



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME

Firstly, to every family within our learning community, welcome back to a new school year. For our Y7 students, they have taken their first successful steps on their Winterhill journey alongside Years 8 - 11. Our Y11 students are in their final and crucial year, and are already beginning those vital GCSE preparations after attending another successful GCSE evening on Tuesday, 23rd September.

With that in mind, I would like to share with you our successes in the summer examinations. The results were very impressive; several students achieved a grade 9 in a range of subjects, with 7% of students achieving a 7+ in all of their subjects. The results in English and Maths were also following the same vein - with just under two thirds of the year group achieving a pass in both of these subjects. That is so important for them; it enables doors to open for their future beyond Winterhill. Overall, the average grade for our Y11 leavers was a grade 4 in all their subjects. I am proud to say that our students have made strong progress from being educated at Winterhill, but success is not just academic achievement. Due to the fantastic experiences gained, they matured into young adults. Leaving us with lifelong skills and qualities, which, of course, goes beyond results. It is important to remember that there were many success stories across the whole ability range. Well done to all.

There is a phrase in education 'if you stay still you go backwards' - with that in mind, I have a lot of work ahead as I go into my first year as Head of School. Therefore, I would like to thank all the parents who have supported Winterhill with some of the new approaches we have adopted this academic year. Mainly, the new structure of the school day and ensuring that the students are 'Ready to Learn'.

Change is a difficult thing to manage; it takes on average 66 days to change habits. With that in mind, as a school, we will continue to be resilient to this change, while being respectful to our students; we are responsible for providing a safe and supportive environment for your child to flourish - modelling the Winterhill Way - and your support in that continues to be paramount to our success as a school and community.

Thank you for your support
Dr Andrew Reeder, Head of School

Ready to Learn

All students arriving **ready to learn** is vital for their success throughout the day, and inevitably, their progress. Students must have the **correct equipment and an A4 sized bag, every day**. Our students have made an excellent start to the new academic year. Walking around the school over the past week, I have been struck by the positive atmosphere in classrooms and corridors alike. Lessons are calm, purposeful and focused, with students showing real enthusiasm for their learning. A key part of this success has been the way our students have embraced our behaviour expectations. They have demonstrated responsibility, resilience and respect towards one another and to staff.





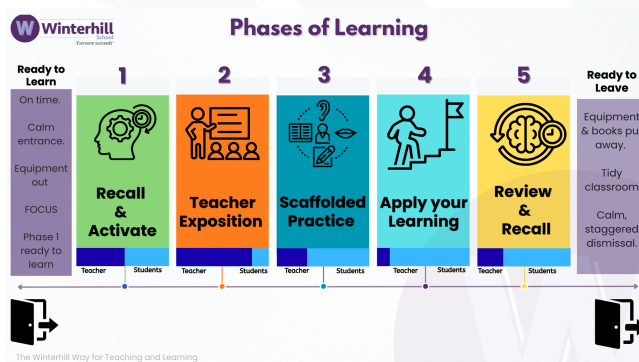
Attendance

At Winterhill, we care about your child's attendance and the progress they make. Through national research and our school's own data, we know that students who have higher attendance figures make more progress over time and achieve higher grades in their GCSE subjects.

Therefore, please continue to support your child's attendance to give your child the best opportunities for education, enrichment activities and preparing them for the future and adulthood. If you have any problems or require support with your child's attendance, please contact the attendance team, Behaviour for Learning Leader or Head of Year, for your child. We are here to help.

Teaching and Learning

Over the course of this year, we are introducing a new "learning phases" approach in lessons. This framework will ensure every lesson has a clear structure: starting with purposeful recall, moving through modelling and guided practice and finishing with review and reflection. Consistency in how lessons are delivered, whilst still allowing teachers to adapt for individual needs, will help pupils feel more confident, make stronger progress, and know exactly what successful learning looks like in every subject. As well as the delivery of the learning, each lesson will begin with consistent expectations so that students are "Ready to Learn" and "Ready to Leave". This includes being punctual, equipped and engaging with learning as soon as they enter the classroom. Students have made a fantastic start with this.



Safeguarding

We want to remind everyone of our shared responsibility to keep all students safe, happy and thriving. At Winterhill we are committed to put students welfare at the centre of everything we do, all staff are trained in safeguarding and child protection and we follow statutory guidance and work closely with outside agencies, if needed. The Winterhill School Safeguarding Team has expanded this academic year:

Mrs A Wiseman- Head of Inclusion/Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Dr A Reeder- Head of School/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Ms M Owen- Deputy Headteacher/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Mr D Shephard- Assistant Headteacher/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Miss K Smith- Assistant Senco/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Please contact the team if you have ANY safeguarding concerns either via direct email or the advice@winterhill.org.uk email address.

I would also like to make you aware of the impact of the Online Safety Act 2023; it is now a criminal offence to cyberflash, share intimate images (including deep fakes), epilepsy trolling, encourage serious self harm or threatening communications.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary **23/09/25:** Y5/6 Open Evening **10/10/25:** World Mental Health Day
24/10/25: School closes for half term.