

West Lakes Academy – The Way It Is.

Academy Life

West Lakes Academy is built upon mutual respect. We say “thank you”. We say “excuse me”. We say “please”. We smile when we greet people both inside and outside of the academy. Our five values of respect, appreciation, achievement, freedom and resilience are the foundations of the academy and form the bedrock of everything we do. We work to enable students to develop the strong and positive learning habits and unfailing self-discipline. Students at West Lakes Academy will understand that success needs hard work. We show respect and appreciation.

Attendance and learning behaviours

It is a proven fact that attendance is directly linked to academic success. We actively encourage all students to aim for 97% attendance as a minimum - every day and every lesson counts. Parents are expected to support this and place high expectations on their child in relation to attendance.

Excellent attitudes to learning and positive behaviour are nurtured and guidance is provided to support with this through daily modelling by students and staff. We reinforce our expectations, issuing rewards for the correct behaviour choices and taking action to remind students of the consequences of any wrong choices.

We have high expectations in relation to learning and progress as well as behaviour and character. Regular reminders of our expectations are shared in lessons as well as through tutor time and assemblies. An emphasis on personal development is clear through the curriculum and a strong tutor programme of study. When sanctions are put in place, it is to work to teach students to break poor habits and learn new, empowering habits that will make sure our students are successful in life. If we allow poor behaviour or hold low expectations, we are not helping students to grow up into responsible, successful adults. We expect parents to support us in this endeavour.

In lessons, it is essential that students focus on their learning and maximise all opportunities to make progress. Students must be actively involved in their learning, aware of what they need to do to improve and acting on feedback from teachers. They are expected to participate, to listen carefully and work to their best ability. Staff will ensure all students receive access to exceptional teaching and learning and will work to develop students’ powerful knowledge across the curriculum.

When walking around the academy, students walk quickly and efficiently between classes. Lessons start and end promptly and calmly at West Lakes Academy. Being on time is a sign of politeness. Being late is rude and disrespectful. Students should not go to the toilet between lessons or in lesson time. The toilets are open before lessons and at break times.

The role of adults

Families join West Lakes Academy because it is outstanding - it provides the best care and education for the community. We encourage and expect parental and family involvement in taking an active part in their child's education. We expect parents to support our staff and value our ethos and approach. Parents are required to engage with the academy. At West Lakes Academy there is a very strong staff presence at the start and end of the academy day, at lesson changeovers, at break, at lunch and around the entire site. The academy is calm and orderly and ensures students are safe and actively involved in their learning.

Academy time and use of electronic devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices should be used appropriately and can be used to enhance learning. Electronic devices should not be used or in view when students walk around the academy. Students must be responsible and respectful when using social media. Students should be polite and kind online, just the same as when they are in school. If students are bullying, rude, or disrespectful online they may be punished in the same way as if it had taken place in school. Parents are expected to support this and consider their child's online usage.

Students as ambassadors for the academy

Even when students are outside of the academy, they still represent West Lakes Academy. Students should understand that their actions reflect on themselves and the school. We may sanction for poor behaviour outside school that affects the education of a student or brings the academy into disrepute. We will not tolerate disrespectful behaviour in or outside of the academy. At home, students must complete all homework to the same standard as they would produce in the classroom, and this should be monitored and enforced by parents.

We work hard and we are kind to one another. We are 'West Lakes'.

A Deeks
Principal