

14th October 2022

The South Wolds
Academy
and Sixth Form

Dear Parents and Carers.

As we begin the half term holiday, I wanted to share with you just some of the exciting events that have been happening at South Wolds over the last seven weeks.

Firstly, a warm welcome to all of the new students and families that have joined us this term. We are proud of the school and the community it thrives within. It was great to meet so many of you at the Year 7 and 12 tutor evening and hear such positive feedback.

### Class of 2022

I am delighted to share with you confirmation of the 2022 examination results. You will share my pride in the performance of our students from Years 11 and 13 in the summer, especially given the national context of education during the pandemic. These students were effectively sitting public examinations for the first time since their Year 6 SAT exams. Nationally, the picture reported is one where top grades have fallen but at South Wolds we have achieved our highest ever progress score of 0.21, showing that students on average achieve nearly a quarter of a grade higher than the national average. Additionally, 83% of students gained those essential passes in English or maths at grades 9 to 4.

The East Midlands Education Trust is the third highest performing multi academy trust nationally for Post-16 provision, and I can confidently share that South Wolds leads the way in sixth form achievement within the trust. Indeed, our Post-16 outcomes go from strength to strength: a third of students achieved an A\*-A grade; 64% achieved an A\*-B grade and with yet another consecutive year with a 100% pass rate, there is much to celebrate. All of our students have moved on successfully to university, employment or training, including four highly sought-after degree apprenticeships at companies such as Pepsi Co and Rolls Royce. Congratulations to our Class of 2022!

#### Matilda

Huge congratulations to the cast and crew of *Matilda The Musical*, our amazing drama production that played to sell-out audiences at the end of September. Students and staff have worked tirelessly and their outstanding performances shone through. Well done to everyone involved and special thanks go to Mr Manning, Miss Drewett and Mr Askham.

### **Year 11**

Year 11 students have all been involved in an Exam Skills Day on 7<sup>th</sup> October to help prepare them for their examinations. Mocks will be happening in the next half term and so supporting their revision skills has been high on the agenda. Today is also a taster day for Year 11 students who are interested in pursuing A Levels at South Wolds next year. They have chosen a range of subjects to try out to get a feel for specialisms they will want to continue next September.

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May I draw your attention to some changes that will be in place on your child's return to South Wolds after the half term holiday on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

# School timings in the morning: the Refectory gate

We continue to focus on excellent attendance for all of our students. Each week tutor groups are competing for the best attendance award and it has been wonderful to see the winners celebrate. One area that most students excel in, is making sure they are on the school site at the correct time every morning. Students are able to access the site from 08.30am each day and we have a breakfast club available in the refectory where all students have access to toast. From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October the school gates will close at **8.50am**, to allow students to move to their line up in time for **8.55am**. Any student who arrives after **8.55am** will be set an immediate sanction for lateness. Please can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child is ready for school and here on time every morning – it ensures a settled start for everyone.

**8.50am**: all students to have entered the school site via the Refectory gates.

**8.55am**: all students are standing quietly in their line-ups or on assembly days are sitting quietly in the main hall.

## Review of time out provision

We have reviewed the number of students currently eligible to take time out of lessons as we are keen to ensure that all students are in lessons as much as possible. Having a time out card is a significant SEN adjustment as it means that students are missing valuable learning time; this therefore means it needs to be reserved for those students that need it the most.

A number of students have had their time out card removed or changed, with effect from the 31st October 2022. For many students they will not notice the change as they have not used the provision for some time, but for those students for whom this will feel different, we will ensure they understand what is expected of them.

Please be assured that no student will be in a position where they cannot access support if they need it, and as such we will continue to review the time out provision half termly. If you have any questions or concerns about this please get in touch via <a href="mailto:senteam@southwolds.notts.sch.uk">senteam@southwolds.notts.sch.uk</a>

#### Road safety

It goes without saying that the safety of all students is paramount – the volume of traffic around the school during morning drop offs and afternoon collections can mean the roads around the school become very busy. I am pleased to share a link to a petition for a pedestrian crossing on Wolds Drive and would be grateful if you could take a moment to share your support by signing it and sharing it with others: <a href="https://chng.it/vPL8RCVd2Z">https://chng.it/vPL8RCVd2Z</a>

And finally, we say a fond farewell to Mr Legge, who leaves us after twelve years to enjoy a well-earned retirement. He will be missed but his gardening legacy and love of cricket will live on!

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 31st October.

Yours sincerely

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Halina Angus Head Teacher