



Walderslade Girls' School

Specialist College for the Arts

Mrs L McGowan BMus (Hons) MA NPQH FRSA
Headteacher

Bradfields Avenue Chatham Kent ME5 0LE
Tel: 01634 861596 Fax: 01634 666506
www.waldersladegirls.org.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

Since I last wrote to you outlining my concerns over a small number of students' poor attitude and disrespectful behaviour and an equally small number of parents who were not supporting the school when sanctions were being implemented to correct children's' behaviour, it appears that a wave of public interest has been sparked, awakening both a national and even international debate on the importance of instilling good discipline and respect in our children in order to prepare them for a successful future independent life as an adult.

We are now just four weeks into the implementation of certain aspects of our new behaviour policy and I am so pleased to report how well the majority of girls have responded to tightening discipline and rules, how many more who once struggled with following rules, have now modified their behaviour and are really turning things around far more positively. I would also like to thank the huge number of parents who have actively spoken in support of what we are seeking to do at WGS and that is to ensure it remains the school of choice for girls' education in Medway with students who exemplify excellent standards of respect and discipline and who are proud to wear our uniform and to be known as a Walderslade Girl.

I want nothing but the best for our girls at WGS and if that means daring to make a strong stand against all forms of poor attitude, disruptive behaviour and a disregard for the professionalism of staff and their authority, I will do that again and again. I am very proud of our school and of the many really wonderful girls from fantastically supportive families, who attend here.

We have, over the past few weeks, been developing our new behaviour policy and this will be on our school website shortly under the title of 'New Behaviour Policy – Draft' for parents and carers to review. If you have any comments to make on it or even some suggestions, your opinion as parents and carers is always valued. Please send these via email to consultation@waldersladegirls.org.uk by no later than Friday, 9 June 2017 so parental views can be shared with our governing body before we finalise the policy.

When I wrote to you back in April I estimated that 95% of our school community were really wonderful, hardworking, polite, and respectful students from very supportive families. Four weeks into trialling aspects of our new policy and I can happily estimate we are now up to 98%.

The public exam season is now well underway and over the next week and the spring bank holiday break our Year 11 and Sixth Form girls should spend as much time as



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possible preparing for the June exams. Year 11 students will only need to attend lessons for subjects where they still have exams or coursework to complete but must ensure they sign in and out at the school reception to comply with health and safety regulations.

Year 10 students will move into their new tutor groups for Year 11 beginning on Monday, 5 June. We have a specialist team of Year 11 tutors at WGS, experts in coaching, guiding and mentoring students towards their GCSEs. For the forthcoming year the Year 11 tutor team will be as follows;

11A Miss Francis
11C Ms Harper
11F Miss Fitzgerald
11J Miss Murrin
11N Mrs Viridi
11P Mrs Haythorpe

Finally, we relax the blazer rule for the last term of the year so girls will no longer be required to wear their blazer from 5 June unless they wish to do so. Sixth Form students should be mindful that they still dress appropriately in formal summer business dress.

Wishing all our Walderslade families a very happy spring bank holiday break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs L McGowan', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs L McGowan
Headteacher