the pandemic to provide the best educational experience possible for all as well as to ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of all our children and families. I also want to thank you as parents and carers for the support and understanding you have shown to us. In these toughest of times, I believe our school community has felt more connected than ever.

Oldershaw's Centenary

We celebrated our hundredth year in 2020, sadly deferring celebrations until after Covid. However, I am delighted to tell you that we are reverting to our traditional name and will be known as The Oldershaw School. In time, we will be changing our tie and school badge to reflect our proud history, but these changes will be implemented in a phased way over the next year to ensure there is no additional financial burden for families. The current uniform will be required for September.

We are planning some themed events and celebrations over the centenary which we will share in the new term. I am also pleased to tell you that we have now received planning permission to build our new Centenary Room which will be a multi-functional facility giving us extra capacity for lunchtime provision, teaching, extra-curricular activities, and school events. This substantial new build reflects the confident forward momentum Oldershaw is focused on.

Oversubscribed

Our increased popularity with Wallasey families means that we continue to be over-subscribed for September 2021, full in every year group with waiting lists in some years and our biggest 6th form cohort ever. We will be continuing to improve every element of what we do to give your children the best education possible. Please continue working closely with my staff to help us deliver our vision of **Excellence Together**.

Pride In Our Pupils

Even in this terribly disrupted year where clubs and trips have been difficult to deliver, we have had much to celebrate about the young people in our care. Our core value of **Pride** is something I feel every day at Oldershaw when I see what our children achieve with support from my staff. Our summer concerts have been a tremendous success at Oldershaw over the years and I can share this year's concert with you remotely [if you click this link](#). I am sure you will agree we have some real superstars of the future appearing this year.

Other things to celebrate this year include a hugely successful project in conjunction with Merseyside Police and the Army for Year 7 & 8 pupils earlier this year, called "Your Choice" where children learned how to deal with many of the negative pressures, they are faced with in life today. It was extremely popular with our pupils and colleagues from the organisation delivering the programme were very complimentary of how our children engaged.

We are excited that the work of Oldershaw students with the commissioning team at Eureka! Merseyside, part of the national children's museum, has continued and we look forward to its opening in 2022 and see the co-production work completed. The creativity of our students works with the team in designing exhibits has been very impressive. You may have seen reports in the local papers about Eureka!

Kindness is at the very heart of Oldershaw, and I have one incredible example of it I would like to share. In May, I was delighted to present one of our Sixth Form students, Jake Duggan, with a special award for incredible service in the community. Jake was in Liverpool one evening when he spotted a very distressed, vulnerable, and desperate lady in a dangerous situation. Without a moment's hesitation, Jake very calmly and quietly spoke to her for approximately thirty minutes to ensure her safety. Despite her telling him he was a lovely young man who shouldn't be involved, Jake simply said, "I'm staying right here until I know you are safe", which is exactly what happened as he stayed with her until emergency services arrived to take over. Happily, the lady was given the care she needed thanks to Jake's kind and selfless actions.

Society is very quick to criticise young people and see the worst in them, so I am incredibly proud to share the example of Jake's kindness as a lesson for each of us to think and act in the interests of those less fortunate than ourselves whom we encounter in life. Like so very many of our pupils at Oldershaw, what a remarkable young person Jake is.

Welcome to New Staff

In September we will welcome the following new members of staff to our growing school: Miss Stephani Hughes (Cover Supervisor), Miss Cara Connolly (English Teacher), Mr Andrew Bell (Maths Teacher), Miss Danielle Ruston (Maths Teacher), Mr Richard Dooley (Science Teacher), Miss Courtney Dougan (Science Teacher), Miss Catherine Hulmes (MFL Teacher), Miss Natasha Undery (Geography Teacher), Mrs Lynsey Parker (Music Teacher), Mr Jack Beastall (Science Teacher), Mr Josh Neary (PE Teacher), Miss Hannah Wood (MLD Teacher) and Mrs Annie Grady (Pastoral Administrator). They join Miss Karis Mello (Cover Supervisor), Miss Hayley Pearson (Finance Officer), Miss Kelly Woodworth (Science Technician) and Mrs Joanne Robinson (SEND Administrator) who joined us earlier this term.

Furthermore, I would like to announce the following internal appointments: Mr Paul Natton (Vice Principal, Pastoral), Ms Emily Stanley (Vice Principal, Inclusion), Mrs Jo Riley (Assistant Principal, Non-Core Subjects), Mr Lee Routledge (Assistant Principal, 6th Form), Mrs Sharon Ellis (Progress Leader, Year 7), Ms Sara Martin (Lead for Relationships and Sex Education). We congratulate them all on their appointments and welcome the dynamism and fresh approach each will bring to their new role.

Fond Farewells

At the end of this term, we say fond farewells to the following members of staff: Miss Ana McSorley, Mr Andie Egan, Miss Rebecca Jones, Miss Sophie Fellows, Mr Robert Gore, Mr Harry Lee, Mr Adam Glazier, Miss Danielle Paynter, Mrs Carole Steen, Mr Mike McDaid, and Ms Sharon Young. They have each made an important contribution to the life of the Academy and leave with our best wishes for the future.

