

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to share some important updates and changes that will be taking place at our school starting September 2024. These changes come as a result of a comprehensive consultation period, during which we received valuable feedback from our community. We appreciate your participation and support in this process.

### 1. School Name Change

After careful consideration and with a majority of the community in favour, we are pleased to announce that our school will be changing its name to **Witham Oaks Academy**. This new name reflects our commitment to growth, strength, and the nurturing environment we strive to provide for all our students as we aim to grow their minds and unlock their potential.

### 2. New School Logo

Alongside our new name, we are introducing a new school logo, which we believe embodies the spirit and values of Witham Oaks Academy.

- The new motif is formed from a finger print, promoting pupils developing their own personality and individuality.
- Parts of the motif then form a tree which promotes growth, strength and dependability.
- The trunk elements of the tree along with the holding device are a different colour, representing Witham Oaks integrating within the pupils' development.



### 3. Uniform Change

Starting from September 2024, we will introduce a new school uniform featuring our updated logo. To maintain a sense of continuity, we will keep the royal blue colour and the current black school wear for Year 6 that is synonymous with our school. However, we are introducing a more formal attire, which includes white shirts (not polo shirts) and ties for all pupils.

To ensure a smooth transition, we have planned a grace period of two terms. During this time, pupils are allowed to wear uniform with the old logo. By Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, we expect all pupils to be in the new uniform. However, the school logo is optional.

- **Shirts and Ties:** Starting in September 2024, white shirts and ties will be mandatory for all students.
- **Royal Blue V-Neck Jumpers:** Pupils may wear royal blue v-neck jumpers with or without the school logo.
- **Black V-Neck Jumpers:** For Year 6 pupils only with or without the school logo.

For your convenience, the updated uniform policy is attached to this letter. Please review it carefully to ensure compliance with the new requirements.

We appreciate your cooperation and support with this transition. Our goal is to ensure that every pupil feels proud in their new uniform, reflecting the values and spirit of Witham Oaks Academy.

#### 4. Extension of the School Day

Based on the feedback we received during the consultation, we have decided to extend the school day. Starting in September, the school day will end at **3:20 PM**. We believe this extension will provide additional learning opportunities and support for our pupils.

- Children can arrive at school from 8.35am when the gates will be open.
- **8.45am will be the official start of the school day.**
- Registers are taken at **8.45am** children will receive a late mark 'L' if they are not in by that time.
- Pupils arriving after **8:45am** should report to the school office as they will be required to sign in and provide a reason for the lateness. Gates will be locked at 8.45am.
- Any child arriving between **8:50 and 9:00am** will be marked as a 'U' code, but this will not count as a present mark and mean they will have an unauthorised absence.
- End of the School Day: **All year groups finish at 3.20pm.**

#### Wraparound Care

We are pleased to confirm that the YMCA will be providing wraparound care both before and after school. The YMCA's service aims to provide flexible and reliable care options for our families and they will have the sole responsibility of its operation. More information about this can be found in the accompanying letter from the YMCA.

We are confident that these changes will bring positive enhancements to our school and the educational experience of our pupils.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to embarking on this new chapter as Witham Oaks Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr D. Sheehan



Mrs M. Harrington