I would like to close then by thanking once again all parents and carers – as well as their children - for their continued support of Oldershaw and I wish each of you a happy, safe, and restful summer.

Yours sincerely



Jon Bush
Principal

Important Information

Examination Results Days 2021

A Level, BTEC and AS Level Results Day Tuesday 10th August 2021

- Students collecting A Level and BTEC results (Year 13) – 9.00am -10.30am
- Students collecting AS Level results (Year 12) – 11.00am -12.00pm

GCSE Results Day Thursday 12th August 2021

- Surnames beginning with letters A-D – 10.00am
- Surnames beginning with letters E-K – 10.30am
- Surnames beginning with letters L-P – 11.00am
- Surnames beginning with letters Q-Z – 11.30am
- Y12 and Y13 students collecting resit results – 12.00pm

All results will be distributed in the Sixth Form area and pupils should enter the school site through the entrance on Valkyrie Road.

Returning In September

Wednesday 1st September

Professional Development Day (**No pupils in school**)

Thursday 2nd September

Induction Day (**Year 7 and Year 12 only from 8.30am to 12.30pm**)

Friday 3rd September

All Pupils Return

All pupils in all year groups should ensure that they arrive promptly for **an 8.30am start** to begin the new academic year.

Covid19 & Testing

The government requires all schools to offer two on-site Covid19 tests to pupils at the start of term in September. Please can you confirm your consent as follows:

- Under 16: [Click here.](#)
- 16 and over: [Click here.](#)

The government has ended all other Covid19 requirements for schools from the start of next except for two:

- pupils should continue to practice good hand hygiene using our purpose-built sinks as well as hand sanitiser
- pupils and staff will be permitted to continue to wear face masks inside the building *if they so choose.*

Attendance

Resilience is one of our core values and attending school every day is the best way to show such a trait. Furthermore, the law makes it absolutely clear that full attendance at school is compulsory for all children of school age: **we expect all children in school on time every day.**

Please do not take your child out of school during term time for holidays and always encourage 100% attendance. There is no flexibility in the application of the law and the government insists families are fined for students missing school time for family holidays. We will continue to support families and young people to be in school

every day. However, we will write to parents after just two days' absence and also issue fines via the Local Authority to families who are not engaging with our support and whose children are persistently absent.

Punctuality

Pupils who are late for school or late for lessons disrupt their own learning and the learning of others. To prevent this, we run a daily detention policy of 30 minutes after school that night for any student who has a single late mark that day. Pupils who continue to be late may be subject to further additional sanctions. **Furthermore, any child persistently arriving after the register closes will be subject to fines from the local authority.**

Standards of Presentation and Organisation for Learning

All pupils are expected to show **Pride** by wearing full school uniform every single day, including ties and traditional style black leather school shoes (see website for further details). It is not permitted for students to wear any form of training shoe or pump – even if sold as “shoes.” In cold weather, students may choose to wear a plain grey V-neck jumper, but hoodies, sweatshirts and tracksuits are not allowed for school and will be confiscated if worn. Pupils can choose to bring a coat to school but these must not be worn inside the classroom.

Please remember that our uniform requirement is for grey trousers or skirt. We do not allow black for such items. PE lessons are still compulsory for all students, and they must wear full Oldershaw PE kit when taking part.

The Academy bag is available from the Uniform Shop in Birkenhead, and it provides sufficient space for class books, homework, and compulsory school PE kit. The bag is part of our school uniform and must be brought to school every day. No other bag is permitted. All pupils are also expected to have a pencil case containing pen, pencil, rule, rubber, and sharpener every day.

Finally, we do not allow pupils to wear false nails, eyelashes or excessive make up or jewellery. Extreme hairstyles are also not permitted.

Homework

Following the success of our remote learning programme using Microsoft Teams, we will continue to use this facility to make all our lessons and homework available there. All other information about your child such as attendance and reports are still available to view online using the SIMS Parent mobile app (FREE to download from Google Play or the Apple App Store) or via www.sims-parent.co.uk. If you do not have a username and password for SIMS Parent, please call the school office on 0151 638 2800 to confirm your email address. You will then receive an email to complete the registration process.

Mobile Phones

To prevent disruption to learning and issues with social media, mobile phones and headphones continue to be banned completely in the Academy and must not be seen or heard at anytime, anywhere on the school site, including before and after school.

Behaviour for Learning

At Oldershaw outstanding behaviour for learning is essential if all students are to achieve their absolute best. Therefore, if any student disrupts a lesson to the point where they are asked to work in another classroom, they will be expected to complete a half hour detention that night to catch up on missed work. Further refusal to comply will lead to more serious sanctions including one or even two-hour detentions with senior staff or a fixed term exclusion, if necessary. We ask for the full support of all parents with applying our behaviour policy fairly and equally to all – this includes our expectation of exemplary behaviour in the community on the way to and from school.